

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 13 April 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 D Weekes
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chairman, Property)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
609 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Ball, Davies and Tolley.	
610 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - No members of the public present.	
611 <u>Members' Questions</u> - Councillor Goffey had raised a question concerning the ownership and pruning of the roses near the Leisure Centre. It was confirmed that these roses came under the Council's ownership and maintenance.	
612 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meetings held on 9 March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Vachon.	
613 <u>Matters Arising:</u>	
613.1 Gas Main in Simmons Park - The Clerk reported that the gas main had now been laid to The Nook and that the surface of the path had been re-instated satisfactorily.	
613.2 Transfer of Assets - The Clerk circulated some examples of completed assessments and was progressing the list. The Committee noted the format.	
613.3 Okehampton Times Features - The first of the features on Simmons Park – the Water Gardens – was expected to appear in the Okehampton Times imminently.	
613.4 Removal of Spoil Heap - The Clerk reported that the spoil heap had been removed from the cemetery car park.	
613.5 Chamber of Trade - the Chairman reported that the banners in Fore Street for Simmons Park would be erected by the Chamber of Trade.	

614 **Fallen Oak in the Park** - The Clerk reported that a mature oak had fallen in Simmons Park during the high winds at the end of March. The Park staff were in the process of completing removal of trunk and branches. The main parts of the trunk had been stored for later milling with the intention of using the oak planking to repair benches and seats in the Park.

615 **Park Bookings** -

615.1 **U3A Picnic** - A request for a picnic in the Park on 14 June 2015 to celebrate the signing of the Magna Carta.

615.2 **Dog Show** - A request for a fund-raising dog show on behalf of the Greyhound Sanctuary and K9 Search Dogs to be held on 18 July 2015.

615.3 **Christians Together in Okehampton** - A request to hold an open-air service near the band stand on Sunday 14 June 2015 (afternoon).

615.4 **Battle of the Bands** - A request for use of the park for the Battle of the Bands annual final on Saturday 1 August 2015, to include attractions, licensed bar etc.

615.5 **Anderton & Rowlands Fair** - A request for the Spring Fair to pitch from 17-26 May inclusive, operating on 5 days and to return from 11-18 October 2015 inclusive, operating on 4 days.

615.6 **Okeford Veterinary Centre** - A request to hold a dog show on 7 June 2015 on behalf of Dartmoor View Dog Rescue.

It was resolved to approve all of the above en bloc on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor McDonald.

616 **Exclusive Burial Rights Applications** - Two applications for exclusive rights had been received. The Rector had confirmed the reservations for Row 10, Plot 5 on behalf of Mrs P Bartolini and Row 11, Plot 4 on behalf of Mrs J Bailey. The Committee noted and endorsed the reservations accordingly. Letters of allocation would be dispatched by the Clerk.

Clerk

617 **Dog Fouling** - The Clerk reported on complaints concerning dog fouling in Simmons Park and specifically in the Abbey Rise and Chichacott Road pathway. The Committee noted a general increase in observations of dog fouling. It was agreed to that the matter should be taken forward by the new council in conjunction with Okehampton College and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council.

Clerk

618 **County Cutbacks** - It was noted that the County Council was no longer funding the removal of noxious weeds from verges. This was now a matter

for landowners to control the spread of weeds such as Japanese Knotweed and Balsam. The Chairman confirmed that the Park staff held appropriate licenses to deal with these matters on Town Council owned land. It was suggested that collaborative work with the Hamlets Parish Council might address the problem of noxious weeds on common roads within the Parishes.

619 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Children's Centre** - Councillor Leech reported that the Okehampton and Tavistock groups had joined.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Ireland reported that the AGM had taken place. There had been 33 call-outs during the annual reporting period. Funding had largely been split between donations and grants. The newly elected Committee was largely unchanged. The Group were awaiting transfer of the new Land Rover from the Fire and Rescue Service.
- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Vachon reported that the recent AGM had returned 3 primary officers for a further year. Coffee mornings were a primary source of fundraising. The Group would focus on digitisation of records as a priority.
- (iv) **OCRA** - Councillor Marsh reported that there had been a change of officers at the recent AGM and she had been elected Chair for the time being. A further General Meeting was scheduled for June.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - The Meeting had been reported through Policy & Resources Committee due to a matter requiring consideration. Nothing further to report.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - The Management Group considered tenders for the resurfacing of the courts in October, together with power washing of two courts to start the season. It was noted that WDBC had expressed the intention that the Club should become self-maintaining in the course of the next 12 months, with the Borough Council looking to withdraw from the funders in due course.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - No meeting, but replacement of windows noted.

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 McDonald, seconded by Councillor Leech and agreed.

620 Staffing

621 Licence for Fair

The Committee exited Part Two proceedings and agreed to ratify decisions taken on the proposition of Councillor McDonald, seconded Councillor Leech.

Action

The meeting was closed at 8.05 p.m.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman