

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee held on Monday 6 June 2016 in
the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Mayor)
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
29	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Ireland, Rush and Weekes.	
30	<u>Deferment of Business</u> - No public presence.	
31	<u>Members' Questions</u> - Councillor Leech noted that the narrow gate at Church Path had broken and asked if this was the Town Council's responsibility. The Chairman confirmed that neither the gate nor the path were the responsibility of the Town Council, but that the Okement Rivers Improvement Group had removed the gate for repair and subsequent replacement. Councillor Holt asked if the grass verges at Giblands were to be cut. It was agreed to ask the question of DCC.	Clerk
32	<u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 11 April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Carpenter, seconded Councillor Stephens.	
33	<u>Matters Arising:</u>	
33.1	Tennis Court Management Group - The Chairman reported that the courts had now been repainted and wind-breaks installed. At the last meeting, West Devon Borough Council had given notice that they were looking to withdraw from the 4-way agreement, with the College and Tennis Club jointly taking on the responsibility for the management of the courts. The Town Council had contributed for the fund for the current year, but would also seek to act in parallel with the Borough Council, looking to ensure public access to the courts.	
33.2	Fence at Cemetery Car Park - The Clerk reported that he had eventually managed to contact Mr Hodgson and referred him to the Rector at All Saints	

Church in the first instance, the fence in question being the property of the church. Replacement of the other section of fence bordering Church Lane was in hand.

33.3 Simmons Park Car Park - The Clerk reported that he had enquired of a rating specialist as to possible grounds for appeal or to reduce the business rates imposed on Simmons Park. The research that had already been undertaken established that an appeal would be unlikely to succeed. A schedule of repayments of the arrears over 4 years had therefore been agreed with WDBC. The Committee noted the report.

33.4 Dog bin at Tramlines - As yet, no suitable location for a new dog bin at Tramlines had been identified that was within tipping distance by the contractors. It was also noted that the bottom end of Tramlines was in Okehampton Hamlets Parish.

33.5 Volunteers re Dog Fouling - Councillor Cushing recalled that a member of the public had volunteered to pick up dog poo. The Clerk agreed to follow up the conversation if the person could be identified. The Chairman reminded the Committee of the potential responsibility for clear briefing and PPE as appropriate.

Clerk

33.6 Wind-blown Litter - Councillor Cushing enquired as to arrangements for removing wind-blown litter. The Chairman responded that this responsibility was with the Borough's contractor and that, where necessary, an email to services@westdevon.gov.uk would alert the local operative to any concentration of wind-blown litter.

33.7 Okehampton Remembers - Councillor Cushing asked if there was any progress on this project. The Chairman confirmed that the project team involving RBL and Rotarians were consulting the public.

34 Park Bookings -

34.1 Spring Fair - The Clerk reported that the Anderton and Rowland Spring Fair had cancelled their revised booking for Simmons Park due to personal circumstances. The Chairman noted that this was the first time in many years that the Fair had not made an appearance at Simmons Park.

34.2 Scott May Daredevil Circus - The Clerk reported that Scott May had requested use of Simmons Park for a show on Friday 19 August. The Committee agreed the request subject to the provision of risk assessments and confirmation of public liability insurance.

35 Request for Opinion - Headstone at Cemetery - The Clerk reported that the Rector at All Saints had asked for an opinion on the installation of a larger headstone at the cemetery and the Chairman had been consulted. After investigation, it was felt that the headstone was acceptable and the Rector

acted accordingly.

- 36 Transfer of Assets** - The Chairman reported that a response was awaited from the WDBC assets officer, following a discussion on a repairs schedule for the two toilet blocks.

37 Projects in Hand:

- 37.1 CCTV in the Park** - The Clerk reported that the Park keeper was awaiting final submissions in order to start an evaluation and comparison of the quotations received.

- 37.2 Car Park Re-surfacing** - The Clerk reported that the re-lining of Simmons Park Car Park virtual pavement and main park had been commissioned at a cost of £1,450.40 plus VAT. The resurfacing and relining of the approach parking bays would be addressed later in the year.

- 37.3 Interpretation Plaques** - The Chairman reported that three interpretation plaques for Newcombe Cascade, Dunn Falls and Chalet Treloar had been completed and set in to granite stones.

- 37.4 Sophia Simmons' Headstone** - The Clerk reported that a specification for seeking replacement costs for the headstone was in hand.

38 Primary School Debate Themes -

The Committee noted the main themes raised during the Primary School class visits in February and March as circulated on the briefing note. It was agreed to implement a further trial of poo bags in Simmons Park during the Summer. The promotion of cycle safety could be a matter for joint initiative with Devon County Council if they were running a relevant scheme and the progressive resurfacing of the BMX track at the Skate Park was in progress. On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Marsh, it was agreed to follow up the visit to the Primary School to confirm that the comments made had been duly considered and, where relevant, acted upon.

- 39 Clerk's Report** - The Committee noted the Clerk's verbal report which included:

- The roller mower had been successfully repaired and was now in operation again
- WDBC withdrawal from the verge-cutting arrangement with DCC
- Location of dog bin at Macey's Terrace area - DCC had expressed no objection provided the neighbouring properties had been consulted
- The Chairman and the Clerk were following up a possible new print of the Park leaflet together with website linking with Visit Dartmoor
- The Clerk reported correspondence received concerning anti-social behaviour at the skate park. The Committee noted that this was an unsupervised facility and it was the responsibility of users to report any

anti-social behaviour to the police.

- 40 Bowling Club Green keeper's Pass** - On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Tolley, it was agreed to issue a car parking pass for one year in response to a request from Okehampton Simmons Bowls Club.

41 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Children's Centre** - Councillor Leech reported that he would forward the latest report from Barnardo's for circulation.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** - No report
- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** - Councillor Stephens reported that year-end funds were reported as £787. The Group had twice hired the Town Hall Committee Room for photograph-sorting.
- (iv) **OCRA** - No report.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** - No meeting.
- (vi) **Tennis Court Management** - Report covered at Minute 33.1.
- (vii) **Youth Issues/Room 13** - Councillor Marsh reported that a meeting with Fi Bush was scheduled and imminent.

The meeting was closed at 7.43 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman