

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 12noon in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor J Carpenter (Retiring Mayor)
Councillor J Yelland
Councillor M Ireland
Councillor J Goffey
Councillor B Rush
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor C Holt
Councillor A Leech
Councillor C Marsh
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor D Sanger
Councillor M Tucker
Councillor D Penna
Councillor G Button

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
Mace Bearers
Members of DCC, WDBC and other local Councils
Members of the Public
Members of Okehampton Town Council Staff

Before proceeding with business, Cllr Carpenter welcomed those present and prayers were offered by the retiring Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd Liz Singleton.

1. **Election of Town Mayor** - It was proposed that Cllr Yelland serve as Mayor for the coming year by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Penna. All Councillors were in favour. *(The newly elected Town Mayor and retiring Mayor left the meeting to exchange robes and chains.)*

Cllr Yelland read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor.

2. **Election of Deputy Town Mayor** - Cllr Yelland proposed that Cllr Ireland serve as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Vachon. All Cllrs were in favour. Cllr Ireland read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Town Mayor and responded with a short speech.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies
4. **Retiring Town Mayor** - Mrs Carpenter gave an overview of the duties she had carried out during the year. She offered congratulations to Cllr Yelland and thanked her for her support over the year as Deputy Mayor.

Thanks were extended to her fellow Councillors, Chaplain, the Mayor's Cadet, the Mace bearers, her Consort, Karen Penna who had assisted in fundraising for her chosen charity and all others who had given their support.

Mrs Carpenter presented Cancer Research UK with a cheque for £1,350 which had been raised throughout her year as Town Mayor. Mayor's Award Certificates were presented to Les Agar in recognition of his dedication and fundraising for North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, David and Estelle Wright in recognition of their lifetime of service to the town for the benefit of the people of Okehampton, and Christine Munkenbeck in recognition of the establishment in 1995 of the Get Changed Theatre Company and subsequent dedication to the organisation which supports adults with learning disabilities.

5. **Town Mayor** – Cllr Yelland thanked the Council for electing her as Mayor and for their support. She gave a short speech during which it was announced that through the year she would be supporting and fundraising for Oke Pads who were providing defibrillators through the town along with free training sessions.

Presentations were made to; Mrs Carpenter the past Mayors badge, Cllr Ireland the Deputy's Chain and Cdt Howes the Mayor's Cadet for the year was presented with the brassard.

Cllr Yelland announced that the Mayor's Chaplain would be WDBC Cllr Rev'd Mike Davies, and she thanked her husband for his continued support.

6. **Expenses of the Office of Mayor** - To endorse the payment of an allowance of £2,500 to defray the expenses attached to the office of Mayor in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Holt. All Councillors were in favour.
7. **Standing Committees of the Council** - Appointment of Cllrs to the following Committees for the ensuing year: Parks, Planning, and Policy and Resources, Property; Emergencies and Personnel Sub-Committee whose membership consisted of the Mayor and Committee Chairs, as set out in the schedule attached to the minutes.

Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Committees as follows:

<u>Parks</u>	Chairman	Cllr Marsh
	Vice-Chairman	Cllr Holt
<u>Planning</u>	Chairman	Cllr Leech
	Vice-Chairman	Cllr Ireland
<u>Policy and Resources</u>	Chairman	Cllr Tolley
	Vice-Chairman	Cllr Tucker
<u>Property</u>	Chairman	Cllr Vachon
	Vice-Chairman	Cllr Goffey

Membership to Committees and Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen was proposed en bloc by Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Goffey. All Cllrs were in favour.

8. **Working Groups** – It was agreed to appoint Cllrs to the Working Groups for the ensuing year, as set out in the schedule attached to the minutes, proposed *en bloc* by Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Leech.
9. **Representatives to External Bodies including Charities** - It was agreed to appoint Cllrs as representatives of the Town Council to other bodies in accordance with the schedule attached to the minutes on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Holt.
10. **Nomination of a Cllr to undertake monthly Council internal financial checks including bank reconciliations and BACS payments** – It was agreed to appoint Cllr Marsh on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Leech.

The Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12.45pm and welcomed all to a buffet lunch in the Charter Hall.

Councillor J Yelland
Town Mayor