Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting 18th October 2021 Meeting Report

Date:	11 th October 2021
Name:	Emma James

6.3 Simmons Park Lighting – To note that stability and electrical inspections of the lighting columns in Simmons Park have been undertaken

No remedial work is required to be undertaken although replacement of some bulbs with LED alternatives is needed.

Electrical and stability testing of the lighting columns should be undertaken at least 6 yearly and however it is recommended by the contractor that stability testing is carried out 3 yearly due to the age of some of the columns.

8. Steps from Simmons Park to Station Road – To consider options for alterations to the pathways through the woodland making them more manageable for all persons, noting there is a route that avoids steps

The Park-keeper reports that:

The options for the steps are very limited. Gravel could be put down but it won't make much difference to the height of each step which if I recall was the main issue raised. But I fear with the winter weather that gravel would be washed away down the steps with the water that flows down from the station. I think the best option is to put a sign by the front gates stating, "step free route to station" and a sign at the far end of the park both entrances to the other route stating, "stepped route to station". This would also work out cheaper than gravelling the area which I fear would get washed away even with the water run off areas we have.





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9. Play Equipment Repairs – To resolve to approve the purchase of parts to repair the Rotator at the cost of £721.50, noting that the parts are only available from one company.



10. WWII Pillbox – To note that the structural inspection has not highlighted any concerns and it can now be opened to the public on occasions and that the provision of an information board is being investigated.

for the attention of James McGahey Esq.

8 September 2021

Dear Town Clark,

Structural Inspections in Simmons Park Okehampton.

Pill Box

Update

This should be read in conjunction with my report of 27 May 2021.

Pill Box

This is a substantial reinforced concrete structure with an exterior skin of random stone work, presumably as a concession to its appearance. As befits a machine gun post (which I presume dates from the 1940's) the sizing of the elements is generous; for example the roof is c 900 mm thick and the walls generally about 600 mm, headroom within the pillbox itself is c 2000 mm. Consequently there is very little evidence of structural distress in the building; the only defect, which is not particularly structural, is an opening up of the mortar joints on the dwarf wall on top of the roof which gives support to the vertical decorative stone work at the edge.

I have not at this stage opened up to explore the foundations, but, under the circumstances, I think it it safe to assume that they are more than adequate and here is certainly no sign of any distress therein.

I am not absolutely certain at this stage, what the proposal for this element is, whether it is merely to be repaired to maintain its serviceability or whether some alternative function is destined for it, but whatever course of action is required clear there is an importunity to instigate it now.

<u>11.1 Clapps Wood Ash Dieback</u> – To note that the felling licence has been recommended for approval by the Forestry Commission subject to conditions as circulated.

I will be recommending that your application 018/2854/2021 for a felling licence is granted subject to conditions. Please review the conditions presented below:

Felling Licence Application (Forestry Act 1967) Application Ref: 018/2854/2021 Clapps wood

The following conditions will apply to the licenced felling in Clapps wood and will be part of the agreement between the Forestry Commission and Mr James McGahey:

Condition A: Restock on felled area.

The following conditions apply to the licenced felling in 1.

- 1. Before 30th June 2028 the land on which the felling took place must be:
- a. Adequately prepared for planting and protected.
- b. Planted with 25% sycamore 25% pedunculate/common oak 25% hazel 25% goat willow to achieve not less than 1100 stems per hectare evenly distributed over the site
- 2. For a period of 10 years from the planting:
- a. The plants must be protected against damage and be adequately weeded.
- b. Any failure or losses should be replaced as necessary to provide a stocking of not less than 1100 stems per hectare evenly distributed over the site.
- c. Any replanting must be maintained in accordance with the rules and practice of good forestry.

12. <u>Litter and Dog Waste Bins</u> – To note that complaints have been received in relation to overflowing litter and dog waste bins and to consider options for resolution

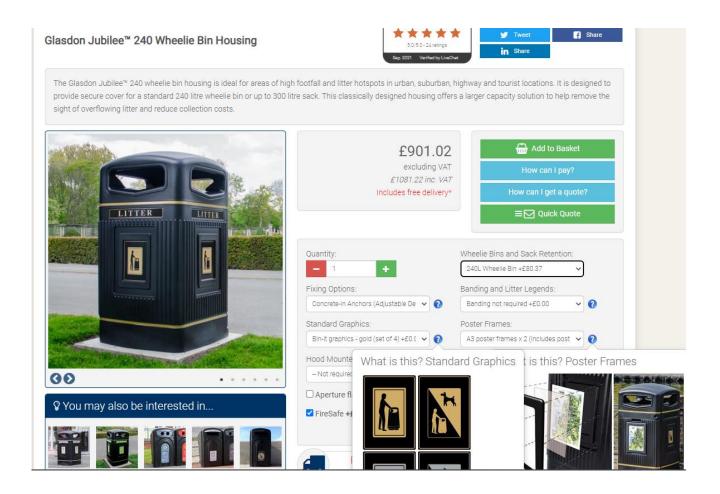
Dog Waste bin emptying in Simmons Park and throughout the town is undertaken by WDBC. Collections have been impacted by covid and driver shortages meaning that at times collections have been missed. Previous investigation has been undertaken by the Clerk to source alternative contractors for the emptying of those for which OTC is responsible with little success due to the nature of the waste.

Litter bins in Simmons Park have on occasion been overflowing by the start of the week especially when the weather has been pleasant. Covid, especially during the lockdown, has brought more people out into their local area and footfall increased during these times.

There are no members of staff available to empty the waste bins over weekends or bank holidays and it is suggested that consideration is given to the purchase of two additional larger waste bins prior to the Spring of 2022 similar to that shown below which are substantially larger than those currently in the park. The price of £901.02 in the following example is for one bin and includes a firesafe element and two A3 poster cases.

The cost of two bins would be £1802.04, comparative quotations would need to be sought. https://uk.glasdon.com/litter-bins/outdoor-litter-bins/glasdon-jubilee-tm-240-wheelie-bin-housing

The Committee is requested to approve the purchase of two of these, or similar, bins subject to comparative quotations being sought.



■ Features / Specifications

E

The Glasdon Jubilee 240 litre wheelie bin housing joins the Glasdon Jubilee range of classically designed litter and recycling bins which includes the Glasdon Jubilee 110 and the Streamline Jubilee models.

Design Features

 Larger capacity to help remove the sight of overflowing litter in busy locations and reduce collection costs:

Houses a standard 240 litre wheelie bin or 300 litre sack (with sack retention system), to collect more waste and reduce frequency of waste collections.

· Improve operator safety:

Mechanical emptying reduces manual handling issues.

New larger recessed lifting handle for gloved hands ensures safer opening with efficient slam shut action to close the door.

· Increase correct disposal:

Traditional appearance and choice of easily identifiable labelling ? along with four apertures makes it attractive and easy to use for the general public.

· Reduce maintenance costs:

Manufactured from recyclable Durapol® polymer for long service life

Durapol will not chip or rust, is easy to clean and the unique ribbed design deters flyposting.

Unique 3 point interlocking system ensures wheelie bin is secure.

· Co-ordinate your street scene furniture:

Glasdon Jubilee 240 joins the Glasdon Jubilee litter and recycling bin range.

Personalisation and Branding:

We design with personalisation in mind, providing you with the flexibility to add your corporate logo or message onto the areas highlighted opposite.

A3 poster kits are also available with this product offering you the option to change campaign messages more frequently. Why not add a map or transport information?





13. Benches -

Available budget for benches:

Bench Refurbishment £1,000 Earmarked £3,416

13.1 To consider the purchase of additional benches, including picnic style, for the play areas in Simmons Park.

The Park Keeper advises:

Regarding the benches 2 more picnic benches could go up on top of the slope that overlooks the entire play area, for them to go anywhere else in the play area would make it too narrow for tractor cutting and into the fall safety zones of some of the equipment. If they went out onto the field I feel they would look out of place with the existing set up of the rest of the park and cause an added obstacle for tractor cutting. Two picnic tables at the top of the bank is the most viable option.

Matching green metal picnic benches that will need very minimal maintenance and last a very long-time cost £962 each excluding VAT.





Pelham

Prices from

£962.00 ex VAT

The Pelham is an exceptionally rugged picnic suit. The design encompasses seating that is easier to access than the traditional 'A' frame because there is no cross member to straddle when sitting. This is an important feature particularly to the young and less able-bodied.

The weight and strength of the Pelham makes it particularly suitable for situations where there may be a risk of either theft or vandalism. The Pelham is available in two standard lengths; 1.5m and 1.8m. Bespoke lengths can be manufactured on request and also wheel chair friendly versions.

The Pelham suite is 100% steel construction with NO plastic plugs. All box section has welded end caps.

Branson Leisure steel furniture is designed not only to be functional and elegant, but is also immensely strong and therefore highly vandal resistant.

The 100% steel construction is available with a choice of three finishes:

- Polyester powder coated
- Galvanised
- Polyester coating on galvanised

A full list of Pelham versions is available below.

Variations

This stylish street furniture is available in three coating options – Polyester, Galvanised and Polyester coating on galvanised.

We can polyester coat the Pelham suite in any RAL colour.

For coastal regions where a high salt element is present in the atmosphere, a galvanised finish is recommended.

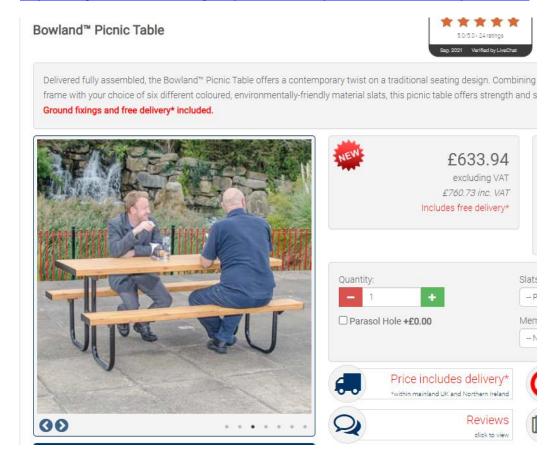
As all our furniture is built to order, it is possible to vary the size and colour from the standard specification. We would be pleased to quote for any special requirements.

https://www.bransonleisure.com/product/pelham/

Other options are wooden or recycled plastic which will last but obviously not as long and I have no experience to how well and durable to sun and strimming around the plastic recycled picnic benches are like but below are some prices.

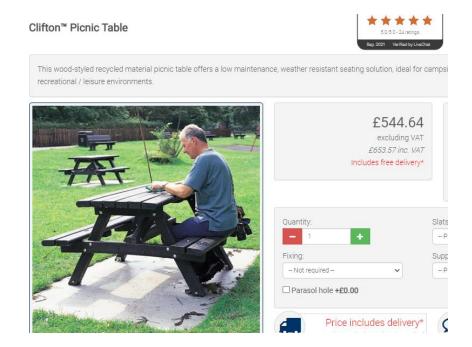
Recycled picnic bench with metal legs- better from strimming around - Price £633.94 ex VAT

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-material-picnic-tables/bowland-picnic-table



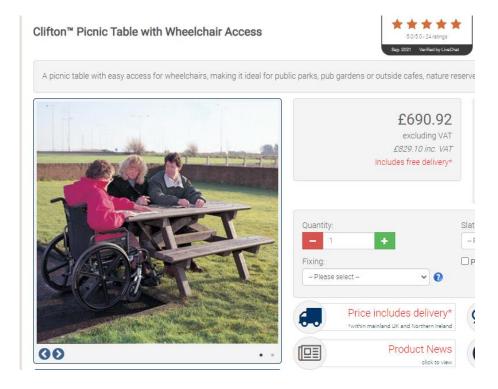
Standard all over recycled material picnic bench - £544 Ex VAT

