

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on
Monday 14 December 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 Miss C Holt
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chairman, Property)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor B Stephens (Chairman, P&R)

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
336 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Weekes.	
337 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - No public presence.	
338 <u>Members' Questions</u> - None.	
339 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 5 October 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Goffey.	
340 <u>Matters Arising:</u> - A letter concerning the unauthorised access into Simmons Park from the rear of Station Road had been sent to the relevant occupants and was noted by the Committee.	
341 <u>Park Bookings</u> -	
341.1 <u>Battle of the Bands</u> - A further request had been received from Mr Jay Hadland on behalf of the Battle of the Bands Committee for the extended use of the Park on Sunday 7 th August for a College afternoon prom. The event would come under the responsibility of the Committee. The request was agreed in principle subject to provision of the usual risk management assessments and confirmation of public liability insurance.	
342 <u>Transfer of Assets.</u> The Chairman reported that a further meeting concerning possible transfer of assets had been delayed until the new year at the request of WDBC officers. Information concerning the cost of running the two public toilet facilities had been received in the interim. The Committee agreed that any handover of responsibility would require that	

the facilities were brought up to a good standard of maintenance.

343 Applications for Exclusive Burial Rights - Two requests for exclusive rights of burial had been received and forwarded to the Rev'd Stephen Cook for allocation. The Committee confirmed the allocations for Mr & Mrs Fisher (row 11, plot 7) and Mrs Gliddon (row 11, plot 8) on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Marsh. The Clerk would write to each party with the appropriate certification.

Clerk

344 Reported Anti-Social Behaviour in Simmons Park - The Committee noted reports of increasingly frequent instances of anti-social behaviour at Simmons Park, particularly during hours of darkness. After discussion, it was agreed to form a project group consisting of the Chairman, Councillor Ireland, the Clerk and Park-keeper with the purpose of reviewing CCTV options. A note had also been sent to Inspector Sloman concerning the recent reports and it was noted that the alcohol prohibition area was still in force and included the Park.

345 Clerk's Report - The Committee noted the Clerk's report commenting on a number of minor maintenance and development matters.

346 Discussion - Littering, Street Cleaning, Weed Control and Dog Fouling - The Committee considered the effects of the 'funding gap' at County and Borough level in terms of the visible effects on the street scene in Okehampton. There was a wide ranging discussion on all the above aspects, but it was recognised that the Town Council were not in a position to undertake additional duties without increasing their resources. The following points were noted:

- More frequent street-bin emptying by the Borough's contractor would reduce the volume of blown litter from existing bins.
- There had been little evidence of the street cleaner in recent months.
- The litter pick had shown litter 'hot-spots' as being the supermarket car parks and the taxi rank in Market Street.
- Dog fouling was an issue to be taken up with the Borough's new Locality Officers. Principally it was the dog owners who needed to act responsibly when exercising their dogs.
- Weed control required licensed staff. A more holistic study of the local requirements may indicate an increase in Parks staff.

347 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

(i) **Children's Centre** - Councillor Leech reported on the new contracts now in place to provide for a centre at Tavistock with a satellite at Hatherleigh. There appeared to be no certainty as to the future for the Okehampton facility.

(ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Ireland

reported that the Team had supported Okehampton Edwardian Evening as road marshals and that the Committee had met and discussed the following:

- Appointment of a Fundraising Officer through the Volunteer Bureau
- Efforts to increase the current 30-strong team
- Group training day attended
- Roof repairs to start in December
- Helicopter training to be undertaken through the Ten Tors event organisation
- Work continuing on Standard Operating Procedures.

- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Stephens reported on the Group's prioritisation of boosting income, the sorting of some 10,000 photos from the Okehampton Times office and a forthcoming request to the Council for use of a room to lay out and sort the photos.
- (iv) **OCRA** - No report.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - Councillor Leech reported that the meeting had been re-scheduled. In addition, it was noted that the card swipe system was not working in all locations and that bidding for the new leisure centre management contract was progressing through the local authority process.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - No meeting, but Councillor Marsh reported that phase 1 of the work to resurface the courts had been completed, with relining to take place in the Spring.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - No report.

The meeting was closed at 8.07 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman