

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 15th January 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Mayor)
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor A Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor D Weekes (Chairman, Property)
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources)
Councillor Mrs S Parkins
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman, Parks) (from Min 477)

In Attendance: Canon Tim Newcombe
7 Members of the Public
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

Before business, Cllr Goffey welcomed Mrs N Westman to the meeting and thanked her and other members of the Twinning Association for the event hosted on 13th January when gifts were presented to the Council from the recent trip to Craon.

Mrs Westman spoke on behalf of the association, explaining that the trip to Craon last August celebrated the 40th anniversary of the twinning, which was also the anniversary of Craon's Twinning with towns in Germany and Hungary. This year, 2018, members from Craon would be visiting Okehampton.

A replica of a commemorative plaque on display in Craon was presented to the Council, a toast to the Association was proposed by Cllr Goffey and a gift presented on 13th January was sampled by Cllr's.

Mrs Westman was asked to provide information regarding a photo gifted by the Mayor of Hungary and Cllr Parkins offered to be a Council representative of the Twinning Association group, to be confirmed at the annual meeting in May.

(6 members of the public left the meeting)

Also before business, Prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe

		Action
465	<u>Expressions of Interest</u> – None	
466	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> – Cllr Cummings, Cllr Ball (DCC) and Cllr Rev M Davies (WDBC)	
467	<u>Deferment of Business</u> – None	
468	<u>Members' Questions</u> – None	
469	<u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - Cllr Yelland reported that the West Devon element of the JLP would be discussed at a meeting held in public on 1 st March, commencing at 10am	

Cllr Leech advised that he had been contacted regarding a family in Okehampton who were living in unsuitable conditions and had reported the issue to Environmental Health who were investigating.

Cllr Goffey commented upon an upcoming WDBC Car Park Strategy meeting.

470 **Devon County Council** – A written report submitted by Cllr Ball was read out.

471 **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon** -

471.1 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 13th November and 4th December 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Holt, seconded Cllr Tolley and **agreed**.

472 **Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 were received, signed and **approved** on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Yelland.

473 **Policies/Documents** –

473.1 Health & Safety Policy – On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Vachon, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the policy.

Financial Regulations – On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Tolley, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the regulations.

Appraisals/Development Review form - The Town Clerk reported that staff had been consulted and on the proposition of Cllr Holt, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the revised form.

473.2 Terms of Reference (ToR) for Charities Working Party – On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Tolley, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the ToR.

474 **Budget 2018/19** - The recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee was noted and after discussion, on the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Carpenter (1 abstention), Option 2 of the budget for the financial year 2018/19 was **APPROVED** as presented. The precept demand on West Devon Borough Council being £236,941.

Clerk

475 **Sri Lanka** – Cllr Goffey reported that in the aftermath of the Tsunami in 2004 Okehampton Rotary Club, amongst other local groups, had assisted in the re-establishment of a school in Sri Lanka. The Rotary Club were re-linking with the school and had requested a letter of support from the Council. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft letter.

Clerk

476 **CCTV** – A response had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner advising that some expressions of interest in a CCTV system had been taken forward. Cllr Leech reported that unfortunately Okehampton was not included in the initial round, which appeared to be the upgrading of existing systems, but it was hoped that the town may be included in any future rounds.

477	<u>General Power of Competence (GPC)</u> – Following a discussion of the benefits that gaining the GPC could bring the Council, on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was RESOLVED to adopt the GPC.	Clerk
	(Cllr Marsh arrived)	
478	<u>Civic Dinner</u> – Free tickets for the Cllr's had been budgeted, in addition on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Parkins, free tickets were APPROVED for the Mayors Chaplain, the two Mace Bearers, Mrs Gill Lower and Ms Linda Hosgood (the volunteers who had assisted with hospitality at Civic events) and the Town Clerk (six in total).	
479	<u>Civic Diary</u> – The Mayor reported on events attended during November	
480	<u>Reports of Council Working Groups –</u>	
480.1	Destination Okehampton – Cllr Ireland reported that a meeting had been held on 20 th December from which the minutes had been circulated. A synopsis of the Jacobs report had been presented by Cllr Davies, highlights of which Cllr Ireland reported upon.	
480.2	Charities – Cllr Yelland advised that the group first met last week and copies of the governing documents held by the Charities Commission had been obtained. DALC and the SLCC were not able to provide the type of legal advice required, and a local business would be approached.	Clerk
480.3	Buildings and Structures – No meeting held	
481	<u>Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation -</u>	
481.1	OkeRail Forum – Cllr Ireland reported that the next meeting was on 25 th January when further information on the Jacobs report would be presented. A GWR Consultation was currently running until 21 st February, a response to be worked on by Cllr Ireland and the Clerk. A meeting regarding the consultation had been held in County Hall earlier today and it was noted that Okehampton was missing from the map on page 26 of the 'Joining the Dots' document.	Cllr Ireland/ Clerk
	Cllr Rush advised that OkeRail CIC had received a donation of £100.	
482	<u>Questions Arising from Member Reports</u> – Cllr Weekes asked WDBC members to ascertain the reason for the public toilets being closed on New Year's Day.	Cllr Leech
	Cllr Rush asked for a question to be posed to Cllr Ball regarding the Parkway Station and his suggested access for a one way system in and out of the car park; 'Were the ideas presented to County, and what was their reaction to them?'	Clerk
483	<u>Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -</u>	
	(i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – No meeting	
	(ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – No attendance at the last meeting	

- (iii) Okehampton Health and Wellbeing Alliance – Cllr Cushing reported that a workshop was being held on 6th February at the Ockment Centre commencing at 10am. The next Alliance meeting was due to be held on 22nd February.

(Members of the public left the meeting)

PART TWO ITEMS

It was **RESOLVED** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Leech.

- 484** **Traffic and Infrastructure** – Proposed options provided by Cllr Ball for signs were discussed. Cllr's to pass their comments to the Clerk by Friday 19th January for a response to be formulated and copied to WDBC.

Action

Cllr's

A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Ireland, and agreed.

Cllr Goffey reminded Cllr's of the nature of Part Two items of business.

- 485** **Community Governance Review** – Cllr's Yelland and Leech declared personal interests.

A draft document and options put forward by the working party for consideration was discussed. The merits of each option were deliberated and on the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded by Cllr Marsh (one abstention), it was **RESOLVED** that Okehampton Town Council's preferred option, was option 3, and that following some minor amendments to the document, it be submitted for consideration as part of the consultation.

The meeting closed on Part Two and ratified decisions taken on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Yelland.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Mayor