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-material-picnic-tables/clifton-picnic-table



All over recycled material picnic bench, extended one side for wheelchair users. £690.92 Ex VAT

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-material-picnic-tables/clifton-picnic-table-with-wheelchair-access



Or there is an option from Devon contract waste who collect all the rubbish from the park and are making recycled picnic benches from the plastic that is collected. The picnic benches will more than likely will contain some rubbish from the park. Possibly a quirky way of showing how the Council the park recycles.

https://www.dcw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Recycled-Plastic-Furniture-Leaflet.pdf

Two types of picnic bench

- Plymouth standard picnic bench £495 Ex VAT
- Exeter more modern looking picnic bench £995 Ex VAT.



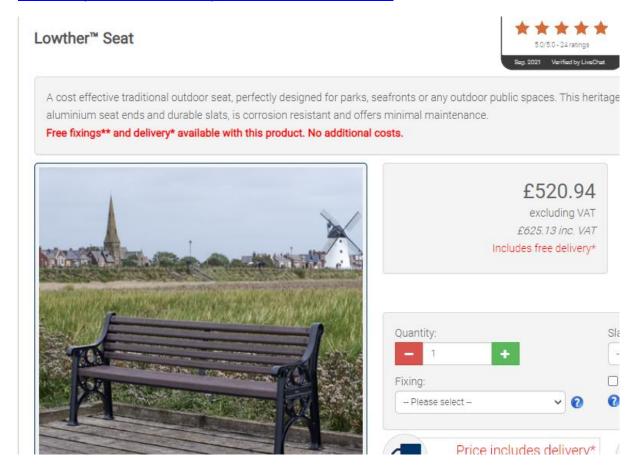
Summary of picnic bench options for Simmons Park:

Pelham	£962	Match those already in situ – green metal
Bowland	£633.94	Recycled bench with metal legs
Clifton	£544	Recycled bench
Clifton with Wheelchair	£690.92	Recycled bench with extended side for
access		wheelchair users
Plymouth	£495	Made by DCW who collect OTC's waste
Exeter	£995	 could contain waste collected from
		Okehampton

13.2 To consider the purchase of a replacement bench for the area by Market Street toilets, subject to permission from the landowner

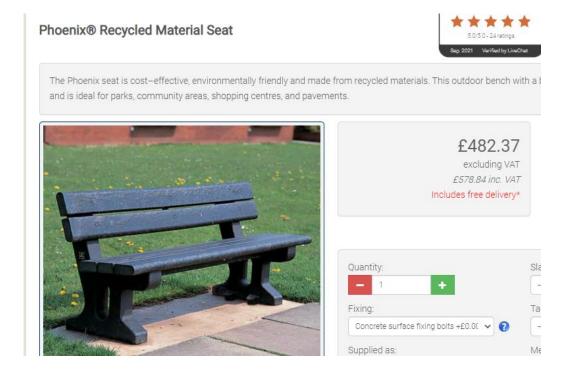
This bench matches those in the park and some of the town, I believe recycled slats

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/park-benches/lowther-seat - £520.994



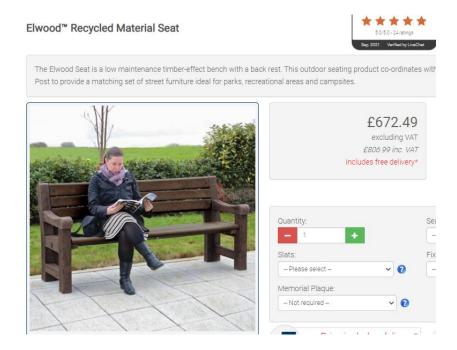
A slightly more universal bench but all recycled

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/park-benches/phoenix-tm-recycled-material-seat - £482.37



Similar to the bench that was there before but all recycled.

https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/park-benches/elwood-tm-recycled-material-seat £672.49



Summary of bench options for the replacement of one by the public toilets in Market Street.

Lowther	520.94	Matches those in the park – metal ends
Phoenix	482.37	Recycled materials
Elwood	672.49	Recycled – similar to the wooden bench that was previously sited by the toilets

14. Bus Shelter – To consider progress with regards to a request from a member of the public for the provision of a bus shelter on the junction of Exeter Road and Baldwin Drive.

The Clerk met with the resident on site to confirm the location of the requested bus shelter, see the following photo. DCC Highways have been contacted to establish if they would have any objection to the provision of a bus shelter at this location.



15.1 Cemetery – To note a report from the Clerk in relation to burials that have been undertaken since 1st April 2021.

EROB = Exclusive Right of Burial

Description	Number
Purchase of EROB for future burials	0
Burials in new plot with EROB purchase	2
Burials in new plot without EROB purchase	0
Burials in reopened plots (burial prior to 1 st April 2021)	0
Burials in reopened plots (after 1 st April 2021)	0
Permit for erection of Headstone (burial prior to 1st April 2021)	5
Permit for erection of Headstone (after 1 st April 2021)	0

The following burials are due to take place during two weeks from 11th October 2021:

Description	Number
Burial in previously purchased plot with EROB	1
Burials in new plot with EROB purchase	1
Burials in reopened plots (burial prior to 1st April 2021)	2

16. Consultation – Environment Agency Review of Charges for Water Resources – To resolve to recommend a response to full Council noting that the consultation closes on 10th November 2021

Documentation can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/water-resources-charge-proposals-from-april-2022

17. OMEP-UK'S Education for Sustainable Citizenship Award – To consider approval of a request for Simmons Park to be added to a list of venues in the OMEP-UK ESC Award Away Day directory, details circulated

Dear Town Clerk,

Simmons Park

OMEP-UK, the UK representative for the World Organisation of Early Childhood (OMEP) are currently rolling out an Award with pre-schools and primary schools across the UK. The OMEP-UK Education for Sustainable Citizenship Award (for children age 3 – 7 years) is promoting children's engagement both in their pre-school/primary school and at home with parents in sustainable actions/activities. The following link to our Award page on the OMEP-UK website provides some further information.

OMEP UK Early Childhood Sustainable Citizenship Award – OMEP UK

We are writing to your organisation to see if you would like to help children's engagement in sustainable/conservation activities with their parents by providing the following:-

Permission to list your organisation – conservation venues for families/pre-schools to visit in our OMEP-UK ESC Award 'Away Day' directory. If agreeable, we would be most grateful to receive your logo.

Details of your educational or public awareness programs that we can promote through our materials.

And, if possible, we would also be most grateful if you could consider offering families or the child engaging in the Award a small discount (which we can display in our directory). To access discounted tickets, children show their OMEP-UK Education for Sustainable Citizenship Passport when the family purchases their tickets (the drive for this is for more families to model and support their children in their own conservation projects/sustainable daily routines/lifestyles at home- for sustainability and conservation to continue to be in the family's minds).

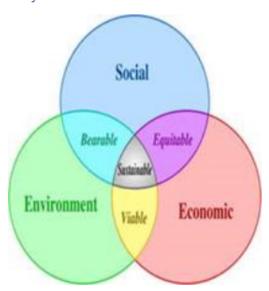
We very much look forward to hearing from you and are grateful for any collaboration you can support in our solidarity to promote sustainability. The families engaging in the Award are keen to get out and about and enable their child/ren to use their citizenship passports.

OMEP UK Early Childhood Sustainable Citizenship Award

Read below about what sustainable citizenship is defined as. Then, read about our exciting Sustainable Citizenship Award! We would love for your early childhood setting to get involved! If you are interested, please contact us via email.

Sustainable Citizenship

Since the 2005 United Nations World Summit, it has become commonplace to refer to the "interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars" of sustainable development as social and cultural sustainability, economic sustainability, and environmental sustainability. The challenge for educators has been to develop appropriate educational systems, curriculum and pedagogic practices that are sustainable in terms of each of these pillars. But it is also important to understand that these three pillars are integrated and must act together, and that any practices and policies developed without taking each into account are likely to fail.



Sustainable Development Pillars

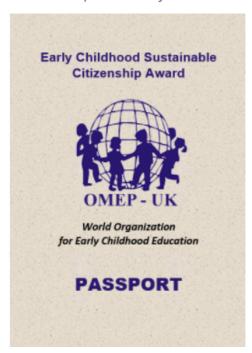
From the perspective of sustainable development, the most efficient or effective environmental, economic or social strategy may not be the most sustainable. Interdisciplinary decision making is crucial. Many authorities see good governance as another vital component that should be considered an additional 'pillar' for sustainable development. From an early childhood education perspective, these democratic concerns may be realised through the encouragement of more participation by the local community, by families and especially by the children themselves, in coconstructing the sustainability curriculum. It is for this reason, and in recognition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which suggests that all children should have a voice in all matters that effect their lives, that we refer throughout these pages to Education for Sustainable *Citizenship*.

Sustainable Citizenship Award

The OMEP UK Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Citizenship Award is an initiative that was developed following work reviewing provisions for ESD and in applying the OMEP *Environmental Rating Scale for Sustainable Development in Early Childhood* (ERS-SDEC) in ten OMEP countries (Chile, China, Kenya, Korea, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, and the USA) between 2010 and 2014. This work was published in 2016 and further details (including copies of the research instrument) are available for download here.

The OMEP Early Childhood Sustainable Citizenship Award has been developed to support a wide range of early childhood providers including childminders, preschools, and nurseries who are working with parents in supporting the objectives of Education for sustainable development in early childhood.

The scheme is organised around an 'ESC Passport' that is provided for each child. This document summarises the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and defines Sustainable citizenship as a life-long emergent capability.

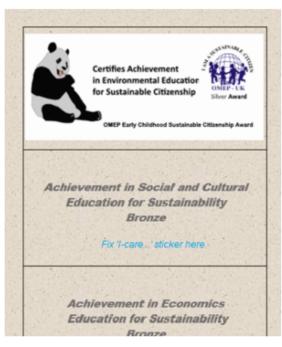


The passport also provides discounted entry to wildlife conservation parks and other related community resources and services. For more information about these benefits, please click here.

Each child is able to collect up to 15 award stickers for entry into their passport, and these show their ESC achievements at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. To be awarded each sticker, parents and preschool practitioners work together to support the child in completing educational activities that range from the identification of three wild birds, the identification of wildlife habitats, to the recycling of waste materials, and the recognition of cultural and linguistic diversity.

The approach celebrates sustainable achievements and innovations, and encourages the children to feel themselves involved in the creation of a more sustainable future.

The activities are set at an appropriate level for the age group, they are based upon commonly available environmental resources, and provide the foundations of an education for sustainable citizenship that addresses all aspects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Participating preschool settings are provided with a range of resources that offer an optimistic, and pro-active approach to the subject that celebrates sustainable achievements and innovations and encourages the children to feel themselves involved in the creation of a more sustainable future.

There are fifteen 'I-care...' booklets in the complete set. These comprise Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in the following ESC educational areas that broadly address the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

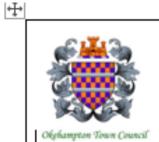
- · Social-Cultural education
- · Economics education
- · Environmental education
- Emergent Literacy education
- · Emergent Numeracy education

Each of the booklets also has recommendations for related picture story books or activities. Once the child has completed their '*I-care...*' book, their key person, will issue a sticker for their ESC passport.

Suggestion	"I care"	Date/Details
Draw your child's	I care about	02.09.18
attention to the	plants, and can	Jack said; "The
way that some	tell when they	leaves are all
plants droop	need water.	droopy and It's
when they need		really dry in the
water.		plant pot. <u>Lets</u>
		water it".

SchemaPlay is providing Training for ESC Trainers - for further details please click here.

18. Terms of Reference – To review the Committee Terms of Reference and make recommendation to full Council.



Okehampton Town Council

Parks Committee Terms of Reference

Responsibilities

To carry out the Council's responsibilities for the following:

- The provision of grounds maintenance services for:
 - Simmons Park, Kempley Meadows, Platt's Meadow, Putting Green;
 - Simmons Park car park and approach mad;
 - Skate Park/BMX Track; Clapps Wood, Fairplace, land behind Lidl, grass verge at West Bridge and all land in the ownership of Okehampton Town Council (excepting the footprint of the Town Hall, Charter Hall, Cinema, Lower Market Hall and Public Toilets at Fairplace sites)
 - d. cemetery; and
 - e. bus shelters, wayside seats

Budget

To have authority for spending within the allocated budget.

Fees

To determine and keep under review the fees and charges for the committee's services where statutory authority exists for the levying of such charges.

Payment of Expenses

To have authority to authorise cheque and BACS payments for all invoices and expenses

20. Public Spaces Protection Order 2021 – Control of Dogs – To note that the Order has been confirmed by WDBC following a consultation that ended on 31st July 2020 and resolve to nominate Councillors to work with an Officer to review the findings and report back to the Committee the implications for areas that are the responsibility of the Council and recommendations

Note the following correndance between WDBC Officers and the Clerk clarifiying aspects of the Order:

Emma, you have correctly identified the issues we discussed that are of particular interest on the Parish Council owned lands at Simmons Park.

With regard to Formal Gardens – the general standard is that dogs should be on leads. We brought this into question in Simmons Park because of the bye law which states dogs must be under control. We later considered the signage which seems to support the general standard that dogs should be on leads? On reflection, I wonder if you might think it prudent to take back to the Parish Council to gauge the intention of the original bye law?

Playing fields leased to the College – football pitch and putting green. Yes, 'Dogs under control' unless organised sport is in progress at which time members of the public can walk around the perimeter of the area with their dogs on a lead. Is consistent with the general standard and appropriate for the area described.

Finally, the cricket field – yes, dogs under control reflects the general standard. If you are proposing to introduce a timed restriction you will need to do this through your leasing arrangements. There is no provision within the PSPO to enforce a timed restriction.

Of course, in Simmons Park which is owned and managed by the Parish Council you are at liberty apply the standards you see fit. So far as we can, within the provisions of the 2021 PSPO our authorised officers we will support you in this regard.

From: Emma James [mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk]

Sent: 22 April 2021 12:36

To: >

Subject: RE: Okehampton

Dear

Please can you confirm if my understanding as follows is correct:

<u>Formal garden area</u> – 'Dogs under control' unless 'Dogs on Leads by Direction' is invoked by an authorised officer

<u>Playing field leased to the College, football pitch and putting green</u> – 'Dogs under control' unless organised sport is in progress at which time members of the public can walk around the perimeter of the area with their dogs on a lead

Fenced in 'cricket field' leased to the college – dogs under control outside of school hours

21. <u>Budget 2022/23</u> - To consider any projects and particular purchases for inclusion in the first draft of the budget for the financial year 2022/23

Items the Committee may wish to consider for inclusion are:

- Replacement of the tractor trailer which is badly rusting, has a broken/missing part and is irreparable
- Putting aside some funding towards the cost of the repair of the entrance/exit into the car park by the Cemetery as a contribution could be requested by the Church in due course