

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 29th April 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Carpenter (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor D Weekes (Chairman, Property)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor B Rush
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor V Cushing

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

Prior to commencement of the meeting Prayers were offered by Cllr Rev M Davies for those who wished to take part.

	Action
879 <u>Expressions of Interest</u> – None	
880 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> – Cllrs Marsh and Cummings	
881 <u>Deferment of Business</u> – None	
882 <u>Visiting Speaker</u> – In the absence of David Eaton, Strategy and Planning Officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner the item regarding CCTV was deferred.	
883 <u>Members Questions</u> – None	
884 <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> – Cllr Leech reported on the work of WDBC in 2 of its business areas; Environmental Health and Licensing, and Housing and Benefits. In both areas staff numbers had been reduced by the T18 project since 2018 although in many areas the workload had increased. There were many successes over the last 12 months which were highlighted and included the implementation of new legislation, a banded Council Tax reduction scheme in relation to Universal Credit, bids for grant funding and energy saving initiatives. WDBC attendance figures were highlighted and it was noted that some Members had a 90% attendance rate which was commended. Cllr Ball stated that Members were currently restricted by Purdah rules and he wouldn't be providing a report at this time as either a Member of WDBC or DCC.	
885 <u>Devon County Council</u> – Cllr Ball stated he wouldn't be providing a report at this time due to Purdah restrictions and tendered his apologies for the meeting in June when he would be away.	
886 <u>Questions Arising from Members Reports</u> – None	

- 887** **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising Thereon -**
- 887.1** Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 4th March 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Holt and **AGREED**
- 887.2** Planning Committee meeting held on 4th March 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Rush and **AGREED**
- 887.3** Property Committee meeting held on 4th February 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Holt and **AGREED**
- 887.4** Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 10th January and 4th February 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Goffey and **AGREED**
- 888** **Full Council Meeting Minutes** – The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25th March 2019 were received, signed and **APPROVED** on the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Ireland.
- 889** **Matters Arising** - None
- 890** **CCTV**
- 890.1** **Town** – A brief debate regarding the proposals took place and it was confirmed by Cllr Leech that the owners of properties where it was suggested cameras could be placed had been approached and were in agreement. A public consultation had taken place in the past.
- On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was **RESOLVED** to defer until David Eaton had attended and presented the proposal.
- 890.2** **Parks** – Item deferred in the absence of Cllr Marsh.
- 891** **Market Street Toilets** - Cllrs Yelland and Leech declared personal interests being WDBC Members.
- A response had been received from WDBC following Okehampton Town Council's resolution on 15th April to:
- start negotiations with WDBC with a view to entering into a repairing/maintenance lease with responsibility for cleaning and maintenance within the building
 - to enter into a dialogue with WDBC regarding the backdating of the costs for keeping the toilets open on the above basis from 1st April 2019.
- The response which stated that WDBC would only be prepared to offer a short term lease on a full repairing maintenance basis was read out by the Clerk. WDBC had confirmed that they would pay the rates for 2019/20.
- During the debate it was noted that it appeared there were outstanding repairs that had not been attended to by WDBC and that it was estimated it would cost the Town Council at least £20K p/annum to run the facility. Cllrs commented that it was imperative for residents and visitors to the town that the facility was maintained.
- On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Vachon (1 against) (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to take on a short-term lease as proposed by WDBC.

Clerk

Clerk

892	<p><u>Local Council Elections 2nd May 2019</u> – It was noted that 13 Councillors had stood for election unopposed, and that 1 vacancy remained in the South Ward of the Town. The vacancy would be advertised on 3rd May requesting expressions of interest in writing for consideration by an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 3rd June.</p>	Clerk
	<p>It was further noted that an Induction Session had been arranged for 2pm on 9th May for new Councillors and any existing Councillors who wished to attend.</p>	Clerk
893	<p><u>Asset Register</u> – The Council’s Asset Register as at 31st March 2019 was reviewed and agreed.</p>	
894	<p><u>HATOC Waiting Restriction Order Consultation</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Weekes (1 against), it was RESOLVED to support the proposal to amend a Double Yellow Lines restriction in Simmons Way, Okehampton.</p>	Clerk
895	<p><u>Rural Strategies Campaign</u> - On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Ireland (1 against), it was RESOLVED to support the Rural Services Network for a campaign to the Government for the creation of a Rural Strategy.</p>	Clerk
896	<p><u>Policies/Documents</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded Cllr Goffey, it was RESOLVED to approve the Discretions Policy as recommended by the Policy & Resources Committee</p>	Clerk
897	<p><u>Civic Diary Report</u> – No report circulated for March 2019.</p>	
898	<p><u>Approval of Mayors Charity Account</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was RESOLVED to approve the account and Cllr Carpenter was commended for her fundraising effort over the year.</p>	
899	<p><u>Payment of Invoices</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Holt, seconded Cllr Weekes, the schedule of payments was APPROVED.</p>	
900	<p><u>Reports of Council Working Groups –</u></p>	
900.1	<p><u>Charities</u> – The working group had not met since the last report.</p>	
900.2	<p><u>Government Future of High Streets Fund</u> – The result of the expression of interest was expected in June.</p>	
901	<p><u>Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation -</u></p>	
901.1	<p><u>OkeRail Forum</u> – Cllr Davies had been re-elected Chairman and Cllr Ireland as Vice-Chairman. GWR leaflets advertising the summer train service were being published and this year a bus service was being provided from Okehampton Station to Gunnislake allowing a full circuit to be travelled. This was being funded by Community Rail Partnership (CRP). Cllr Ireland advised that CRP could be approached for a grant to fund a noticeboard for the posters and he would provide the information to the Clerk.</p>	Cllr Ireland/ Clerk
901.2	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan Group</u> – A meeting with the Consultant had been held.</p>	
902	<p><u>Members’ Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -</u></p>	
902.1	<p><u>Dartmoor National Park Forum</u> – No meeting had been held.</p>	

- 902.2 Northern Parishes Link Committee** – No meeting had been held.
- 903.3 Okehampton Area Health and Wellbeing Alliance** – A meeting had been held on 21st March which Cllr Cushing had been unable to attend, but read some highlights from the minutes.
- 904 Urgent Items** – Cllr Leech reported that an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Plan (OSSR) meeting had been held, attended by members of various organisations including OCRA. It was suggested that a joint Working Group consisting of Okehampton Town and Parish Councils could be formed to further the development of an OSSR plan as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Cllr Rush suggested that more allotments could be incorporated into the plan.

Clerk

The Clerk advised that there were no issues to discuss in Part 2 and the meeting was closed at 8.17pm

Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Mayor

DRAFT