

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PEOPLES PARK & RECREATION GROUND TRUST COMMITTEE held on 3 February 2015 at 6.00 pm

Present

Councillors

P F Williams (Chairman)
Mrs J Rendle (Vice Chairman), N V Davey, A V G Griffiths,
D J Knowles, E G Luxton, C R Slade and K D Wilson

Apologies

Councillors

Mrs S Griggs and Mrs B M Hull

Present

Officers:

Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer), Andrew Busby
(Property Services Manager) and Claire Gillard (Accountant)

17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs B M Hull and Mrs S Griggs.

18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were AGREED as a true record.

19 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Accountant explained that following the last meeting of the Committee the annual accounts had been submitted to the Charities Commission. The Commission had raised a few questions that had not been asked before and the Accountant asked that the Committee clarify some points.

Questions asked had included:

- Had any grants been received? To which the answer was no.
- Had any fund raising taken place? To which the answer was no.
- Did the Trust have any policies to deal with complaints, conflicts of interests and investments? The answer to this was that Mid Devon District Council was the Trust and therefore all Council policies applied.

The Accountant explained the importance of being transparent.

20 ADVERTISING IN THE PARK

The Committee discussed the matter of the advertising panels that had been erected by the Bowling Club last season, for the purposes of raising funds for the club, and the fact that they did not comply with planning rules.

The Planning Officer had supplied information via an email which explained that the signs could only be erected if they could be positioned in such a way as not to be seen directly from outside of the site.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The possibility of erecting the signs so that they could not be seen;
- The rule already in place that the club had to keep one side open so that spectators could view the game;
- The option to create frames for the signs so that they could be displayed on match days only;
- The banners were only erected seasonally for five months of the year.

It was **AGREED** that the Planning Officer be asked to meet with the bowling club on site to discuss this further and see if a solution could be found. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee **AGREED** to attend the meeting and would report back to the Committee.

21 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE PARK**

There were no reports of anti-social behaviour in the park.

22 **FRIENDS OF THE PARK**

Mrs Marlow informed the Committee that she had concerns about the hedge on the Park Road side of the Park which was clogged and had gaps. She was concerned that the hedge would eventually be lost. She asked what plans were in place to maintain the hedge.

The Property Services Manager agreed to look into this matter and report back to the Committee.

Mrs Marlow also raised the matter of signage for the closed toilets to indicate where the nearest alternative facilities were. The Property Services Manager informed the Committee that those signs had been erected earlier in the week.

23 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair informed the Committee that he had heard 'on the grape-vine' that the Chief Executive had offered Peoples Park to the Tiverton Town Council at a cost of £1.00. The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to respond.

The Chief Executive explained that the Council was undertaking a review of the 106 play areas currently maintained throughout the District. He informed the Committee that some were not worth keeping as they had rotting equipment and little use. Section 106 funds had initially been used to maintain play areas on new estates but this ended after 10 years. It may be necessary in some cases to remove the equipment and put the area back to a green area. This was being done in consultation with the Town and Parish Councils.

The Officer explained that there was no intention to dispose of larger parks which had play value. The District Council had been in discussion with the Town Council regarding joined up working and had already worked together regarding public toilets. The Authority was working with less money and expected even less in coming years, however Peoples Park had running costs that he thought it unlikely the Town Council would want to take on.

The Chairman stated that he did not mind who ran the park as long as it remained in Trust for the people of Tiverton.

24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman thanked the Committee and AGREED that the next meeting would be held during the next municipal year.

CHAIRMAN