

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 22 May 2017**  
**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 T Cummings  
Councillor Mrs J Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

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

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

18. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Cllrs Carpenter, Stephens and Ball (DCC & WDBC Ward Member).
19. **Deferment of Business** - The Mayor welcomed the Locum Clerk, Penny Clapham, to the meeting and informed Councillors that Penny would be carrying out the role of Locum Clerk with effect from 5 June. There were no questions from the public.
20. **Members' Questions** - Nil.
21. **West Devon Borough Council** - Nothing to report.
22. **Devon County Council** - Cllr Ball had presented his apologies for not attending the meeting and reported that the official business at Devon County Council would not commence until after the Annual Meeting on 25 May.
23. **Full Council Meetings** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 8 and 10 May 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Holt.
24. **Matters Arising** - Cllr Yelland reported that the date for the next meeting of the Okehampton Older People's Network should have been reported as 11 June.
25. **Civic Diary** - The Mayor had circulated the April and May summaries. It was noted that the Rotary May Fair was likely to be held on a date in July.
26. **Old Town Park** - (Cllrs Leech and Yelland declared interests as West Devon

**Action**

Borough Council Ward Members.) The Council noted the decision by West Devon Borough Council to transfer Old Town Park to Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. After discussion, and on the proposition of Cllr Cushing, seconded Cllr Cummings, it was agreed that the Council should continue negotiation with West Devon Borough Council on the matter of the remaining four parcels under discussion, including the two toilet blocks.

Clerk

- 27. CCG and Hospital** - The Mayor had circulated a draft letter to Dr Burke as Chairman of the CCG concerning progress on the studies of services at Okehampton Hospital. On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Leech, it was agreed to adopt the letter on behalf of the Council and to include distribution to the DCC Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny and to the West Devon Borough Council Member with oversight for health matters, when Councillors had been appointed to these respective roles. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Marsh, it was agreed that the Council would sponsor the booking of the Charter Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> June in order to show a DVD on the Health Service, the same having recently been shown at Tavistock.
- 28. Reports of Council Working Groups** - Cllr Ireland reported that the minutes of the Destination Okehampton Working Group (10 May) had not yet been produced, but that the railway and the promotion of Okehampton and tourist guide had been discussed as key elements of the agenda.
- 29. Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation** -
- 29.1 Neighbourhood Planning Forum** - Cllr Leech reported that the land use survey element would need to go forward to consultation as a 'stand-alone' once arrangements had been made. Cllr Yelland reported that the housing needs assessment (desk-top study) was a final document and had been circulated. The results from the Trevor Roberts Associates Consultant were awaited.
- 29.2 OkeRail Forum** - Cllr Ireland reported on the following points from 11 May meeting:
- a student would be undertaking a research project on sustainability
  - Lisa Bligh had been appointed as secretary to OkeRail CiC
  - the Charter Hall coffee morning on Saturday 27 May would be jointly co-ordinated by OkeRail and the Community Archive
  - the OkeRail Forum Chairman was due to attend a meeting with Exeter City Futures
  - it was anticipated that the earliest date for a trial passenger service to be introduced would be December 2018
  - Brian Finch had drawn together a business plan to facilitate an approach for third party funding
  - the Special Train Task Group was working on a provisional date of 7

October for the next Royal Oke service to London.

**30. Questions Arising from Member Reports - Nil.**

**31. Mayor's Civic Service** - The Council noted new information concerning the previously agreed date of the Civic Service. An ecumenical Harvest Festival was scheduled at Fairplace on Sunday 10 September. It was therefore agreed to hold the Civic Service at 3 pm on Sunday 17 September and to seek to avoid harvest festival services in following years on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Yelland.

**32. Request from Rotary Club** - (Cllr Vachon declared a personal interest as a member.) The Rotary Club of Okehampton had requested that the Council consider putting the chain of office for 50 years of Rotary in the Council Chamber. Subject to clarifying ongoing ownership and the consequential responsibility for insurance, it was agreed that the Council would accept the Rotary chain on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes.

Clerk

**33. Request for Bus Shelter** - The Council considered a request from Mr Bob Hines that an additional bus shelter be positioned on Exeter Road between the Baldwin Drive entrance and Costcutter. It was understood that this was a request stop, and that there were further bus stops with shelters at both Limehayes and further east on Exeter Road. It was further considered that the erection of a bus shelter in this position could produce a blind spot for vehicles entering Exeter Road from Baldwin Drive and from the Costcutter turn in. For the above reasons, in addition to the fact that there was no budget provision, it was agreed to decline the request on the proposition of Cllr Cummings, seconded Cllr Marsh.

Clerk

**34. Members' Reports and Items for Agendas -**

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum (Cllr Cummings) - No meeting.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - No meeting.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters (Cllr Goffey) - No meeting.
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network (Cllr Yelland) - No meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Remembers (Cllr Marsh) - 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 Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Yelland.

**Action**

**35. Personnel Committee**

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.02 pm.

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**Councillor Mrs J Goffey  
Mayor**

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