

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 9 March 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor Mrs M McDonald  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chairman, Property)

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

	<b>Action</b>
<b>553</b> <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Ball, Davies and Leech.	
<b>554</b> <b><u>Urgent Items for Information</u></b> - The Mayor informed the meeting that he was writing a letter to Councillor Leadbetter (Devon County Council) concerning the absence of invitation for the Council's representative to attend a meeting of the Peninsula Rail Task Force meeting.	
<b>555</b> <b><u>Deferment of Business</u></b> - No members of the public present.	
<b>556</b> <b><u>Members' Questions</u></b> - None.	
<b>557</b> <b><u>Minutes</u></b> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meetings held on 26 January 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Goffey.	
<b>558</b> <b><u>Matters Arising:</u></b>	
<b>558.1</b> <b><u>Transfer of Assets</u></b> - The Clerk was continuing the assessment and write-up of assets under consideration.	
<b>558.2</b> <b><u>Removal of Spoil Heap</u></b> - A request from the Church Warden had been received for removal of the spoil heap from the parking area, due to planned resurfacing. The Clerk reported arrangements were in progress.	
<b>559</b> <b><u>Request for amendment to schedule of parking fees</u></b> - The Committee considered a request from the Parklands User Group for the addition of a 3-hour parking ticket at Simmons Park to cater for those users who wished to attend a double session. The Committee resolved that the costs of adjusting ticketing machine and signage would significantly outweigh any benefit on the proposition of Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Goffey. The Committee agreed, however, to note this request when next reviewing parking charges.	Clerk

**560 Park Bookings -**

**560.1 Christians Together in Okehampton** - The Committee agreed a request for a rounders competition in the Park on Saturday 13 June 2015.

**560.2 Rotary Club May Fair** - The Committee noted a request for the demarcation of a display area for the Okehampton May Fair on 3 May 2015.

**561 Consent for Gas Mains Access to The Nook in Simmons Park.** Councillor Marsh declared an interest as a trustee of Simmons Homes. A request had been received from the Simmons Homes Charity for consent to lay a gas main to The Nook, agreement in principle having been approved previously. After consideration of the planned pipe route, consent was proposed by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Weekes and agreed. The Clerk to sign the consent papers.

Clerk

**562 Dog Control Orders & Fouling** - The Clerk reported on the procedure for enforcing the new dog control orders and the associated training to be introduced by West Devon Borough Council. After discussion and, taking into account the comments by the Park-keeper, it was agreed that the Parks staff should proceed as at present to advise members of the public about control of dogs, but to refer uncontrolled behaviour by either dogs or their owners to the Police for further action.

A letter of complaint about dog fouling and dog-wardens had been received from a member of the public. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond.

Clerk

**563 Correspondence** - A letter had been received noting the perceived difficulties of coach-parking in the Mill Road Car Park and suggesting Simmons Park as an alternative. After discussion, the Committee agreed to maintain the current stance, noting that coach parking at Parklands was designated for school coaches only and that there was no suitable space at Simmons Park that would not inconvenience other Park users. Furthermore, the Mill Road proposal had been the subject of a public consultation by the Borough Council. The Clerk to respond accordingly.

Clerk

**564 In Memoriam tree planting** - The Clerk reported that he had been approached about a possible donation for a tree planting. It was agreed that location would be discussed with the Park-keeper, should the donation materialise.

**565 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -**

(i) **Children's Centre** - No report.

(ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Ireland reported that the recent meeting had discussed membership rules,

the grant received from the Town Council towards livery of the new vehicle, planned internal development of the new premises subject to funding and the forthcoming AGM.

- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Vachon reported that the recent coffee morning had been successful with another planned. No formal meetings.
- (iv) **OCRA** - Councillor Weekes reported that the AGM was scheduled for 24 March and that the recent meeting had discussed the management of the Hub (Pavilion).
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - Notes from the recent meeting referred to the request concerning car parking (addressed at Minute 559 (above)) together with comments on the general cleanliness in the Sports Hall and Changing Rooms.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - Meeting imminent.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - It was understood that the management committee were looking to replace some windows. It was agreed to invite the Co-ordinator to the Annual Town Assembly.

Clerk

## **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 involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Weekes and agreed.

566 **Staffing**

567 **Insurance Matters**

568 **Outstanding Debtors**

**Action**

The meeting was closed at 7.53 p.m.

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

