

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee  
held on Monday 8 December 2014 in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Okehampton at 8.15 pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)  
Councillor K Ball (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Revd M Davies  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor D Weekes  
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 Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	<b>Action</b>
<b>389. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor Tolley.</b>	
<b>390. <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no members of the public present.</b>	
<b>391. <u>Members' Questions</u> - None.</b>	
<b>392. <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee held on 6 October 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Ireland and agreed.</b>	
<b>393. <u>Matters Arising</u> -</b>	
<b>393.1 <u>Open Spaces/Transfer of Assets</u> - The Chairman reported that pending a more detailed register of the assets under discussion, this matter would be deferred to the next meeting.</b>	
<b>393.2 <u>Simmons' Memorial Headstone</u> - The Clerk reported that the Diocesan Advisory Committee had now issued a faculty for the replacement of the headstone subject to approval of design and engraver.</b>	
<b>393.3 <u>Maintenance of Public Benches</u> - The Clerk reported that the grant from West Devon Borough Council had now been received.</b>	
<b>394. <u>Report from Devon County Councillor</u> - Councillor Ball reported on the following matters.</b>	
a) <b>Gritting</b> - The current consultation was to inform decisions for winter 2015/16. There would be no changes for the current year. No final decisions had been taken and there was still opportunity to contribute to the consultation through the Tough Choices website.	Cllr Ball

	Action
<p>b) Verge Cutting - Only essential tidying up would be continued. All other cutting in town and rural areas would be left for town and parish councils to address, with an assurance that the County would work with town and parish councils to create a business model for the future. After discussion it was proposed that Councillor Ball feed back to the leader of Devon County Council that considerations of general safety be prioritised. It was further requested that the next Full Council agenda include an item on the impact of funding cuts imposed on Devon County Council and implications for rural Okehampton.</p>	Clerk
<p>395. <b><u>Park Bookings</u></b> - The Committee agreed to a request in principle for OCRA to use Simmons Park for the Dartmoor Cricket Cup for primary school children on 3 June 2015 subject to submission of booking form and relevant risk assessments. The request for the cutting of cricket wickets was also approved on the proposition of Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Goffey.</p>	
<p>396. <b><u>Simmons Bowling Club</u></b> - A request from the Club for its members to undertake a clearance of ground ivy from the existing garden and to replant shrubs was approved on the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Leech.</p>	
<p>397. <b><u>Dog Fouling</u></b> - The Clerk reported complaints received from Portugal Way and Abbey Rise with reference to dog fouling. The Clerk had made arrangements with the Street Scene Office at West Devon Borough Council for a letter drop at Portugal Way. The Committee noted the availability of the Borough's dog warden scheme on a buy-in basis, but considered this had been poor value for money from previous experience.</p>	
<p>398. <b><u>Machinery and Equipment</u></b> - The Clerk reported that some portable equipment at the park would need to be tested in accordance with Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005. The Committee noted this.</p>	
<p>399. <b><u>Unauthorised Domestic Waste Disposal at Simmons Park</u></b> - The Committee noted the Clerk's report of two instances of rubbish having been deposited at Simmons Park. Relevant source information had been obtained by the Park-keeper, and the Clerk had written to both parties concerned.</p>	
<p>400. <b><u>Members' Reports</u></b> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Children's Centre - No report.</li> <li>(ii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor Ireland reported there had been two call-outs in the recent period. The group had assisted with traffic control on the Edwardian Evening. There would be a fundraising street collection on 21 December. Councillor Vachon added that the group had had an open day at the new centre recently which was considered very successful.</li> <li>(iii) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor Vachon reported on the successful World War I exhibition. There had been a well-</li> </ul>	

- attended coffee morning and the group had made a successful application for funding to Okehampton United Charities Trust.
- (iv) Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) - Councillor Davies reported no meeting.
  - (v) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - Meeting cancelled.
  - (vi) Tennis Court Management - No meeting.
  - (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - No meeting.

**Action**

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

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