

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee**  
**held on Monday 17 March 2014 at 7.00 pm**  
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chair)  
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Vice Chair)  
Councillor K Ball  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)  
Councillor A Leech (Chair, Planning)  
Councillor Mrs M McDonald (Chair, P & R)  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chair, Property)

**Other Members Present:** Councillor T Cummings  
Councillor C Letchford  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)  
Mr D Whitfield (Park Keeper)

**493. Apologies for Absence** - There were no apologies for absence presented.

**494. Deferment of Business** (for comment by the public) - There were no comments or questions raised by members of the public present.

**495. Members' Questions** - There were no questions from Members regarding the workings of the Committee.

**496. Minutes** - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on Monday 27 January 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair on the proposition of Councillor A Leech, seconded by Councillor Dr M Ireland.

**497. Matters Arising** -

**497.1 Sophia Simmons' Memorial** - The Acting Clerk reported that McNeilage Conservation had now advised that the existing headstone was beyond repair. After liaison with Revd Cook, a letter has been sent to the Exeter Diocese updating them of the position and asking if a new application for replacement of the stone should now be submitted.

**497.2 Advertising in the Park** - After discussion it was agreed that the pizza sign on the football club wall could remain in place until the end of the pizza shop sponsorship of the football club in two years' time. It was also agreed that clarification be obtained from West Devon Borough Council to ascertain what planning guidelines should be followed regarding signage in the park, if planning was not required it was agreed that the Town Council produce their own guidelines on park signage. On completion of that action, letters to be sent to organisations using the park who have their own signs. A letter also to be sent to the football club.

498. **Tennis Court Agreement** - The Chair advised the notes raised at the previous meeting had now been superseded by the meeting minutes issued prior to this meeting. All parties to the agreement have funding in place for the coming year and therefore no action required at this point. It was also agreed that the fees for use of the tennis courts from the general public should also be placed in the same account. No further actions required.
499. **Alcohol Free Zones** - Information still awaited from West Devon Borough Council. Carry forward to next meeting.
500. **Park Bookings**
- (i) Okeford Vet Centre Charity Dog Show 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 - booking agreed subject to appropriate insurance being in place and necessary arrangements to clear up dog fouling.
  - (ii) Lions Club Log Struggle 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014 - personal interest declared by Councillor A Leech. Booking agreed subject to appropriate risk assessments being completed in liaison with West Devon Borough Council.
  - (iii) Sport Relief Mile 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 - the Chair advised she had been approached about this event taking place and had verbally agreed to it. Booking confirmed by all present subject to necessary insurance.
501. **Dog Bins/Dog Fouling** -
- (i) The Clerk advised she had not yet received details from West Devon Borough Council re the emptying taking place. Clerk to chase up.
  - (ii) Revised dog control orders - email received from West Devon Borough Council Street Scene Enforcement Supervisor advising they are exploring introduction of revised dog control orders across the Borough. After discussion it was agreed clarification be obtained on the following points -
    - 1. Areas covered to be decided by the Town Council as opposed to a Borough-wide initiative being imposed ie Town policy to cover Simmons Park not West Devon policy.
    - 2. What orders would cover general streets and pavements?
    - 3. Enforcement, how was this to be achieved?
    - 4. Confirmation that the Town Council could still take part in the consultation process.
    - 5. Clarification on what third parties could enforce legislation and what training was required.Item to be discussed at next Parks meeting.
502. **Open Spaces** - Mr Whitfield advised many incidents of vandalism had taken place in the park over the last five weeks - stones thrown at windows at Chalet Treloar, fountains smashed, litter bins stolen. The police advise they have an offender for the theft of the litter bins and compensation for replacement bins may be obtainable. It was agreed to raise at the Okehampton Matters meeting a request to use the West Devon/Police mobile CCTV as a temporary measure to try to reduce further incidents occurring.
503. **World War One Commemoration** - It was agreed various open space areas should be planted with poppy seeds to commemorate this event, funding for project to be requested from DCC Councillor K Ball's locality budget.

**504. Members' Reports -**

- (i) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - no meeting.
- (ii) Okehampton Community Recreation Association - no meeting held, a very successful opening day at the pavilion took place.
- (iii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor M Ireland reported AGM to take place 18 March. Costs and quotes were now being obtained for refurbishment of the group's new building. The group vehicles now have cameras installed to record traffic events which were sponsored by Gregory's Transport.
- (iv) Tennis Court Management - no further update.
- (v) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor Vachon advised meeting had taken place 19 February, together with a successful coffee morning. Further coffee morning booked 29 March with transport and railway theme. The group are also looking at the possibility of moving to larger premises as their stock of items is increasing.
- (vi) Carnival Committee - Councillor Cummings advised the AGM had been held and the committee re-elected.
- (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - the Chair advised consultations were now taking place in connection with the potential change in the provision of youth services.
- (viii) Children's Centre - Councillor Leech advised they were looking at plans to relocate to the Ockment Centre.

**PART TWO ITEMS**

It was resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor M Davies, seconded by Councillor Mrs M McDonald.

**505. Open Spaces**

**506. Park Accident**

Meeting closed 8.30 pm.

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**Councillor Mrs C Marsh**  
**Chairman**