

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 11th December 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 P Vachon

In Attendance: Councillor M Davies
6 Members of the Public
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Cllr Rev M Davies

406 Expressions of Interest – None

407 Apologies for Absence – Cllr's Marsh, Cummings and Cllr Ball (DCC)

408 Deferment of Business – None

409 Visiting Speaker Rebecca Green – Cllr Goffey welcomed Rebecca Green and invited her to speak. Ms Green outlined the remit of the One Okehampton charity; to bring the community together, encourage social inclusion, and the holding/promoting of free inclusive local events. Cllr's were invited to attend the next meeting of the Charity on 17th January.

Cllr Goffey thanked Ms Green for the running and organisation of the Sunday Markets in the summer and the more recent Christmas Markets. Cllr Yelland also commended Ms Green and the team for the events held.

410 Members' Questions – None

411 West Devon Borough Council - Cllr Davies advised that following the vote against a joint WDBC/SHDC One Council a meeting was scheduled for 17th January, and that a new Community Lottery was being launched by WDBC.

Cllr Yelland reported that the Community Lottery would not fund WDBC but its aim was to assist voluntary organisations who could be nominated to benefit by those taking part. A Productivity Strategy consultation was underway, WDBC had noted that Okehampton did not feature it in and had fed this back along with comments that the Railway was also not properly noted. WDBC had purchased a property in Okehampton for emergency accommodation. The closure of the Okehampton branch of the NatWest Bank had also been noted and comments returned to them.

Action

Cllr Leech reported that the Community Lottery would help Charities who would receive less funding from WDBC.

412 Devon County Council – A written report submitted by Cllr Ball was read out. Any questions from members to be submitted through the Clerk.

413 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon -

413.1 Planning Committee meeting held on 9th October and 6th November 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Weekes and agreed.

413.2 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 16th October 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Vachon and agreed.

413.3 Property Committee meeting held on 9th October 2017 – adoption proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Holt and agreed.

413.4 Parks Committee meetings held on 25th September 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Carpenter and agreed.

414 Full Council Meeting - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 30th October, 13th and 27th November 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Weekes.

415 Code of Conduct/Members Responsibilities – A copy of the Code of Conduct had been circulated to all members as a reminder of their responsibilities, particularly in respect of Part 2 Confidential information. A training event 'Members Code of Conduct' being run by WDBC was offered to members. Cllr's Holt and Carpenter agreed to attend. Copies of the Good Cllr's Guide available from the Town Clerk.

416 Asset of Community Value – Nomination documentation in progress.

Cllr Leech/
Clerk

417 Policies/Documents – The Town Clerk reported that staff had been consulted and on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Tolley, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Equal Opportunities Policy.

418 Civic Diary – The Mayor reported on events attended during October and November, as previously circulated.

419 'Stepping Up to the Challenge' Productivity Consultation – Documentation previously circulated was discussed. It was noted that Okehampton and Tavistock did not feature on the maps and that the rail link was not shown appropriately. Comments to be passed to the Town Clerk and a response to be submitted before the deadline of 14th December.

Cllr's/Clerk

(Cllr Davies left the meeting)

420 Traffic Report – Cllr Parkins reported on an event attended by Cllr Goffey and herself, in particular noting the Community Self-Help Schemes; Road Warden and Snow Warden. It was noted that although third party public liability insurance was provided by DCC, the other aspects of insurance, including personal liability, was not.

- 421 Town Council Charities** – Cllr’s were reminded of their responsibilities as Trustees of the Council’s three Charities. Guidance including The Essential Trustee, Charity Governance Code, and Local Authorities as Charity Trustees had previously been circulated.
- On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Ireland, **RESOLVED** to set up a working party comprising of Cllr’s Yelland, Leech, Goffey and the Clerk to investigate the running of the Charities and to obtain legal advice as required. Clerk
- On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Weekes, **RESOLVED** that Cllr Yelland and the Clerk attend a Charitable Trusts course being run by the Society of Local Council Clerks in Truro on 17th April 2018. Cllr Yelland/
Clerk
- 422 Reports of Council Working Groups** –
- 422.1** Destination Okehampton – The next meeting was 20th December.
- 423 Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation** -
- 423.1** OkeRail Forum – Cllr Ireland reported that several mentions of the group had recently been made in newspapers: The Guardian on 2nd December, Western Morning News on 6th December and the Okehampton Times on 7th December. Cllr Ireland had attended the GWR Stakeholder Conference in Westminster on 4th December.
- A GWR Franchise Consultation was in progress and would be considered by the Town Council at a later date.
- 424 Questions Arising from Member Reports** – In the absence of Cllr Ball, any questions to be passed through the Clerk. Clerk
- 425 Members’ Reports and Requests for Agenda Items** -
- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – Cllr’s Cummings and Goffey had attended a recent meeting. It was reported in particular that a traffic light system showing when dogs could be allowed freely or kept under control.
 - (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – Cllr Cummings reported that he had attended the meeting on 23rd November when a number of points had been raised including an update from the Police whereby crime figures had increased but that this was largely due to a way in which crimes were recorded. Officer roles were fully filled. Highways issues included a reduction in funding preventing works being undertaken.
 - (iii) Okehampton Health and Wellbeing Alliance – Cllr Cushing reported that the last meeting had been cancelled.
- (Members of the public left the meeting)*
- A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Ireland, and agreed.

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 Weekes, seconded by Cllr Goffey.

	Action
<p>426 <u>Traffic and Infrastructure</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Weekes, (1 objection, 1 abstention) RESOLVED to approve a draft press release subject to the removal of the DCC member’s name.</p> <p>Cllr Vachon agreed to produce a draft report detailing the issues for when the DCC Officer returns on 9th April 2018 to present progress made and options available.</p> <p>Cllr Leech requested a copy of a traffic survey carried out in 2013 which had not been circulated to the Council.</p> <p>The issue to be further discussed at the next appropriate meeting in Part 1.</p> <p>Proposed options provided by Cllr Ball for car park signs were tabled. Cllr’s to review for the next appropriate meeting noting that the information is confidential.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Vachon</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr’s</p>
<p>427 <u>Community Governance Review</u> – In response to the Council’s request that the consultation is paused, an extension of time until 2nd February has been granted and the Terms of Reference amended. The working party had met and put together options for further discussion. Cllr’s to review the documents for the next meeting, again noting that the information is confidential.</p>	<p>Cllr’s</p>

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

The meeting was closed at 9.07pm

Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Mayor