Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Chairman)

> Councillor A Leech (Chairman, Planning) Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman, Parks)

Councillor Mrs V Cushing Councillor P Vachon Councillor Mrs J Goffev Councillor B Tolley

Councillor Miss C Holt Other Members Present:

> Councillor Dr M Ireland Councillor Mrs S Parkins

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

559 **Declarations of Interest** – The following personal interests were declared:

Cllr Marsh - Ref's 565.2, 565.3 and 565.4

Cllr Ireland - Ref 565.2 Cllr Vachon - Ref 565.3 Cllr Parkins - Ref 565.1

- Apologies for Absence Cllrs Cummings, Weekes and Carpenter 560
- 561 **Deferment of Business** – None
- 562 Members' Questions - None
- 563 Minutes - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 12th November 2018 was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Cushing.
- 564 Matters Arising -
- 564.1 Mayors Account – An account had been opened. On the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** that the signatories would be Cllrs Marsh, Goffey and Ireland.

Payroll Service – Brightpay software had been purchased, the first month 564.2 being free, and the first 'in-house' payroll was scheduled for later in

December.

- 565 **Grant Applications** – The Committee considered the following applications for a Town Council grant:
- **Tor Support Services** On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by 565.1 Cllr Leech (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to assist in the provision of counselling sessions directly to children.

Okehampton Community Archives – On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, 565.2 seconded by Cllr Cushing (3 abstentions), it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 towards the cost of overheads to enable the archive to

continue to be opened to the public.

565.3 Okement Rivers Improvement Group - On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Goffey (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant Clerk

Action

Clerk

Clerk

of £200 to assist with the running costs, including insurance, equipment, training and the maintenance of seats.

Clerk

Okehampton Chamber of Trade - On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Leech (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the provision of Christmas trees and lights in the town.

Clerk

565.5 Devon Young Carers (Westbank) - On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Marsh, it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 towards to cost of regular trampolining sessions at OCRA, providing respite from exceptional caring responsibilities.

Clerk

565.6 Junior Life Skills - On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Goffey, it was RESOLVED to award a grant of £300 towards the costs of the venue, organisation and managing fee for the running of the sessions for all Year 6 children in West Devon.

Clerk

Feedback from Grants Awarded – The Committee noted feedback received from 2243 (Okehampton) Squadron, Royal Air Force Air Cadets towards the cost of the purchase of a gazebo for use at events.

567 Finances

Members agreed that they were happy with the information provided which had changed recently due to the implementation of new software.

On the proposition of Cllr Cushing, seconded by Cllr Tolley the management accounts for the month ended 31st October 2018 (month 7) were **APPROVED**.

- **567.2** On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Tolley, the schedule of payments was **APPROVED.**
- Training On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Tolley, it was RESOLVED that the Park-Keeper attend a RoSPA Operational Play Safety course in Exeter at a cost of £635 +VAT and that £700 be vired from general reserves to the Training Budget to cover the cost.

Clerk

2019/20 Budget – The draft budget was considered and discussion ensued around the allocation including for grants and marketing.

On the proposition of Cllr Vachon, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to carry over any remaining funds in the Grant budget in this financial year 2018/19, to the Grant budget in 2019/20, on confirmation by the Clerk that this is permitted.

Clerk

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Vachon, it was **RESOLVED** that the Grant budget for 2019/20 remain at £29,000.

On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Marsh, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the initial draft budget with the amendments above, and recommend it to Full Council for ratification.

Councillor Audits – Cllr Marsh reported that an audit of bank reconciliations up to the end of October had previously been reported upon and that November's audit had yet to be undertaken.

571 Review of Policies and Documents –

- **571.1** The policies due for review were deferred until the next meeting:
 - Maternity, Adoption and Paternity Policy
 - Shared Parental Leave Policy

Clerk

572 <u>Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items</u> -

- (i) Chamber of Trade (Cllr Carpenter) Cllr Marsh reported that there had been a reduction in members and that Cllr Vachon had presented a CIC marketing proposal at the last meeting.
- (ii) Citizens Advice (Cllr Leech) Cllr Leech advised that the CA was working with Learn Devon and were helping people with budget pressures following the change in the benefit system to Universal Credit when benefits were being paid monthly rather than weekly. The AGM was held in Okehampton on 28th November but Cllr Leech had been unable to attend. Janet George was a Local Trustee representing WDBC. Cllr Goffey had attended the AGM and advised that Karen Percival was also now a Trustee.
- (iii) DALC Larger Councils Sub-Committee The Clerk had recently attended a meeting at which a speaker from the DCC Community Team had been present. The team was reviewing their strategy and looking at how they could do things differently, focusing on isolation and mental health. A senior Highways Officer would be invited to the next meeting to discuss highways issues.
- (iv) Okehampton Fairtrade Group (Cllr Cushing) Cllr Cushing reported on involvement in Edwardian Evening and that members of Room 13 were ready to help with Fairtrade issues/events. The next meeting was on 15th January and plans were in progress for the next Fairtrade fortnight in February. Renewal of the Fairtrade Status was in progress.
- (v) Okehampton and District Community Transport Group (Cllr Leech) A meeting had been held at which the new regulation 19 was discussed and a Government response was not expected before April. A number of items had been donated and consideration was being given to a 'pop up shop' to sell them. The group had 2 new Trustees, income from the lottery was down to £550 this year, from £600, and crowdfunding had not been profitable.

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 Marsh.

Action

- **Debtors Outstanding** The positive report was noted by the Committee.
- **Staffing Matters** The Clerk did not have any issues to report.
- NJC Pay Agreement 2019/20 The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had agreed the new pay scales for 2019/20 which were to be implemented from 1st April 2019. The spinal points and scale ranges had been amended due to the introduction of the national living wage

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Vachon, it was RESOLVED to exit Part Two.
The meeting was closed at 8.05pm
Cllr Yelland Chairman
Chairman