

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2009.**

PRESENT: Cllrs Kennedy, Johns, Latty, Brown, Buckingham and Squire.

1. Apologies: - none received.
2. Declaration of Interests – as and when they arose.
3. As the Minutes had been ratified at the full meeting of the Town Council they were signed as a correct record.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. To discuss the Parks' Budget for 2010/2011. The Chairman of the Committee had pointed out to the assistant to the Town Clerk that there was an accounting error in the budget figures which had been presented. No decision can be made until the figures have been amended. It was noted however that the most expensive item in the budget would be the cost of maintenance of Stanhope Park.
6. The letter from Midas Homes regarding Badock Gardens and the ownership of the boundary was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Johns that the Town Clerk should pursue reimbursement of the full cost of the remedial work, including work already carried out. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Brown and passed.
7. Stanhope Park: Cllr Buckingham reported damage to the four way see-saw in the park which has been pulled off its mount. Cllr Brown had received a complaint about the toilet in the Pavilion as being unfit for use.
Cllr Johns asked whether the Community Group had met recently and Cllr Buckingham confirmed that she hoped to arrange a meeting in the near future. An application for grant money made to the Playleader project had succeeded locally. Cllr Buckingham confirmed that she had heard nothing regarding the application sent on behalf of the Holsworthy Community Group. Cllr Brown reminded the meeting that as a Torridge District Councillor he had personal funds at his disposal. The Treasurer of the Community Group to contact him.
8. Badock and Rowland Gardens: Many people have used the gardens during the last spell of hot weather. A seat had been dedicated in memory of Miss Doreen Buckingham's parents.
9. Clerk's Report: Copies of a letter sent by Catesby to the Chairman of the Holsworthy Youth Football Team were circulated. Cllr Buckingham said she thought letters should be sent from the Council to the three groups who use the park – Bowls, Cricket and Football clubs regarding the letter and its contents – misleading in its assessment of local support for the development of Showfield.
Cllr Brown felt that a letter from the Mayor should be sent to the local press drawing attention to the fact that most people in Holsworthy do not want to see a greenfield site (the Old Show Field) developed. The LDF still has this site earmarked for recreation only. The Mayor had the full support of the Committee to write a letter. Cllr Johns said that she had replied to a web site www.saveourgreenspaces.org re: the Old Showfield.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.



21.10.09