

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 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 C Marsh (Chairman, Parks)  
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor D Weekes (Chairman, Property)  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources)  
Councillor Mrs S Parkins  
Councillor R Rush  
Councillor P Vachon

**In Attendance:** Councillor K Ball (DCC)  
Councillor M Davies (WDBC)  
Five members of the public  
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

Andrew White was welcomed to the meeting by Cllr Goffey who then congratulated him on his achievement at the recent Invictus Games, when he won Gold and Silver medals, and presented him with a Mayors Certificate.

*(Four members of the public left the meeting)*

Before business, prayers were offered by Cllr M Davies

- |  | <b>Action</b> |
|--|---------------|
| <b>278</b> <b><u>Expressions of Interest</u></b> – None  |               |
| <b>279</b> <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr T Cummings.   |               |
| <b>280</b> <b><u>Deferment of Business</u></b> – None  |               |
| <b>281</b> <b><u>Members' Questions</u></b> - None   |               |
| <b>282</b> <b><u>West Devon Borough Council</u></b> – Cllr Davies advised that the WDBC's main focus had been on the One Council consultation and proposal. WDBC and SHDC's were both due to meet at the same time on 31 <sup>st</sup> October to vote on the proposal.<br><br>Cllr Marsh posed a question about budget setting, in particular regarding Tavistock and Okehampton Ring & Ride services and how the budget for these was set. Cllr Ball noted the comments. |               |
| <b>283</b> <b><u>Devon County Council</u></b> – Cllr Ball reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Primary School planning application had been approved and concerns about the location of the electrical sub-station were being addressed. The contractors had been identified, work was due to commence in January 2018 with the planned opening of the school in September 2018.</li></ul>  |               |

- The Business Park plans were progressing, particularly with regards to the Forthglade site.
- Moor Otter project – the anticipated profit from the project was in the region of £80K to £90K.

*(Cllr's Ball and Davies left the meeting)*

**284 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon:**

**285.1 Planning Committee** meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September - adoption proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Ireland and agreed.

**285.2 Policy & Resources Committee** meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Tolley and agreed.

**285.3 Property Committee** meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Cllr Ireland asked about the siting of the Millennium Quilt which was back in the Charter Hall. Cllr Goffey advised that a complaint had been received from a hirer who had been unable to use the air conditioning system due to the location of the quilt which was blocking the fan intake grill. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Vachon and agreed.

**285.4 Parks Committee** meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Carpenter and agreed.

**286 Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Weekes.

**287 One Council Consultation** – Cllr Yelland reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met and agreed that the consultation procedure had been correct, fair and transparent. Both Councils were due to meet and vote on the proposal at the same time on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**288 Hospital** – Cllr Goffey provided an update; a meeting had been held at the hospital between various interested parties and stakeholders, including DCC and WDBC Cllr's, herself and hospital management. Cllr Weekes advised that the out of hours GP's were still working from the site.

**289 Asset of Community Value** – **On the proposition of Weekes, seconded by Cllr Parkins, it was resolved to submit an application to nominate Okehampton Hospital an asset of community value.**

Cllr Leech/  
Clerk

**290 Town Council Buildings and Structures** – Cllr Leech reported that he felt it would be beneficial for all 'built assets' to fall within the responsibility of the Property Committee rather than being split between two committees. **On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Yelland, it was resolved to defer any decision until further consideration had been given to the proposal by the Property, Parks and Policy & Resources Committees.**

**291 Policies/Documents** – **On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Tolley the Bullying & Harassment Policy and Freedom of Information, Publication Scheme were approved.**

292 **Annual Return** – The external auditors report and certificate were noted.

293 **Town Badges** – The Clerk reported that some years ago the Council had purchased a number of town badges, the majority of which were still in the Town Hall. It was agreed that the badges would be given to members of the public at the Mayors discretion, but particularly to the Mayors Cadet, new Cllrs, Mace Bearers and in conjunction with the Mayors Awards. Cllr's present were given badges.

294 **Invitations** – A reminder of invitations for upcoming events was made:

- Remembrance Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Okehampton Autumn Networking Event – 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Edwardian Evening – 7<sup>th</sup> December

295 **Civic Service Report** – The Mayor reported on events attended during September, as previously circulated.

296 **Civic Diary for 2018/19** – On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Leech (vote: 8 for, 3 against), it was resolved to hold the 2018 Civic Service on the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was resolved to hold the 2019 Annual Town Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> April and the Civic Service on 15<sup>th</sup> September.**

Dates of the other Civic events in 2018 and 2019 were noted.

297 **Town Hall Office Opening Hours** –

**Consideration of extending the office opening hours** – The Clerk reported on the advantages of extending the office opening hours. **On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Ireland opening hours of 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Thursday were approved.**

**Closure of the office on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017** – Closure of the office on the two days was noted.

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

298 **Reports of Council Working Groups** –

298.1 **Destination Okehampton** – No meeting had been held

299 **Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation** -

299.1 **OkeRail Forum** – Cllr Ireland reported that Cllr Rush and himself had attended a meeting in October along with representatives from other parties including DCC and WDBC. The conclusion of the meeting was that it would be established that the trial service, hopefully commencing in December 2018, would run through to the town station. It was noted that a traffic issue in Station Road needed addressing in conjunction with this.

A letter had been received from the Department of Transport regarding the instigating of a daily train service to Exeter and a service linking Exeter,

Okehampton and Plymouth.

Cllr Ireland also advised an article had been published in a recent edition of the Western Morning News.

**300** **Questions Arising from Member Reports** – Cllr Rush posed a question for Cllr K Ball, DCC: Regarding a recent statement by Mr Grayling – Can you confirm if December 2018 is still the start date of the trial daily rail service to Exeter?

Clerk

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

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – No report
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – Cllr Ireland reported that he had attended the last meeting in which a report given by Cllr Ball made no mention of the Parkway Station.
- (iii) Okehampton Health and Wellbeing Alliance – Cllr Cushing reported that a meeting was due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> November and outlined some other points including a funding issues being experienced by Age Concern.

*(A member of the public and Cllr Marsh 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 Leech, seconded by Cllr Yelland.

**302** **Town Centre Access Road** – Following discussion it was agreed that further work on a document presented by Cllr Goffey was required. Cllr's Ireland and Parkins to assist Cllr Goffey with the document.

**Action**  
Cllr's  
Goffey,  
Ireland,  
Parkins

**303** **Community Governance Review** – A further date for a meeting was awaited.

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

Thank you cards from the Carnival Committee were noted.

The meeting was closed at 9.29pm

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