

**MINUTES OF PARKS' COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 19th August, 2009 at 7:00pm in Suite B, Council Offices, Holsworthy**

Present: Cllrs. L. Latty, P. Johns, E. Squire, R. Buckingham and D. Smith
Town Clerk in attendance

Cllr. Kennedy, Chairman, was not present. Cllr. Johns proposed Cllr. Squire take the seat as Chairman. Cllr. Buckingham seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. R. Kennedy and R. Brown.

Cllr. Johns left the meeting 7.06pm

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman asked members to declare their interests for items on the Agenda as and when they arose.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Cllr. Latty proposed that Cllr. Squire sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 15th July, 2009 as a true record. Cllr. Buckingham seconded the proposal which was agreed. (Vote 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions). Cllr. Squire, as Chairman, duly signed the Minutes.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. To Receive Comments from Cllr. Smith regarding the Recreational Strategy and to Discuss and Agree any Further Action Required.

A copy of Cllr. Smith's e-mail, together with the Clerk's reply had been circulated with the Agenda. Cllr. Smith was invited to speak by the Chairman. Cllr. Smith explained that upon looking at the Recreational Strategy he thought "if he was Catesby what would he do to discredit it?" Firstly, it was undated and it did not contain any methodology. Cllr. Squire explained that the Clerk was only asked to formulate the results.

Cllr. Johns returned to the meeting 7.08pm

Cllr. Smith explained that it is very important that you explain what you did and how you got there. He expressed concern that the people who completed the questionnaires were self selected and the layout of the form gave rise to the 'donkey vote'. The Clerk explained that the questionnaire was approx 90% the same as the one Catesby used for their public consultation, and the people completing their questionnaire were also self selected.

Cllr. Smith added that he did not want to give Catesby any ammunition and the Council needs to fight them. As the survey has been out for so long Cllr. Smith believes it should now just be left and nothing else done.

6. To Receive an Update from the Clerk on the Drainage Issues at Stanhope Park Pavilion and Discuss and Agree any Further Action Required.

The Clerk advised the Committee that the problem had now been resolved. The toilet had been draining into an old disused septic tank which had been filled in. The continual blockages were due to the waste having nowhere to go. The most cost effective solution, which was carried out, was to divert the toilet line and join into the manhole, which is operational. The total cost incurred for the investigations and required works was £874.28 plus VAT.

7. Stanhope Park - To discuss matters relating to Stanhope Park

Cllr. Buckingham reported that following the last meeting she had checked all the lamp posts in Stanhope Park and they were all working.

8. Badock and Rowland Gardens - To discuss matters relating to Badock Gardens and Rowland Gardens.

The Clerk advised that she had received a detailed list of costings prepared by Courtney Drew for financial year 2010 – 2011 and she would be distributing them at the September meeting.

The Clerk reported she had received a telephone call from Mr Drew on Tuesday 18th August, very upset, as Badock Gardens had sustained damage overnight, which he believed was due to children. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the Police to patrol the gardens of an evening whenever possible. In the meantime, Mr Drew had requested that something be done to stop children from climbing over the wall, which he believed was now an ongoing problem. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation from Mr Drew, to erect trellis on the wall. As there would be no funds available in the Parks budget the expenditure would have to be approved by full Council. The Clerk was also instructed to refer the costings to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, if there was sufficient time, if not, then it will be placed on the next full Council Agenda.

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Bodmin Street Methodist Church thanking the Council for the use of Badock Gardens, for an Evening Service and Barbecue, and commenting on how beautiful the gardens were looking.

9. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following:

- Three responses had been received detailing representatives for the Parks Liaison Committee.
- Wessex Tree Surgeons had been instructed to conduct the tree works at Badock Gardens.
- A letter had been sent to Midas explaining that the matter regarding the trees and boundary banks had been ongoing for approx 16 months and was no further forward; that the Town Council were having the remedial works carried out due to public safety, and still required proof of how Midas protected the trees and rear boundary bank during the development process.
- Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Richard Reid and Cllr. Barry Parsons regarding the Deer Valley Initiative. The Deer Valley Initiative has £2,000 held in a Ruby Partnership account. In addition to this there is a further bid with DCC for £7,100 which, it is understood, is at the last point of approval. The problems being encountered at present relate to the ownership of the land that would link into the footpath, as it is in private ownership. Also it is not known what DCC's terms will be for the pond and surrounding land.

10. Close

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Signature

Dated