

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 1 February 2016
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)

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
<p>423 <u>Urgent Items</u> - A letter of thanks had been received from Mr Donald Rooke with reference to the Council's grant and support for the Christmas lights and a report from Councillor Yelland that Clear Channel, who are responsible for the hoardings in East Street, would be clearing the site the following day.</p>	
<p>424 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Stephens and Yelland.</p>	
<p>425 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - Some members of the public present reported that instances of dog fouling in parts of North Street had become excessive. The Chairman said that the matter would be passed on to West Devon Borough Council and was also on the agenda for discussion.</p>	Clerk
<p>426 <u>Members' Questions</u> - None.</p>	
<p>427 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 14 December 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Carpenter and agreed.</p>	
<p>427a <u>Matters Arising</u> - None.</p>	
<p>428 <u>Park Bookings</u> -</p>	
<p>428.1 <u>Firework Display</u> - An enquiry had been received from Ms Claire Hooper as to the possibility of holding a firework display in Simmons Park on 5 November 2016. On the basis that there would be no bonfire, that the site would be carefully selected and protected and that all safety arrangements would be made by the organiser the Committee agreed the use of Simmons Park without charge on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Carpenter.</p>	

429 **Transfer of Assets.** The Chairman reported that a further meeting concerning possible transfer of assets from West Devon Borough Council had been arranged for the following week.

430 **CCTV Project Group** - The Chairman reported that the working group had met on 13 January to review the earlier coverage design. The requirements had been reconsidered and the Park-keeper would liaise on specifications with contractors. It had also been suggested that a 'stand-alone' wildlife monitor be considered for use as one element of the system. The Police Crime Prevention Officer had also been contacted for advice.

431 **Picnic in the Park** - Councillor Goffey reported that a Picnic in the Park event was in the process of being organised for June as part of a national series of celebrations associated with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday - date to be confirmed, but probably afternoon of 12 June. A number of town organisations were involved in the planning group and the Hamlets Parish Council had agreed to arrange a beacon-lighting in April. A grant of up to £500 had also been awarded by Okehampton United Charities.

432 **Dog Fouling** -

(a) A request to consider an additional dog bin in the Baldwin Drive/Heathers area had been received and the amount of dog-fouling on the pathway between the two roads was highlighted. The Chairman noted that there was a waste bin at the southern end of this pathway and, under the Borough Council's current policy, waste bins were for both waste and dog fouling. It was agreed to check if this bin had been marked for dual use.

Clerk

(b) The Committee noted that issue of dog fouling on pavements and paths continued to be a prevalent problem not only in Okehampton, but throughout the Borough. The Chairman summarised the reasons for not being part of the WDBC 'scheme'. Councillor Leech reported on a new scheme whereby, if the dog was DNA tested, poos could be traced to dog owners. After much discussion (including a short suspension of Standing Orders in order to canvas the views of members of the public present) it was agreed to prepare material for the Okehampton Times, to check for signage indicating dual purpose WDBC waste bins, to investigate a possible site for an additional dog bin in the North Street (Ockment Centre) area and to liaise with WDBC as to the responsibilities of the street cleanser to include dog waste.

Clerk

433 **Clerk's Report** - The Committee noted the Clerk's report commenting on a number of minor maintenance and training matters and including a note of where bulbs would be flowering and when. Councillor Rush noted that one of the pieces of play equipment (swinging basket) had been removed and the Clerk agreed to check on its state.

Clerk

434 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Children's Centre** - Nothing new to report.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Ireland reported that 5 members of the Team had supported flood rescue activities at York 27-29 December 2015. The Committee had met and discussed the following:
 - 24 callouts in the preceding period
 - Attending a regional debriefing to discuss the York flooding
 - Ten Tors planning ongoing
 - Grant for generator gratefully received
 - Funding actions for roof at Industrial Centre premisesIn answer to a question, Councillor Ireland confirmed that the George Street premises were still in use.
- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Vachon reported that there had been a good social meeting at a local restaurant.
- (iv) **OCRA** - Meeting scheduled for later in the week.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - No report.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - No meeting.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - Nothing to report.

The meeting was closed at 7.58 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman