

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 10 August 2015
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 8.00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Leech (Chairman, Planning)

Other Members Present: Councillor Miss C Holt

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Note: Prior to the meeting Members had had a directed walk through Simmons Park, during which the following were noted -

- car park markings
- possible location for donated park bench
- proposed location for new fence at Okehampton College
- pump replaced for water gardens
- proposed location for BT kiosk
- reinstated sites of fallen trees (Spring 2015)
- Jubilee Bridge
- possible brass plaques on granite blocks on woodland walk
- management of grass in Park and woodland.

129. Apologies for Absence - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Goffey, Stephens and Weekes.

130. Deferment of Business - No members of the public present.

131. Members' Questions -

131.1 Councillor Holt enquired about the seat on Exeter Road above Limehayes. The Committee noted that this was not a Town Council maintained asset. Councillor Leech confirmed that the seat had been donated by the Lions and was currently under repair.

131.2 Councillor Goffey had emailed the following questions/comments:

- a) Concerning the maintenance of the strip of land at New Road/West Bridge. The Chairman responded that this strip still belonged to West Devon Borough Council, that last year the Town Council had obtained a grant to assist in seeding it. It was agreed to bring any plans for seeding or planting to the next Parks agenda for consideration.

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b) With reference to the maintenance of Craon Gardens (West Devon Borough Council) Councillor Goffey noted the extent of current maintenance carried out. The Committee noted that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Council would not pursue interest in this play area.

c) Question to be raised under Part Two.

131.3 Councillor Leech brought forward a question as to the prospect for introducing a 3 hour parking ticket for those using the Bowls Club and swimming sessions at the sports centre. The Chairman responded that 2 and 4 hour parking tickets were available and the option to introduce a 3 hour ticket would be considered when the car park charges were next reviewed.

131.4 Councillor Leech asked for advice from the Civil Enforcement Officers on how they handled issues regarding situations where blue passes had slipped from view. It was agreed that Councillor Leech would enquire further at West Devon Borough Council as the Enforcement Officers at Simmons Park were under arrangements from the Borough Council.

132. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Parks Committee held on 8 June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Vachon subject to the manuscript amendment of Minute 42 (ii) of Ten Tors Race to Ten Tors Expedition.

133. **Matters Arising** -

133.1 **Okehampton Times Feature on Simmons Park** - The Clerk reported that the second article, on the management of woodland in Simmons Park, had been published recently as a result of Tom French interviewing the Park-keeper. The Committee noted a very informative article.

134. **Request for Placement of Bench in the Park** - The Clerk reported he had responded to the potential donor informing him of the cost of a new seat to be located in the vicinity of the new bandstand. It was noted that the style of the seats on the woodland walk was different being based on an original Okehampton manufacturer's design. As one of these was currently under in-house repair, it was agreed to identify costs to see if this would be of interest to the donor.

Clerk

135. **Park Bookings** -

(i) **Rotary Club of Okehampton May Fair - 1 May 2016** - A request to hold the 2016 Annual May Fair and to have use of the Park's electricity supply for the event.

- (ii) **National Citizens Service (Engage for Life) - Picnic in the Park 30 August 2015** - A request to hold a Picnic in the Park event with other stalls on behalf of awareness raising for 3 local charities.

Both events were agreed subject to provision of the usual application form and submission of insurance details etc on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Tolley.

136. Projects in Progress -

136.1 Transfer of Assets - The Clerk reported that as previous correspondents from the West Devon Borough Council Assets Team were no longer in post he would begin discussion with the new Head of the Assets Team.

136.2 BT Telephone Box - Currently in process of sandblasting and repainting prior to return to the Park compound.

136.3 Jubilee Bridge - Members had now had opportunity to look at the location and condition of the Jubilee Bridge and to note the work that was proposed to be undertaken to refurbish it.

137. Proposal for New Fence at College Cricket Field - Okehampton College had submitted a proposal for erection of a new fence to join with the existing 6 ft chain link fencing forming the boundary between the recreation ground and the College playing field. Whilst it was noted that the College had responsibility to provide protection and safeguarding for students, the following points were raised to be forwarded:

- control of vegetation would be more difficult for the Park staff
- need to join fence to provide continuous security
- risk of balls dropping into void
- risk of rubbish blowing and remaining uncollected between hedge and fence
- risk of climbing over fence.

Clerk

138. Repairs to Car Park Surface and Relining of Parking Spaces - The Clerk reported that the surface of the car park was wearing in a number of places and causing both break up and potholes. It was agreed to research costs of repair and maintenance to be presented for the next meeting. A point had also been raised by the Enforcement Officers that the identification lines between car parking spaces were wearing in a number of places. The Clerk reported that a temporary fix could be achieved for white lining in the interim pending repair of the car park surface when a longer lasting solution would be required.

139. Members' Reports and Reminder for Agenda Items -

- (i) Children's Centre - Councillor Leech reported that no meeting had

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- taken place, but that the Children's Centre was now operating as a joint Okehampton and Tavistock group.
- (ii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor Vachon reported on the recent Members' meeting, covering training progress, training in schools and the recruitment of a fund-raiser. The new centre was being fitted out in stages. The team were providing back-up for the Okehampton Beating of the Bounds. The team were continuing to operate from their old site for the time being.
 - (iii) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor Vachon reported that an exhibition of the Wardhayes pictures was currently located in the library as there was currently a problem with the electricity supply, the forthcoming coffee morning would be held in the Church Hall.
 - (iv) Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) - No report.
 - (v) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - No meeting.
 - (vi) Tennis Court Management - The Clerk reported that it had been agreed to resurface the tennis courts in October. The contractor had been selected by the 4 parties to the Management Team in March and the order had been placed through the Town Council.
 - (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 Yelland and agreed.

Action

131.2 Members' Questions

The meeting was closed at 8.59 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman