

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 20 June 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Mayor)  
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor T Cummings  
Councillor Mrs J Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh (until 8.27 pm)  
Councillor R Rush  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes (until 8.35 pm)  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**Attending:** Councillor Rev'd M Davies (Ward Member, WDBC)

**In Attendance:** P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe

	<b>Action</b>
<b>67</b> <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Tolley and Councillor Ball (DCC and WDBC Ward Member).	
<b>68</b> <u>Deferment of Business</u> -	
<b>68.1</b> <b>Comments by Tiffany Arthurs, General Manager, Dartmoor Railway CIC</b> – The General Manager referred to the problems of traffic management during the last Polar Express season and improvements that were being progressed. It was considered that there was sufficient on-site parking available, but the access management had created the problem. In response to questions, Ms Arthurs confirmed that a Park & Ride solution was not favoured and the use of a secondary access road (such as for Ten Tors Expedition) was not financially viable. The license for use of the line was agreed annually. Overall, it was noted that the Polar Express attraction brought in some 22,000 passengers. The Mayor thanked Ms Arthurs for attending.	
<b>68.2</b> No issues were raised by the members of the public present.	
<b>69</b> <u>Members' Questions</u> -	
Councillor Ireland asked that a future agenda item provide for discussion of the economic benefits to the town of 22,000 people using the Polar Express.	

- 70 **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Davies reported that the Borough Council was considering a charge for the collection of garden waste for recycling. WDBC were currently dealing with a group of travellers who were parked at the Wharf car park, having moved from Plymouth. Councillor Davies had attended a presentation to First Great Western at Paddington together with Councillor Ireland. Councillor Leech reported there had been a 4-day public enquiry concerning plans for a residential housing site at Tavistock and that this may have an impact on housing policy in West Devon. Councillor Rush asked if there was any update on planning for parcels 3 and 4 east of Okehampton. Councillor Leech reported that this was at present confidential to WDBC.
- 71 **Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball, having sent apologies for absence, had reported that there were no changes to his previous report.
- 72 **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 11 and 23 May 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Yelland.
- 73 **Matters Arising:**
- 73.1 **Duty Planner Service** - In answer to a question, Councillor Yelland confirmed that there had been a press release informing the return of the Duty Planner service to the Okehampton office.
- 74 **Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor reported on the civic events she had attended. Councillor Ireland had attended the Mayor-choosing at Northam.
- 75 **Annual Return for Year Ended 31 March 2016** -
- 75.1 **Annual Governance Statement** - The Council considered and affirmed statements 1-8 of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 75.2 **Accounting Statements for 2015-16** - The Accounting Statements were agreed on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Marsh.
- 75.3 **Internal Audit Report** - The Council noted the comments of the internal auditor.
- 76 **Reports of Council Working Groups** -
- 76.1 **Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland reported that the notes of the previous meeting had been circulated that day and commented on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.
- 76.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** - Councillor Goffey reported that over 800 householder questionnaires had been returned and analysed together with 116 business questionnaires. The winners of the draw for returned

questionnaires would be drawn at the next Group Forum.

**77** **Okehampton Hospital** - Councillor Leech had attended the Clinical Commissioning Group (Eastern Group) Board meeting and circulated a summary of the relevant proceedings. It had been confirmed that the Minor Injuries Unit would be located at the Medical Centre temporarily (12 months) and that the Hospital ward's 16 beds were safe. The Chair of the CCG had offered someone to attend a Town Council meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to form a councillor working group comprising Councillors Leech, Rush and Cushing to liaise with the CCG and monitor developments, reporting to full Council meetings as necessary.

Cllrs  
Leech,  
Rush,  
Cushing

**78** **Report from OkeRail Forum** - Councillor Ireland reported on the most recent OkeRail Forum (9 June) which was now focussing on the restoration of a daily rail service to Exeter from 2017. Passenger data from the Sunday Rover service was being collected and analysed to inform the business case. First Great Western had agreed to fund a second carriage to the DCC-sponsored first for the current season. Dartmoor Railway CIC had proposed a focus on the proposed 'Parkway' station halt rather than the existing station and Councillor Ireland asked for feedback on individual councillor opinion through any of the Forum representatives. It was agreed to discuss the proposal at the next meeting.

**79** **Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group** - The Mayor explained the rationale behind the options that were currently being discussed for a new-role Liaison Group, involving all three tiers of local authority, together with community member input. Councillor Leech noted that the Vision Group had virtually ceased activity and proposed that remaining members of that group be canvassed as to its future. The importance of community input to a re-based Liaison Group was emphasised. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

**80** **Q90 Event** - The Mayor reported that, due to a poor weather forecast for 12 June, she had arranged for a more limited version in the Charter Hall. Some of the planned sports activities would be re-arranged for later in the summer. The Portaloos and St John's Ambulance had been cancelled. Councillor Yelland expressed thanks to the Mayor on behalf of the Members for a well-supported event.

**81** **Civic Service 2017** - The Mayor introduced a proposal to hold an additional civic service in Simmons Park at the beginning of May - to take place in the afternoon, thus affording opportunity for an ecumenical service. It was agreed that this be brought to a later agenda.

Mayor

**82** **Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -**

(i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting

- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Meeting scheduled.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - Councillor Leech reported his progress on discussing a town-centre CCTV network and the continuing comment on broken shopfront windows.
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - no meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - No meeting.
- (vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - As reported above.
- (vii) Okehampton Remembers - No 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 Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Ireland.

**Action**

### **83 Honorary Freemen**

The meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.

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**Councillor Mrs J Goffey**  
**Mayor**