

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 8 June 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 J Carpenter
Councillor R Rush
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chairman, Property)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor B Stephens (Chairman, P&R)

Other Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
31 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Tolley.	
32 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no questions from members of the public present.	
33 <u>Members' Questions</u> - Councillor Goffey had raised a question concerning the pruning of the roses near the Leisure Centre and a concern about the propagation of seeding docks in the wildflower area/woodland walk. The Chairman confirmed that these would be referred to the Park-keeper.	
34 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 13 April 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Leech.	
35 <u>Matters Arising:</u>	
35.1 Spring Fair - The Clerk reported that, at short notice, Anderton and Rowlands had requested a week's postponement to their planned Spring Fair date. This had been agreed as there were no conflicting requests for use of the Park.	
35.2 Feature in Okehampton Times - The Clerk reported that a first article focussing on the Water Gardens at Simmons Park had been written by Tom French, after meeting with the Park-keeper and the Clerk. A further article on the woodlands was planned.	
36 Request for Seat in Simmons Park - On the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Leech, it was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda and to suspend Standing Orders to facilitate an exchange with members of the public on this item. Mr Bradbury had written proposing the	

donation of a bench in the Park in memory of a friend. It was agreed to progress this subject to maintaining consistency of style and determining a suitable location on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Weekes. It was agreed to re-instate Standing Orders.

- 37 **Fallen Oak** - The Clerk reported that a mature oak had fallen on the woodland walk near the Jubilee Bridge overnight 19-20 May. It was apparent that the trunk base had rotted significantly. The resulting debris had been cleared from the pathway and it was agreed to investigate the potential to sell the remaining hardwood (red oak).

38 **Park Bookings** -

- 38.1 **Big Toddle** - The Committee noted a request from the Okehampton & Hatherleigh Area Children's Centre to hold a Big Toddle and Picnic in the Park on Friday 5th June 2015.

- 39 **Election of Parish Members to the Dartmoor National Park Authority** - After considering the profiles of the candidates standing for election, it was agreed to cast votes for Councillors D Webber and S Hill.

- 40 **Unauthorised Disposal of Household Waste in Simmons Park Bins** - The Clerk reported that some bags of household waste had been deposited in Park Bins. The Park-keeper had identified a likely source and a warning letter had been written accordingly.

- 41 **Transfer of Assets** - The Clerk had collated assessments of the various parcels under discussion which were considered as follows :

- (a) **Market Way - Toilets & Taxi Rank** - After discussion, it was agreed that further investigation was required with the Borough Council in order to carry out a full condition survey, determine current operating and rate costs and discuss a lump sum to accompany a possible transfer prior to further consideration, this on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Weekes.
- (b) **Land at Corner of New Road & West Street** - The overall improvement to this parcel through the Town Council's efforts had been much commented upon and it was agreed to pursue negotiation on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Weekes.
- (c) **Corner of George Street & St James Street - Land and Toilets** - There was concern about the physical state of the toilet block and the extent of any repairs to be undertaken. The possible interest in the garden area as a potential site for a reflection point by the Royal British Legion was noted. It was agreed that further discussion was required with the Borough Council in order to carry out a full condition survey, determine current operating and rate costs and discuss a lump sum to accompany

a possible transfer prior to further consideration on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Leech.

- (d) **Jacob's Pool - Land** - It was confirmed that only the paved area was under consideration. It was thought that this parcel might be subject to lease and that West Devon should be asked to confirm if this was so, in which case what period of lease remained.
- (e) **Rear of Lidl** - On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Ireland, it was agreed to seek clarity from WDBC about the precise ownership boundaries, the rights of way and the extent of Lidl ownership along the East Okement.
- (f) **Fatherford Road/Crocken Tor Road - Play Area Land** - As this area did not appear well-suited to a play area, it was agreed to pursue interest in acquiring this parcel with a view to planting trees to improve the amenity, this on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Weekes.
- (g) **The Heathers - Play Area** - After discussion, it was agreed that this was an important area to maintain as a recreation area and that negotiation with WDBC should be pursued, this on the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded Councillor Vachon.
- (h) **Oak Road - Play Area** - It was agreed to pursue interest in the transfer on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Weekes.
- (i) **Craon Gardens - Play Area** - Councillor Goffey declared a personal interest. On the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Goffey, it was agreed that the Town Council did not wish to acquire this asset.
- (j) **Great Links Tor Road - Play Area** - On the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Weekes, it was agreed that this parcel should continue to be managed as a green space by WDBC.
- (k) **Old Town Park - Amenity Woodland** - It was noted that no formal assessment of this parcel had been undertaken to date. It was understood to be registered as a nature reserve, with some grants attached. Confirmation of this status had been requested previously, but no information received to date. It was agreed to investigate further.

42 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Children's Centre** - Nothing to report.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Vachon reported

that the Ten Tors Expedition had been successful with a large number of teams competing. The Team was currently working on grades of membership and accident reporting procedures.

- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - No meeting.
- (iv) **OCRA** - Councillor Marsh reported that the organisation was in the process of re-ordering its trustee and management structure.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - Councillor Leech reported that a meeting had taken place the previous week and notes of the meeting had been circulated.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - No meeting.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - No 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 involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.

43 Staffing

44 Licence for Fair

Action

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman