

Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee
held on Monday 19 August 2013
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chair)
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Vice Chair)
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Leech (Chair, Planning)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chair, Property)

Other Members Present:

In Attendance: Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)
Mr D Whitfield (Park Keeper)

158. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor K Ball and Councillor Mrs M McDonald.
159. **Deferment of Business** (for comment by the public) - There were no members of the public present.
160. **Members' Questions** - There were no questions from Members regarding the workings of the Committee.
161. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 22 July 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair on the proposition of Councillor M Davies, seconded by Councillor M Ireland.
162. **Matters Arising** -
- 162.1 **Clapps Wood** - Councillor M Davies advised that the solicitors at West Devon Borough Council were waiting to hear from Devon & Cornwall Housing, the transaction has not yet been completed.
- 162.2 **Park Bookings** -
- (i) Request received from Okehampton Running Club requesting permission to erect a gazebo in the park on Saturday 31 August 2013 for the 'Oke Croak'. All Councillors in favour that this request be granted, no charge and a booking form to be sent for completion.
 - (ii) Battle of the Bands booking request for 2 August 2014. All Councillors in favour of booking.
 - (iii) Co-op Foodstore Family Fun Day 1 September 2013. The Chair advised the meeting that the booking form had not yet been completed and request to see a copy of their alcohol and music licence requested.
 - (iv) Terms and Conditions - no progress, carried forward to next meeting.
- 162.3 **Notice Board** - Councillor Mrs J Goffey advised letters had been sent to local organisations, Wren Music have offered a donation and the United Charities would potentially look at a donation once any shortfall was known.

162.4 Red Telephone Box, North Street - The Park-keeper advised he was still awaiting quotes for sandblasting and relocation of the telephone box.

162.5 Sophia Simmons' Memorial - The Clerk advised that authority from the Exeter Diocese was still awaited, this has been chased.

162.6 Mobile CCTV Cameras - The Park-keeper advised three quotes were now awaited from the three contractors who had visited the sites. Councillor Leech requested that the firm who provided a quote for the town centre previously be requested for a quote for this work and that the new legislation recently introduced, re local authorities and use of CCTV, be checked to ensure that regulations were complied with.

162.7 Procedure for Booking Tennis and Putting - The Chair advised the new arrangements for use of the tennis courts would come into place on 1 September. The Chair has also discussed the putting with the Leisure Centre again, with the request that the responsibility remain with the Leisure Centre on the understanding that they will promote use of the putting green. All Councillors were in favour of this.

162.8 Lighting in Park - The Park-keeper advised that the previous fault was down to a faulty fuse which has now been replaced and the lighting is now working.

162.9 Park Bench Accident - The Clerk advised the accident had been reported to the Council's insurers who were contacting the car driver's insurers. The Park-keeper advised he was awaiting quotes for a replacement bench which would then be forwarded to the Council's insurers.

162.10 Skate Park - The Chair advised she had been investigating the situation with the rail as the skate park users state it is dangerous, whereas the Health and Safety Report advised the rail be replaced. Chair to discuss further with installers and Health and Safety.

163. Urgent Items -

163.1 The Chair read out a letter from Mrs S Enderson re Okehampton Millennium Quilt informing Council they had been approached by the new pavilion who wish to hang the Quilt in their new premises and enclosing invoices to the sum of £75 for cleaning and fire-proofing of the quilt. It was agreed this amount be paid to the Quilters as per resolution passed at previous Property Committee meeting and that a letter of response be sent to Mrs Enderson agreeing to the new location and with a plaque to be erected beside the Quilt acknowledging that it was on loan from Okehampton Town Council on behalf of the residents of Okehampton. This was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Goffey and seconded by Councillor M Ireland.

163.2 The Chair advised a letter of complaint had been received from a resident stating a gravestone marking a remains plot had been damaged by strimming. The Park-keeper has inspected the stone and does not feel that strimming has caused any damage, a meeting is to be arranged between the Chair, Park-keeper and resident to progress the matter.

163.3 Suggested agenda item for next meeting - Councillor Mrs J Goffey had been approached by residents stating the paint on the new mural on the wall beside the Gateway Garden was appearing yellow. The Chair advised she would investigate and item to be placed on future agenda.

164. Members' Reports -

- (i) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - no meeting.
- (ii) Okehampton Community Recreation Association - Chair advised the pavilion was open for the Art Okehampton 13 exhibition which was a successful event. Thanks to Councillor P Vachon for his organisation.
- (iii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor M Ireland advised that, in conjunction with the Rotary, a walk between Okehampton and Postbridge was being organised for September, raising funds for the group and the Air Ambulance and Rotary Charities. They have also received a recent grant for clothing costs from the EU and DEFRA.
- (iv) Tennis Court Management - no meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor P Vachon advised that a small exhibition was to be staged at Lloyds TSB celebrating their 125 year opening. A successful exhibition was held at Okehampton Show, a coffee morning held on 10 August and a potential social event was due to be arranged in the future.
- (vi) Carnival Committee - no report.
- (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - no report.
- (viii) Children's Centre - no report.

Meeting closed 7.45 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman