

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 11 April 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 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 V Cushing
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
518 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Tolley.	
519 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - No public presence.	
520 <u>Members' Questions</u> - Councillor Ireland had received an enquiry concerning the car park fence at All Saints Church adjacent to the current cemetery. It was noted that this fence was the responsibility of the church, but the Clerk agreed to contact the person concerned if contact details could be obtained.	Clerk
521 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 1 February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Ireland.	
522 <u>Matters Arising</u> - The Clerk reported on the team that had undertaken to organise the fireworks display that had been given approval in principle for 5 November. The Clerk also reported that some signs for WDBC litter bins had been supplied indicating dual use litter and dog waste. One had been attached at the Baldwin Drive bin and was reported to have a beneficial effect.	
523 <u>Park Bookings</u> -	
523.1 <u>Devon Youth Games</u> - Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest. A request to amend the date for the Devon Youth Games had been received: new primary date 3 July with 9 July as reserve. Noted.	

523.2 Okeford Veterinary Centre - The Committee noted the request to hold a dog show at Simmons Park on Sunday 26 June 2016 in support of Dartmoor View Dog Rescue. The Clerk had notified the Centre that this was also the date of the Civic Service and Parade and some temporary road closures would be involved. The request was noted and agreed, subject to provision of evidence of public liability insurance and risk assessments.

524 Park-Keeper's Report - For the information of the Committee, Mr Whitfield attended and presented an account of the duties he had undertaken, referring in particular to some elements of maintenance of assets and equipment. The Committee noted the report and thanked the Park-keeper for attending.

525 Transfer of Assets. The Chairman reported that, at a further meeting with WDBC assets officers, the potential transfer of assets from West Devon Borough Council had been discussed. It had been agreed that the various play areas should remain the responsibility of WDBC, whilst the potential transfer of the public toilets and amenity land would continue to be considered, subject to an agreed refurbishment programme for the Fairplace toilets in particular. Proposals and further information were awaited from WDBC.

526 CCTV Project Group -

(i) The Chairman reported that the Park-keeper was now pursuing information from potential contracting installers, the enquiry through a local consultant not having produced the anticipated progress.

(ii) The Committee noted the advice from the Police Crime Prevention Officer's report.

(iii) Councillor Leech reported on an earlier initiative to install a town-centre CCTV system and on a recent letter from Inspector Sloman encouraging that this be re-visited.

After discussion, it was agreed that a stand-alone CCTV system for Simmons Park be progressed as installed by end-September on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Weekes. On the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Leech, it was further agreed that a town-centre CCTV system be researched and reported on. Councillor Leech agreed to lead this project.

Clerk

Cllr Leech

527 Picnic in the Park - Councillor Goffey reported on progress for the Picnic in the Park event. There was broad support from the community, with a number of organisations having agreed to participate.

528 Tennis Court management - The Chairman reported that, with a meeting of the Tennis Court Management Group scheduled for later in the week, it was anticipated that WDBC would encourage that the Courts be taken on by the

primary users under local management. Councillor Marsh suggested this to be an appropriate stage to review the Town Council's contribution to the Group, in the knowledge that the courts had been recently resurfaced and the management fund was financially healthy. The Town Council currently contributed £2,700 per annum to the management fund. After discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council would seek termination of the existing agreement at the end of the current financial year, subject to continuing provision for community use, this on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Weekes.

529 Dog Fouling and Litter -

- (i) Councillor Cushing reported on correspondence sent by the Clerk in response to an enquiry raised by a member of the public.
- (ii) Councillor Yelland noted that there were no dog bins on the Tramlines footpath and that, since resurfacing, this was now a primary dog-walkers' route. The Chairman reminded the Committee that location of dog bins needed to be considered in relation to the distance from the highway, as the WDBC contractor would not accept tipping of remotely-located bins. It was agreed to consider a possible location for this and report back. If a suitable location could be found, it was agreed to ask for support from the County Member's Locality Budget.
- (iii) The Clerk reported that the dog bin at Chichacott Road would be emptied 3 times weekly with effect from April. This location was experiencing increasing pressure due to the building developments and increasing number of dog owners in the proximity.
- (iv) It was agreed that any volunteers for dog-fouling clearance be followed up.
- (v) Councillor Leech reported on further correspondence received from a local veterinary practice concerning the practicability of DNA testing.
- (vi) Despite a report on frequency of dog- and litter-bin tipping and street-cleansing in the Okehampton area, there was a lack of clarity on the services provided by the street cleaning operative and it was agreed to seek further detail from the Locality Officer. Councillor Yelland agreed to request further information on the zone frequency and schedules.
- (vii) It was noted that wind was a significant factor in addressing the volume of litter evident in the Crediton Road and North Road areas.

Clerk

Cllr
Yelland

530 Clerk's Report - The Committee noted the Clerk's report commenting on the annual play equipment safety inspection and staff training undertaken.

531 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Children's Centre** - Councillor Leech reported there was no clear picture for Okehampton at present.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - Councillor Ireland reported that a successful application had been made for a rescue

boat. The report on the AGM included the following:

- No changes to the committee
- Planning progressing for the Ten Tors event
- Work continuing to make the new building suitable for purpose.

- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Vachon reported that the committee had been re-elected at the recent AGM, with Cllr Ireland continuing as Chairman. An award of £500 had been received from Okehampton United Charities and a further £300 raised from coffee mornings. Two days had been allocated for the sorting of the archive photos.
- (iv) **OCRA** - No report.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - Notes from previous meeting to be circulated. Councillor Leech reported on the contract evaluation process for leisure facilities management in West Devon and South Hams.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - Meeting scheduled for Thursday.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - Councillor Marsh reported that teaching of life skills was taking place, including food preparation and cooking.
- (viii) **Okehampton Remembers** - Councillor Marsh reported that there was no objection in principle to the concept of a sculpture and plinth at Fairplace from West Devon.

The meeting was closed at 8.44 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman