

Minutes of an Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton

Committee Members Present: Councillor C Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor P Jessop (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor T Abbots
Councillor C Holt
Councillor M Ireland
Councillor T Leech
Councillor D Travers

Other Members Present: Councillor B Matravers
Councillor D Sanger

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
4 Members of the Public

Action

In the absence of Cllr Button, Committee Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Marsh.

99 **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies from Cllrs Button, Tolley, Yelland and Wood were **approved** on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Holt. Apologies from Cllr Goffey who was not a member of the committee were noted.

100 **Deferment of Business** – A member of the public spoke about proposed use of an area of land adjacent to the Skatepark for educational and commercial purposes.

(A member of the public left the meeting.)

The Committee was addressed by two members of the public in relation to a request to run an electricity cable around the bottom edge of the cemetery adjacent to All Saints Church.

101 **Mr McGahey, Park-Keeper** – A report from Mr McGahey who was unable to attend was read out by the Clerk. The Committee noted the comments about grass cutting following no-mow May and agreed that the areas could remain unmown for the time.

102 **Members' Questions** – None

103 **Minutes** - Minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 4th April 2022 were **APPROVED** to be signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Holt.

104 **Park Bookings** – The following bookings for future and recent events were noted:

6th -13th June Anderton and Rowland Fair
14th June OCRA – Dartmoor Cup Cricket finals
26th June Dog Show
23rd July City Jaz performance in the bandstand (to be confirmed)

105 **Cemetery** – With agreement of the Committee this item of business was brought forward.

105.1 A summary of burials that had taken place since 1st April 2022 was noted.

105.2 The Committee noted that annual routine inspection of the memorial stones in line with the Memorial Management Policy would be taking place in August.

105.3 A request for permission to route an electric cable around the public bridleway end of the cemetery was considered.

On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Travers, it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to permit a member of the public to speak.

A member of the public advised that the trench would be one metre deep as required by Western Power.

On the proposition of Cllr Abbots, seconded Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Abbots it was **RESOLVED** to give permission for a power cable to be routed around the bottom end of the cemetery as indicated in the correspondence received and that a Wayleave be arranged with the relevant parties.

Clerk

106 **Dog and General Waste Bins**

106.1 It was noted that Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council were investigating the possibility of the provision of an additional dog waste bin in the Chichacott Road vicinity. The Clerk was requested to establish the potential location of the bin prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

Clerk

106.2 A request for a dog waste bin in Clapps Wood was considered. On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the provision of a new general waste bin at the Westbridge Close end of the area, subject to WDBC being able to collect the waste.

Clerk

106.3 The Clerk reported that a register of bins and benches owned by the Council and others was being compiled but that it was not a high priority piece of work. Mrs Ellis would be assisting with this project over the summer with the aim of completion in the autumn.

Clerk/
Ass. Clerk

107 **Correspondence from Residents**

107.1 Correspondence and the Clerk's report in relation to request for a bench in Station Road and about public toilets was considered.

DCC Highways had advised the pavements in Station Road were not wide enough to accommodate a bench. No further action was agreed to be taken with respect to the bench.

Public toilets were available in Parklands Leisure Centre which would be identified on new park signage that was being progressed for Simmons Park.

On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland it was **RESOLVED** to investigate public toilet signage throughout the town and to consider tree crown raising and other work to council owned trees in Fairplace Garden by the toilets to make them more visible.

Clerk/
Park-keeper

107.2 A request to fence in all the play equipment in Simmons Park, in addition to that for younger children which was already enclosed, was considered. It was noted that it would be costly and was not budgeted. Concerns that

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| | fencing was encroaching on areas in and around the park were raised No action would be taken. | Clerk |
| 108 | <u>Simmons Park Information Boards</u> – The Clerk reported that grant applications had not been successful but that another was about to be submitted. On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland it was RESOLVED to go ahead with the purchase and installation of the information boards without the additional side panel to the larger board unless grant funding was obtained. This was subject to the consent of Fields in Trust and planning consent. This action would reduce the overall cost to approximately £200 over the budget, subject to any price increases. | Clerk |
| 109 | <u>Bus Shelters</u> – Further information received in relation to an advertising request was considered. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Jessop, 1 against, it was RESOLVED to reject the request on the grounds that at the end of the 4 year contract the Council may be left without any bus shelters and incur additional cost for their replacement. | Clerk |
| 110 | <u>Parklands Leisure Centre</u> – The Clerk and Cllr Marsh reported that a useful and productive meeting had been held with Fusion Managers and WDBC. The Clerk advised that the draft lease was expected to be received in the near future for consideration by Simmons Park Trustees. | |
| 111 | <u>Tennis Club Agreement</u> – The Clerk reported that the agreement had not been terminated correctly in 2017 when the Council's involvement had ceased. In order that this be finalised and correctly dissolved she was attempting to arrange a meeting between all parties when the documentation could be signed. | |
| 112 | <u>Drinking Water Fountain</u> – Cllr Marsh suggested that a bequest made to the Council specifically for a project in Simmons Park could be used to provide drinking water fountains, subject to agreement of the family. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Abbots it was RESOLVED to investigate the feasibility of the project including ongoing maintenance costs and winter protection. | Clerk |
| 113 | <u>Parks Office Electric</u> – The Clerk advised that investigation had revealed high consumption was due to the pond pumps and heating system. Shading from trees meant it would not be possible to install solar panels. Options for replacement of the heating system would be investigated. | Clerk |
| 114 | <u>Volunteer Group</u> – It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the feasibility of creating a volunteer group for Simmons Park and also extending the opportunity to local groups including ORIG. | Clerk |
| 115 | <u>Fields in Trust 'Have a Field Day'</u> – It was agreed that the Council should have some involvement in the event that had been hosted in recent years by OCRA on the Council's behalf. | Clerk |
| 116 | <u>Payment of Invoices</u> – There were no payments for approval. | |
| 117 | <u>Reports of Council Working/Task and Finish Groups -</u> | |
| 117.1 | <u>Cemetery Management</u> – The Clerk advised that investigation into the purchase of land for future cemetery use was progressing and was to be discussed later in the meeting within Part 2 for contractual reasons. | |
| 118 | <u>Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -</u> | |

- 118.1 Dartmoor National Park Forum – Cllr Sanger advised that there had not been a meeting to report on.
- 118.2 Everything Okehampton – Cllr Marsh reported that slow progress was being made for replacement of the anchor bolts for the cables. A fundraising dinner for the Christmas Lights was being held on 21st October, and calendars would be for sale later in the year.
- 118.3 North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team – Cllr Ireland reported that there had been some personnel changes within the group.
- 118.4 Okehampton Community Archive – Cllr Holt advised that a meeting was being held later in the week.
- 118.5 Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) – No report.
- 118.6 Okehampton & District Community Transport Group - Cllr Leech reported that the group had received a new vehicle paid for from a bequest. An additional bus driver and more volunteers were needed, mileage rates had increased due to rising fuel costs.
- 118.7 Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group – Cllr Leech reported that a ‘Meet the Manager’ session had been arranged but that no Managers had been in attendance.
- 118.8 Beacon Path Sticklepath to Okehampton – Cllr Matravers advised the previous meeting had been cancelled.

(Remaining members of the public left the meeting.)

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 item as it involved the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Holt.

- 119 **Land Adjacent to Skate Park** – Consideration was given to the initial proposal received and further information presented earlier in the meeting from Naturally Buzzin which indicated that the project would be commercial as well as educational.

On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Leech it was **RESOLVED** to support the project, agree the proposed conditions and that Naturally Buzzin covered all costs apart from the Council’s solicitor’s fees.

Clerk

- 120 **Cemetery Land Purchase** - On the proposition of Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Holt it was **RESOLVED** to obtain one land valuation and accept the quotation from Kivells at £337.50 for this service.

Clerk

On the proposition of Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Holt, it was **RESOLVED** to exit Part Two and ratify decisions made therein. The meeting was closed at 8.35pm

Councillor Button
Chairman