

Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 4 November 2013 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton
at 7.00 pm

Members Present:

Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor K Ball
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor C Letchford
Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor P Vachon

In Attendance:

Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)
Mr D Whitfield (Park-keeper)

Before proceeding with business, prayers were offered by Councillor Reverend M Davies.

269. Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor A Leech and Councillor D Weekes.

270. Deferment of Business - (for comment by the public) - There were no comments from members of the public present.

271. West Devon Borough Council - Councillor Mrs C Marsh advised that a meeting had been held today at West Devon Borough Council where it was agreed that an improved IT provision in partnership with South Hams District Council would be introduced, this would over a period of time produce the cost saving benefits that were required at the Borough.

272. Devon County Council - Councillor K Ball advised he has received comments about the reduced time certain street lights were on and he was investigating the issue further. Councillor Mrs M McDonald asked if the opening hours at the recycling centre were being changed to cut costs, Councillor Ball to investigate and advise further.

273. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon -

273.1 Policy and Resources Committee - Councillor Mrs M McDonald invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 29 July 2013, 2 September 2013, 23 September 2013 and the special meeting held on 5 August 2013. Councillor Mrs C Marsh proposed, Councillor T Cummings seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.

273.2 Planning Committee - Councillor Mrs J Goffey invited Members to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5 August 2013 and 16 September 2013. Councillor Mrs C Marsh proposed, Councillor Dr M Ireland

seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.

- 273.3 Parks Committee** - Councillor Mrs C Marsh invited Council to adopt the minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 19 August 2013. Proposed by Councillor Mrs C Marsh, seconded by Councillor Dr M Ireland and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.
- 273.4 Property Committee** - Councillor Mrs J Goffey invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Property Committee held on 12 August 2013 and 9 September 2013. Councillor C Letchford proposed, Councillor T Cummings seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.
- 274. Full Council Meeting Minutes** - Members received the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2 September 2013 which were approved, signed and adopted on the proposition of Councillor Mrs C Marsh and seconded by Councillor Dr M Ireland.
- 275. Urgent Items Brought Forward** - The Acting Clerk advised that she had identified that the Government Act used to enter Part Two of meetings was the incorrect legislation and that the correct legislation was the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. It was agreed to use the correct legislation with immediate effect.

Councillor Letchford advised that West Devon Borough Councillors' email addresses were still not appearing on the Borough website and that the recent West Devon Connect magazine advised residents to use these addresses. Clerk to liaise with West Devon Borough Council.

Councillor Letchford asked when the matured treasury stock investment would be reinvested together with other investments. The Mayor advised a meeting was being held with the Financial Adviser within the next few days.

276. Matters Arising -

- 276.1 Town Council Vacancies** - The Acting Clerk advised that there were still two vacancies and that one information pack had recently been issued to a resident.
- 276.2 Charity Commission** - The Mayor advised he was making progress with investigations in connection with the Simmons Charity and the Clerk had sent a letter to the Charity Commission asking for confirmation of the actions proposed as per Appendix A attached to the minutes which also details information ascertained. Further investigation to be made including the Town Hall Charity.
- 276.3 Okehampton Tourist Information Centre** - The Mayor advised he had attended a further meeting on 28 October. Similar models of operation of TICs were being reviewed by the Museum who were keen to retain the Centre in the Museum. They had to check there were no potential implications on the Charity status of the Museum, they were potentially looking at a volunteer-led system and looking at generating more income. Investigations were ongoing together with producing costings and business plan for remodelling an area of the Museum for the future use of the TIC.

- 276.4 Mayor's Community Breakfast** - The Mayor advised the first breakfast had been successfully held with 35 attendees. The speaker at the second breakfast was to be Mr D Chapman of Okehampton College, no meeting in December and Dr T Watson booked to attend in January.
- 277. Okehampton Town Council Newsletter** - The Mayor advised there was no update at this point, he was aiming for a newsletter to be produced in March of next year.
- 278. Community Asset Register** - In the absence of Councillor A Leech it was agreed to defer this item and move it to the next agenda of the Policy and Resources Committee. All Councillors in agreement.
- 279. Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Dr M Ireland advised a meeting had been arranged for 6 November, the aim was to provide information and evidence for the Okehampton Vision Steering Group meeting.
- 280. Edwardian Evening** - The Mayor advised he proposed continuing with the same format as previous years and it was agreed by all Councillors that he invite other Mayors to attend as appropriate. The Clerk advised a request had been received from the Okehampton Times where she had agreed an advert, as previous years, be placed in the newspaper supplement for the event, one-eighth of a page at a cost of £50 + VAT. All Councillors in agreement.
- 281. Remembrance Sunday** - The Mayor advised the parade would form at 10.20 am, there would be a reception in the Council Chamber afterwards, the Lions Club were being responsible for the road closure. The Deputy Mayor would be attending the Roman Catholic Church on behalf of the Council.
- 282. Civic Diary Report** -
- (i) See Appendix B attached to these minutes for details of events attended by the Mayor.
 - (ii) The Deputy Mayor advised he had presented a grant cheque recently to the Okehampton Community District Transport Group where he ascertained that their client numbers were increasing by 40 per week.

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 Mrs M McDonald and seconded by Councillor K Ball.

283. Staffing Matters

Meeting closed 8.00 pm.

Councillor M Davies
Town Mayor