

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 25 July 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 Mrs V Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
Councillor R Rush  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**Attending:** Councillor K Ball (Ward Member, DCC & WDBC)  
Councillor Rev'd M Davies (Ward Member, WDBC)

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

Before business, prayers were offered by Councillor Rev'd M Davies

- 117 **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Cummings.
- 118 **Deferment of Business** - Mr G Wise commented on the Joint Local Plan document as issued by West Devon Borough Council.
- 119 **Members' Questions** - None
- 120 **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Davies reported that the Council had resolved not to introduce additional charging for garden waste for recycling. The Council website was to be reviewed and a new telephone system was being installed, including improvements to direct dial. Councillor Davies suggested a putting challenge between Okehampton Town and West Devon Borough Councillors. Councillor Yelland reported that the on-line housing benefit registration was now being implemented. She had met with the General Manager of Dartmoor Railway CIC to discuss traffic management for Polar Express and reported that DR were planning to lengthen the turn-around and use a different contractor to manage traffic flow. With approximately 22,000 passengers, Polar Express was currently running at capacity. Councillor Stephens reported that the following day would see significant decisions taken on leisure provision and on setting up a Local Authority Controlled Company with South Hams DC.

**Action**

- 121** **Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball reported that it was hoped the first ground lease for the business park would be signed in August and that the sale of land for the new primary school was still being negotiated. With reference to the business park, Councillor Ball confirmed that anticipated employment numbers would be between 200-400 but that more specific information would not be available until released from confidential reporting. With reference to a question on the Community Payback Scheme, it was reported that there were few re-offenders in this area and therefore little opportunity for local project work. With reference to the Sunday Rover scheme, Councillor Ball confirmed that GWR had, in principle, agreed to maintain a two-car unit for the remainder of the season, subject to scheduled priorities.
- 122** **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon:**
- 122.1** **Parks Committee** meeting held on 11 April 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.
- 122.2** **Property Committee** meeting held on 11 April 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Marsh and agreed.
- 122.3** **Policy & Resources Committee** meetings held on 18 April and 13 June 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Vachon, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.
- 122.4** **Planning Committee** meetings held on 4 and 25 April 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.
- 123** **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20 June 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Weekes.
- 124** **Matters Arising:** Nil
- 125** **Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor's civic engagements report had been circulated. In addition, the Mayor reported that her Charity Coffee morning had attracted 13 tables and raised £620.
- 126** **Policy Reviews** -
- 126.1** **Discipline and Grievance Policy** - Councillor Stephens introduced the revised procedure and policy, which were noted. This policy would be subject to consultation with staff before implementation.
- 126.2** **Grants Policy** - The revised Grants policy as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee was noted.
- 126.3** **Financial Risk Assessment** - The Council noted the addition of public

referendum. On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Marsh, all 3 policies were agreed.

**127 Reports of Council Working Groups -**

**127.1 Neighbourhood Plan** - Councillor Yelland reported that focus-group training had been implemented and Councillor Leech added that the winners of the 3 questionnaire returns draw had been presented with their cheques (£100, £50 and £25) by the Mayor at the Mayor's Charities' Coffee Morning 9 July.

**127.2 Okehampton Hospital** - Councillor Leech reported that the group had not yet met but that the Friends of Okehampton Hospital would have their AGM on Wednesday, from which further information would be available.

**128 Destination Okehampton** - Personal interests with OkeRail Forum were declared by Councillor Marsh and Councillor Yelland. Councillor Ireland presented the notes of the meeting of 22 June which were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded Councillor Stephens. Arising from that meeting, the proposal was put that the Council resolve to support the principle that Okehampton East will become a station and not a terminus, that it be defined as a 'Park and Ride' station, and that the terminus will remain at the original station with the support of DRSA [Heritage Service], this on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Weekes and agreed. Councillor Ireland further reported on:

- The benefits of a two-car service to be implemented by GWR for the Sunday Rover
- A regular survey and statistics report being compiled and developed
- An Okehampton-Hatherleigh Community 'Rail' Bus to be trialled on 14 August
- Councillor Ball working with GWR to create a 'Royal Oke' shopping train.

**129 Report from OkeRail Forum** - Councillor Ireland reported that the Forum had now established separate technical, finance and media groups.

**130 Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP)** - In view of the limited time to comment on the JLP (consultation closing 12 August), Councillor Leech proposed that the Council delegate response to consultation to the Planning Committee, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed. (Planning Committee meeting on 8 August.)

**131 Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group** - The Mayor reported that revised terms of reference for the group had been discussed at the meeting earlier in the evening and the resulting documentation would be brought to the next meeting.

**132 Broken Window Shop-Fronts** - The Mayor reported that a meeting had been convened with both parties. It had been agreed by those present that there needed to be an end to the damage to shopfronts and it was hoped that

replacement glazing would be installed in the near future.

- 133** **Okehampton Street Pastors** - Councillor Yelland reported on the proposed introduction of Street Pastors for Okehampton. There had been a positive influence in Tavistock after introduction, with good prospects for Okehampton. On the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded Councillor Stephens, it was resolved that the Town Council support this initiative.
- 134** **OCRA Stakeholder Trustee** – Councillor Marsh declared an interest as Chair of Trustees. The Council had been informed of the need for election of a stakeholder trustee for one year. Councillor Marsh summarised the frequency of meetings and importance of attendance, with an Emergency Meeting to be held in early August. Councillor Tolley accepted the nomination proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Cushing and agreed.
- 135** **Okehampton Marketing Plan** - Councillor Vachon introduced a proposal for a marketing plan for Okehampton, a paper on the subject having been previously circulated. He outlined the strategy to establish Okehampton as a hub for the South West Peninsula through creation of a self-funding CIC whose aims were to encourage visitors all-year-round to Okehampton, its attractions and facilities. He confirmed that the set up would require no work from the Town Council and that he had personally funded a walks leaflet, primarily to promote the area to Sunday Rover visitors.
- 136** **Discussion Paper** - Due to the absence of Councillor Cummings, it was agreed to defer the discussion item of the Community Purchase Initiative until the next meeting. Members were asked to retain the papers issued for the future discussion.
- 137** **Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items** -
- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - Not attended.
  - (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Minutes of the recent meeting had been circulated.
  - (iii) Okehampton Matters - No meeting
  - (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - Councillor Yelland reported that the Network had been funded for meeting locations for a further year. The Complex Care Team was now renamed the Community Health and Social Care Team and the CVS was looking for a services co-ordinator to support the Network.
  - (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Leech reported that

there had been little response to his recent email proposing a winding-up of the group. From members present, it was suggested that there was considerable commonality between the aims of the Vision Group and the Liaison Group.

- (vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - As reported at Minute 131 above.
- (vii) Okehampton Remembers - No meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.26 pm.

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