

Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee
held on Monday 19 May 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton

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

Other Members Present: Councillor B Stephens

In Attendance: Mr P R Snell (Town Clerk)

9. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor M Davies and Councillor D Weekes.
10. **Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - There were no comments or questions raised by members of the public present.
11. **Members' Questions** - Councillor P Vachon asked Councillors to note that he would not be using the Mayor's parking space and proposed that this space be available for other Councillors only to use upon voluntary contribution for the benefit of the Mayor's nominated charities. The suggestion had the support of Councillors.
12. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on Monday 14 April 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Ireland, after a manuscript amendment to the part two minutes.
13. **Matters Arising** -
 - 13.1 **First World War Commemoration** - The Clerk reported that ground at the cemetery and West Bridge had been prepared for seeding, but that the seeds themselves were still awaited despite chasing the supplier. A formal request had been sent to Reverend Stephen Cook for his agreement for the planting of poppy-seeded patches adjacent to the war memorial. West Devon Borough Council had also been contacted for their agreement to seed the areas at West Bridge and conditional agreement had been obtained, the conditions not being onerous. A request for a grant of £250 from the Locality Fund had been made through Councillor Ball. Councillor Ball had agreed the grant and receipt of the monies was anticipated shortly.
 - 13.2 **Fatherford Lane - Dog Bin Monitoring** - The Clerk reported that after a period of monitoring of the dog bin at Fatherford Lane, it was clear that two emptyings per week were required. Councillor Mrs McDonald observed that not only was dog waste being left at the bin when it was full and at the base of the bin, but also wine bottles. Councillor Mrs McDonald further asked that the Borough be asked to undertake

disinfection of the dog bins as they were becoming extremely smelly over the period. It was resolved that the bin at Fatherford Lane should be emptied twice weekly with immediate effect and a proposal to formalise that was made by Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Ireland, with all in favour.

13.3 Dog Control Orders - The Clerk had responded to West Devon Borough Council's consultation on new Dog Control Orders after the previous meeting. Councillor Letchford and Councillor Mrs Marsh were both attending a briefing workshop on the new Dog Control Orders the following day.

14. Park Bookings -

- (i) Noted recurring request for Anderton Rowland Spring Fair 18-27 May 2014, operating 22-26 May inclusive.
- (ii) Noted recurring request for Anderton Rowland Autumn Fair 12-19 October 2014, opening days 16-18 October inclusive.
- (iii) Scott May's Daredevil Stunt Show - further to the resolution from the last meeting the Clerk had been in contact with Scott May and the date of Friday 8 August 2014 had been tentatively agreed, subject to agreement of terms.
- (iv) Workshop under the Sky - to run a painting and drawing workshop on 28 April 2015. Councillor Ireland observed that these workshops had both an ecological and scientific element.
- (v) Battle of the Bands - noted request for recurring event, final event in the Battle of the Bands series 2 August 2014.

15. BT Phone Box - The Clerk reported that having confirmed there was still a ground level cable connection, although not connected to the mains and a further cable between the adjacent telegraph pole and the top of the cabin, he had contacted BT Services to request a meeting in order to confirm which cables and connections were yet to be removed. A meeting had been arranged for 27 May. Councillor Leech asked for confirmation of whether the phone box was listed. Report noted.

16. Members' Reports -

- (i) Children's Centre - Councillor Leech reported that the Okehampton Centre should be ok due to the existing contract until 2016.
- (ii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor Ireland reported that the Ten Tors Expedition - the first year using the new routes - had worked out better than anticipated. There had been approximately 235 drop-outs by the Sunday morning which equated to approximately 10% of the starters. The North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team had been busy throughout the Saturday evening and all teams were out on the moor. By Sunday they were quite stretched. The North Dartmoor Team completed the sweep and was flown out on the Sunday, but there were no major incidents. Councillor Ireland further reported that there had been an Extraordinary General Meeting on 13 May to discuss streamlining processes and protocols. Discussions were continuing.
- (iii) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor Vachon reported the last meeting was 24 April where it had been decided to hold a coffee morning on 31 May themed on the First World War.

- (iv) Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) - It was reported that there would be summer holiday schemes and a sports week in July, with events for children with learning disabilities, dance, music and arts.
- (v) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - no meeting.
- (vi) Tennis Court Management - no meeting.
- (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - It was noted that the Devon County Council consultation on youth services was currently in progress. Councillor Ball clarified the invitation to all Members to respond individually and the report would be out soon.

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 Mrs McDonald, seconded by Councillor Ball.

17. **Alterations to College Car Park**

18. **Purchase of Parks Equipment**

19. **Play Area Inspection**

20. **Open Spaces**

Meeting closed at 7.52 pm

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman