

**MEETING OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12 APRIL 2010
at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Mrs Callen, Mrs Cox, Miss Fozzard,
Mrs Neale, Ms Southcombe Tamblyn, Wells and Ms Young
Richard Budge, Parks Manager

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Congdon,
Cooke and Taylor

415 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest reported.

416 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 8 March 2010, having been before Council on 29 March 2010, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

417 BOSCAWEN PARK

(i) Tennis Courts (EP7/5/2)

Further to Minute 345, it was confirmed that due to the current economic climate the successful tenderer, Sports4Truro, had lost their grant funding and withdrawn their application. In view of the expected loss of income and the increased cost of maintaining the tennis pavilion each year, members considered whether new tenders should be sought. Following a question regarding other available tenders the Parks Manager reported he did not feel the time was right to go out to private tender. He advised the courts had previously been used for private coaching and training, and an indoor facility would be preferable in order to provide all year round use. The Parks Manager felt it might be possible to link up with other sports and develop the courts in this way and confirmed four courts were currently being used on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

It was agreed the Parks Manager should investigate possibilities for the future whilst retaining the current situation for the time being and it was

RECOMMENDED that the Parks Manager's report be noted.

(ii) Local Tennis League

The Parks Manager reported a request from a London based company to run a mixed tennis league at Boscawen Park throughout the summer months. He confirmed the company already ran 26 successful leagues around the country and matches would be self-umpired, official rules would be supplied and Truro City Council would have no involvement in running the matches.

Following debate it was

RECOMMENDED that consent be granted for the mixed tennis league to be run during the 2010 summer season at Boscawen Park.

(iii) Croquet

The Parks Manager reported he had held a meeting with a member of the public who was interested in using the tennis courts for croquet. He confirmed the courts were unsuitable for this purpose and had suggested the person concerned should contact Truro School who may have suitable facilities for croquet.

418 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT (EP16)

Use of Victoria Gardens

(i) “Big Lunch”/”Big Tea”

Further to Minute 376, it was reported that no offers of help had been received for the event which was scheduled to take place on Sunday 18 July 2010. It was also confirmed that resident groups had been approached regarding assistance on the day without success. Consideration was given to issuing a press release to publicise the event but members expressed reservations as it was felt little response would be received.

Members felt the purpose of the event was to get people together and, although the Easter Egg Hunt had been a great success, the “Big Lunch” /”Big Tea” had not generated the same support.

In view of the time factor involved members reluctantly agreed to

RECOMMENDED that the “Big Lunch”/”Big Tea event be cancelled due to lack of interest.

(ii) Annual Duck Race

A request was reported to run the annual Duck Race at Victoria Gardens in support of an Autistic School in Redruth on Sunday 30 May 2010 commencing at 1.30 p.m. It was confirmed approximately 800 plastic ducks would be released from the waterfalls in the park and it was anticipated the event would take approximately 30 minutes from start to finish.

RECOMMENDED that consent be granted for the use of Victoria Gardens for the Duck Race to take place on 30 May 2010.

(iii) Geocache

A letter was reported from Deborah Truman-Smith requesting that a geocache be hidden in Victoria Gardens. It was explained that geocaching, a hi tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices, was the modern version of “letterboxing” as carried out by Boy Scouts and was a sport where members of the public set treasure hunts in areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or of historic interest. The basic idea was to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share experiences on line.

It was confirmed a small box containing a notebook and a few small toys would be hidden and clues set on the internet with a satellite navigation system being used to find the hidden box. Members were advised that often a toy would be taken abroad and notes would be posted on the internet regarding its current whereabouts.

Members expressed concern that the gardens would be disturbed by people seeking the box and it was felt it was important to know whether this was carried out for fun or run as a business and if the box would be a permanent installation.

It was confirmed one box had already been installed in the shelter in Victoria Gardens without consultation with the Parks Manager and members considered this should be investigated.

Following debate it was.

RECOMMENDED that consent be granted for a geocache to be installed in Victoria Gardens.

419 USE OF BOSCAWEN PARK (EP7)

(i) Annual Debbie Rendle Memorial Race

An application was reported from the Rowing Association for their annual Debbie Rendle Memorial Race to take place in Boscawen Park on Sunday 25 April 2010.

In view of the race being held prior to the next meeting of full Council, in accordance with Standing Order 77(2) Matters of Urgency, it was

RESOLVED that consent be granted for the Annual Debbie Rendle Memorial Race to take place in Boscawen Park on 25 April 2010.

(ii) Ella's Memory Marathon

The Parks Manager reported a request to conduct a marathon and a "Bring Your Own Picnic" in support of "Ella's Memory", on Sunday 2 May 2010 in Boscawen Park. It was confirmed the campaign was a non-profit making charity and existed to support the parents of still born children.

RECOMMENDED that consent be granted for the Ella's Memory Marathon to take place in Boscawen Park on 2 May 2010.

(iii) Truro Cricket Club

An application was reported from Truro Cricket Club for the use of the perimeter of Boscawen Park for car parking and a possible emergency pitch for the Cornwall Cricket League's new "20-20" finals on Sunday 22 August 2010, subject to weather conditions.

RECOMMENDED that permission be granted for use of the field at Boscawen Park for car parking and, in an emergency, use of a pitch on 22 August 2010.

420 BOSCAWEN PARK SPORTS FACILITIES PROJECT (is this the correct title Richard ?)

The Parks Manager requested that monies be released from the project to enable a business plan to be drawn up for use when applying for funding and grants. A member advised of a company in Bodmin who carried out this work and it was confirmed the Community Development Worker was also aware of this company.

In view of the expense in preparing a specific site business plan it was

RECOMMENDED that the Parks Manager investigate costs to put a business plan in place for the project.

421 Replacement/Refurbishment of Gates at.... (can you advise where Rich?)

The Parks Manager reported costings from a second company who were prepared to refurbish the gates at a lower price. Members debated the vast

difference in the cost of replacing the gates rather than refurbishing the old ones and questioned the life expectancy of the existing gates should they be refurbished. The Parks Manager confirmed he considered the quality of any new gates would not be the same as the originals and members discussed the difference in costs, the scrap value of the old gates should they be replaced and the design of any new gates.

In view of the high cost involved in refurbishing the existing gates it was

RECOMMENDED that replacement gates be purchased.

422 VOTE OF THANKS

In view of Councillor Nolan having been elected as Deputy Mayor for 2010-2011 and this being his last meeting as Chairman of the Parks Committee members expressed their thanks to Councillor Nolan for his well organised and congenial meetings.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN