

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee
held on Monday 14 April 2014 at the rising of the Policy and Resources
Committee in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Dr M Ireland (Chair)
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 B Stephens
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P Snell (Town Clerk)
Mrs J Gillard

542. Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor Mrs C Marsh and Councillor K Ball.

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

544. Members' Questions - Councillor Mrs McDonald noted the comment on dog fouling which had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Leech had responded directly as a Borough Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond formally from the Town Council.

545. Minutes - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on Monday 17 March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair on the proposition of Councillor Mrs McDonald, seconded by Councillor Mrs Goffey.

546. Matters Arising -

546.1 Sophia Simmons' Memorial - Mrs Gillard (as previous Acting Clerk) reported that the Diocesan Advisory Committee had been contacted with reference to Reverend Stephen Cook's suggestion that the fragmenting memorial be replaced.

546.2 Advertising in the Park - Mrs Gillard reported that Councillor Mrs Marsh had undertaken to ascertain the requirements for planning permission for signage. It was reported that planning permission was required for the size of sign currently on the football club wall. The view was generally expressed that a working group should be constituted to draw up a protocol for signage in the Park.

546.3 Alcohol Free Zones - Mrs Gillard reported that the advice received from West Devon Borough Council was to evaluate the effect of the Section 30 introduction. The cost of implementing a separate extension of the alcohol-free zone would be about £4,000

-£5,000. The Town Clerk confirmed that Section 30 notices were now in place at Simmons Park.

546.4 First World War Commemoration - West Devon Borough Council had been contacted with reference to the proposal to plant poppies at Fairplace, Westbridge and adjacent to the memorial in the Churchyard. Rev'd Cook had been consulted verbally. A request had been submitted to Councillor Ball for a grant from the Locality Fund. The inclusion of the Churchyard part of the project was proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Weekes.

546.5 Open Spaces - Mrs Gillard confirmed there was no mobile CCTV available. Councillor Leech noted that CCTV equipment from the monitoring point at Newton Abbot was for sale.

547. Park Bookings

547.1 Exeter City Football in the Community 29 May 2014 9 - 3 pm - Approved in principle subject to appropriate insurance being in place and completion of booking form. Proposed by Councillor Mrs McDonald, seconded by Councillor Leech.

547.2 Workshop Under The Sky 20 May 2014 - To run a painting and drawing workshop for clients of Puzzle Tree, Okehampton. Approved on condition that the yurt was not dug into the ground. Proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Weekes.

547.3 Initial enquiry to hold a Family Fun Day on Sunday 31 August 2014, following the pattern of 2013 - Approved in principle, subject to provision of risk assessment, application form and public liability insurance. Proposed by Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Mrs McDonald.

547.4 Councillor Mrs Marsh had indicated a possible booking for a stunt-riding event. Councillor Mrs Goffey advised that there had been an enquiry in 2013 which had come to nothing. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Marsh, Town Clerk and Park-keeper would meet the organiser to gain further information. Proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Davies.

548. Dog Fouling -

548.1 Dog bin in Fatherford Lane - The emptying schedule of this bin would continue to be monitored.

548.2 WDBC proposed Dog Control Orders - Councillor Letchford had studied the four Orders: a) Dogs on Lead; b) Dogs on Lead by Direction; c) Fouling of Land by Dogs and d) Dog Exclusion. He suggested that while there was little to dispute with c) and d), both a) and b) presented some difficulties if applied at Simmons Park. It was noted that dog walkers were essentially the only users of the Park in winter. The preferred Order should be Dogs on Lead by Direction, which would equate to the current practice. Other Councillors also noted a lack of clarity in the exceptions cited for dog ownership and responsibility.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Council favoured the Dogs on Lead by Direction Order for Simmons Park, but sought further clarification of the exceptions to the offence as detailed. The Clerk to respond to WDBC, investigate and report back. Proposed by Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Davies with all in favour.

549. **Signage** - Outline proposals for replacing or adding direction signage, larger size for the WC with the tennis booking sign were reported. Clerk and Park-keeper to review and report.

550. **Alterations to College Car Park** - It was agreed to take this item under Part Two.

551. **Members' Reports** -

- (i) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - no update.
- (ii) Okehampton Community Recreation Association - nothing to report.
- (iii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor Ireland reported that the last committee meeting had discussed different routes and procedures applicable to the Ten Tors event. There had been two call-outs.
- (iv) Tennis Court Management - no meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor Vachon reported there had been a coffee morning and the grant cheque had been presented. Next meeting 19 April.
- (vi) Carnival Committee - Councillor Cummings reported there was no meeting before leaving the meeting at 8.55 pm.
- (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - Councillors Davies and Vachon reported that the 'sleep-in' had been very successful and they had both attended a question and answer session. There had been a consultation on Youth Services at Tavistock Town Hall. The Town Mayor had also written to Devon County Council concerning its 'Tough Choices' consultation and Youth Services. Whilst it was recognised there was no resource in the rest of the community, Councillor Weekes asked that the Council show support for Room 13 and invite a presentation to the full Council at a later stage.
- (viii) Children's Centre - Councillor Leech reported that he hoped the Children's Centre might return to the Ockment Centre from the College.

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 Davies and seconded by Councillor Weekes.

552. **Open Spaces**

553. **Park Play Area Accident**

554. **Alterations to College Car Park**

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman