

**MINUTES OF PARKS' COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 7:00pm in Suite B, Council Offices, Holsworthy**

Present: Cllrs. R. Kennedy, R. Brown, L. Latty, P. Johns E. Squire and R. Buckingham  
Mr. Toby Johns and Mr Gabriel Davies-Clarke  
Town Clerk in attendance

1. **To Elect a Chairman for 2009/2010.**  
Cllr. Brown proposed Cllr. Kennedy as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed unanimously. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)
2. **Apologies for absence:** None received.
3. **Declaration of Interests** The Chairman asked members to declare their interests for items on the Agenda as and when they arose.
4. **Minutes of last Meeting:** It was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy that the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, having been agreed and ratified at the Meeting of the full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 were a true and accurate record, this was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions) The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Kennedy.
5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

Cllr. Brown proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for Item 6, in order to allow Mr Johns and Mr Davies-Clarke to speak. This was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

6. **To discuss the proposed refurbishment of Stanhope Park with Mr. Toby Johns and Mr. Gabriel Davies-Clarke.**

Cllr. Buckingham declared a personal interest. Cllr. Johns declared a personal interest.

Mr Johns introduced himself and Mr Davies-Clarke to the Committee and they both provided a presentation on their views of Stanhope Park and the proposed refurbishments.

They expressed concerns that the proposed refurbishments would detract from the beauty of the Park by covering it in metal. That it is not necessary to spend money on the Park as it is fine as it is. Any improvements would be subject to vandalism, as today's youth has lost its credibility, and does Holsworthy need to open itself up to more vandalism? They also commented on the tennis courts being removed in the past year. Mr Davies-Clarke said he was pleased with the plans for a skateboard park as currently he has to travel to Bude for this facility, and asked the Committee what had happened to the mobile skate park that used to be located in the Youth Centre car park? The Committee discussed these points with the gentleman. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the whereabouts of the mobile skate park. Cllr. Squire explained why the area in the Park where the tennis courts were located could not be used for skate boarding, i.e. too close to residential properties. Cllr. Latty explained how the Council is governed by Health and Safety Law which restricts the Council in what it can do, and also explained the RoSPA reports that are undertaken annually. The Clerk provided Mr Johns and Mr Davies-Clarke with a copy of the 2009 RoSPA report. Cllr. Buckingham explained why the children's play area should be fenced, i.e. to keep children in for their own safety and to keep dogs out.

Cllr. Johns recommended that if there were no age restrictions to the membership of the Stanhope Park Community Group, Mr Johns and Mr Davies-Clarke could attend their next meeting. Cllr. Buckingham confirmed she would arrange this.

Cllr. Latty added that Mr Johns and Mr Davies-Clarke were a credit to Holsworthy Primary School and it had been a pleasure to meet them and gain an understanding of their views. This was echoed by the whole Committee.

Cllr. Brown proposed that the meeting return to Standing Orders this was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

**7. To consider a request from Holsworthy Cricket Club for permission to a) use gang mowers to cut and maintain the outfield of the cricket pitch at Stanhope Park and b) store the gang mowers at the Sports Pavilion.**

The request was discussed at length by the Committee. Cllr. Brown proposed that the Clerk write a letter to the Cricket Club raising the concerns detailed below, and explaining that any work undertaken will not result in a cost saving for the Council as a maintenance contract is already in place.

- a) The insurance documentation provided does not appear to cover the club for cutting the outfield with a vehicle and gang mowers
- b) A vehicle being driven over the grass could leave tyre marks and get stuck during periods of wet weather
- c) Assurances that only a senior responsible person will undertake the grass cutting
- d) Assurances that the key will not to be abused. It can only be used solely when access is required to cut the grass by the vehicle that is being used to pull the gang mowers. No other vehicles are permitted to enter the park. The gates must be locked immediately after entering and immediately after leaving.

This was seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and agreed unanimously. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.)

**8. To discuss the findings of the RoSPA Report carried out in March and agree any remedial works which the Committee deems necessary.**

The Committee discussed the report and the risk levels. Cllr. Squire proposed that the Clerk be instructed to monitor the situation, this was seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

**9. To receive and discuss the data accumulated from the Recreational Exhibition and to agree in what format it will be published.**

The Clerk distributed the data to the Committee, and the results were discussed. Cllr. Kennedy proposed the following:

- a) The figures should be shown as percentages
- b) The chart displaying the age ranges should be changed to a coloured bar chart.
- c) The information should be distributed with a covering note to the Football, Cricket and Bowling Clubs, Community College, Primary School, and all Schools in the local area, Rotary, Lions, MCTa, Chamber of Trade, Mission Youth Café.
- d) The Library and Information Centre asked to hold a supply of the results in order that anyone wanting a copy can collect them
- e) Notices be erected advertising where copies can be obtained.
- f) The Clerk is instructed to undertake these duties.

This was seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

Cllr. Johns reported she had received an e-mail from Richard Reid who has taken over the Deer Valley Initiative following the passing of Cllr. Shadrack. Mr Reid had explained that the Initiative was proposing to reform a pond, and route a path around the pond, which is currently in the ownership of DCC. The next step is to get Mr Trewin to carry out a study of the land and to gain planning permission. However, it is unknown if there is any funding secured for this and how the planning application would be submitted. After discussion Cllr. Johns said would speak to Mr Reid to find out the proposed costs and come back to the Committee.

**10. Stanhope Park - To discuss matters relating to Stanhope Park**

Cllr. Buckingham advised the Committee that the Bowling Club had been broken into again.

Cllr. Johns mentioned the possible Community Event, as she had attended a meeting with the pyrotechnics company and obtained a quotation, copies of which were distributed to the Committee. She explained that she had used the company previously and was very pleased with their work. Cllr. Johns said she did not believe people could be charged to attend the event but it could be a good opportunity to raise funds for the Park by selling hot dogs or shaking a bucket etc. Cllr. Kennedy recommended that the item was placed on the next Parks' Agenda for a full discussion. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of insuring the event and the Committee estimated no more than 500 people would attend.

Cllr. Johns advised the Committee that she had received a visit from Mr Steve Lee, Chairman of Holsworthy AFC Youth Division, who are now providing facilities for over 100 children. They currently have 6 teams and this could increase to 8 teams next year including one girl's team. The Youth division are looking to attain Chartered Status and to draw down funding and Mr Lee would like to talk to the Council about it. It was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to invite Mr Lee to the next Parks' Meeting.

**11. Badock and Rowland Gardens - To discuss matters relating to Badock Gardens and Rowland Gardens**

The Clerk reported that Mr Drew would like to give the new Committee a guided tour of the Gardens. This would allow him to explain the work he has undertaken and what he would like to do in the future. It was agreed that a site visit would take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009, which is 30 minutes before the start of the next Committee meeting.

The Clerk explained that certain signs needed replacing in the Gardens. The Committee instructed the Clerk to obtain a quotation from Jag signs.

Cllr. Johns thanked the Council on behalf of the Chamber of Trade for allowing them to use Badock and Rowland Gardens for the Garden Party. Those that attended enjoyed the afternoon and the gardens looked beautiful.

**12. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported the following

- ◆ The Bowling Club had contacted her Assistant with a request to erect signs at Stanhope Park, advertising the Bowling Club. The Clerk had attempted to contact the Secretary Mr. Norman to explain that any such requests needed to be made in writing.
- ◆ Nothing had been heard from Midas, as yet. However, she understood that TDC's Tree Preservation Officer would be contacting them.
- ◆ Tree tenders have been sent out to 10 companies and an advert has been placed in the Holsworthy Post. The closing date for tender submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. The Clerk asked the Committee when they would like the tenders to be opened and it was unanimously agreed this would be done at the July Parks' Meeting.
- ◆ Research on selling the wood to sawmills was currently being undertaken. A full update would be provided at the June meeting.

**13. Close**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

**Signature** .....

**Dated** .....