

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 28th October 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor J Yelland (Mayor)
Councillor M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor C Marsh (Chairman, Parks)
Councillor B Tolley (Chairman, Policy & Resources)
Councillor P Vachon (Chairman, Property)
Councillor G Button
Councillor C Holt
Councillor D Penna
Councillor D Sanger
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor M Tucker

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
Councillor K Ball (DCC)

	Action
415 <u>Urgent Items</u> - Cllr Yelland reported that an ex-Mayor, Michael Morse, had passed away, and a minute's silence was held.	
416 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> – Apologies received from Cllr Goffey, who was on holiday, were noted and approved on the proposal of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Ireland. Cllr Davies (WDBC) had also sent apologies.	
417 <u>Expressions of Interest</u> – None	
418 <u>Deferment of Business</u> – None	
419 <u>Members Questions</u> – None	
420 <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> – Cllr Leech reported upon WDBC's finances; Government funding for the next financial year 2020/21 would remain the same as for this year, however there were concerns which included the reduction of the cap on the precept from 2.9% to 2% and the unions request for a larger than normal salary increase, the result of which was awaited.	
421 <u>Devon County Council</u> – Cllr Ball reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The traffic report undertaken by DCC approx. 18 months ago would be available for presentation to Council at the November meeting, and requested that it be a Part 2 item of business at this time, with a view to it being made public at a later date.• Development of the Cladco site on the Business Park was progressing well, was moving forward on another site and further interest had been received.• He had recently attended a GWR Conference along with Cllr Ireland. The lease on the line at the existing Station in the town was due to end in December and an announcement as to who would take it over was awaited.• A Health and Wellbeing Festival was planned in Okehampton on 25th April 2020.	

422 Questions Arising from Members Reports – Questions and comments included:

- Cllr Marsh commented that she was disappointed with the information that had been forthcoming regarding the new recycling scheme and details of the roadshow. Cllr Leech advised that he would be visiting the local Primary Schools as part of the Roadshow which will also be at Waitrose and Co-op in Okehampton.
- Cllr Leech questioned why it had taken approx. 20 months since the traffic survey was undertaken for it to get to the stage where it was ready for presentation to the Council.
- Cllr Yelland queried a recent article regarding Climate Change in the Okehampton Times which indicated that DCC would not be building any new roads and the impact this may have on options for infrastructure changes in the town.

Cllr Ball advised he would respond to queries in writing and left the meeting.

423 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising Thereon –

423.1 **Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 9th September 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Tolley, seconded Cllr Jessop and **AGREED**

423.2 **Property Committee** meeting held on 2nd September 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Holt and **AGREED**

423.3 **Personnel Sub-Committee** meeting held on 23rd May 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Tolley, seconded Cllr Marsh and **AGREED**

424 Full Council Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30th September 2019 were received, signed and **APPROVED** on the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Ireland.

425 Councillor Vacancy – The Clerk reported that 2 applications for the vacancy on the South Ward had been received; voting took place and Debra Travers was co-opted.

426 Matters Arising –

426.1 **CCTV** – The Clerk reported that tender returns were awaited.

426.2 **IT Upgrade** – It was noted that webmail access to the previous email system would be deactivated at the end of the month, any Cllrs with email issues were reminded to contact the Clerk as soon as possible

426.3 **West Devon Town Centres Meeting** – Invitations had been sent out for the meeting to be held on 7th November.

427 Dartmoor Local Plan 2018-2036 – Cllr Ireland reported upon a previously circulated document that had been prepared by himself and the Assistant Clerk, which outlined why it was felt the plan was not sound and where it was believed additions or amendments should be made. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Jessop, it was **RESOLVED** to approve and submit the prepared response.

428 Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21 Technical Consultation – On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Ireland it was **RESOLVED** to make a response thanking the Government for its proposal

Clerk

	to continue with no referendum principles for town and parish councils in 2020/21, and to request a further 3 year period following this, for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.	Clerk
429	<p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u> – Correspondence received by the Mayor from a member of the public regarding an increase in damage and disorder in Okehampton had been forwarded to Alison Hernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), and Mel Stride, MP. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Jessop, it was RESOLVED to take the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal letter from the Council to be drafted by the Mayor and Clerk and sent to the PCC • DCC to be asked to clean up any areas of graffiti in the town on property belonging to them, including road signs • Clerk to write to the owner of the property abutting Fairplace to request permission to remove graffiti from the wall of their premises 	Cllr Yelland/ Clerk
430	<u>Okehampton United Charity</u> – It was noted that the term of office for the council nominated Trustee, Cllr Ireland, concluded on 22 nd October. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Tolley, it was RESOLVED to nominate Cllr Ireland for a further term of office (4 years).	
431	<u>Charity Trustees</u> – It was reported that Cllr Jessop had been appointed as a Trustee to both Kempley Meadows and Cricket Fields, and Simmons Park Charities, it was hoped that the merger of the 2 would be complete by the end of the financial year and that the conversion of the investments into a different fund had been agreed at the recent Trustee meeting.	
432	<u>Policies/Documents</u> –	
432.1	On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Leech, it was RESOLVED to approve the following as recommended by the Policy & Resources Committee; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Continuity Plan, including an additional paragraph regarding fire incidents • Strategic Plan 2019-2023 	
432.2	On the proposition of Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was RESOLVED to approve the Anniversary of Markets, Fairs and Charters Task & Finish Group Terms of Reference as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee	
433	<u>Civic Diary Report</u> – Events attended in September 2019 by the Mayor were noted	
434	<u>Payment of Invoices</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Holt, seconded Cllr Penna, the schedule of payments was APPROVED .	
435	<u>Reports of Council Working/Task & Finish Groups</u> –	
435.1	Charities – No meeting to report upon	
435.2	Climate Change – Cllr Button reported that the next meeting was due to take place on 31 st October. It was noted that the Clerk was unable to attend the public event combined with a coffee morning in the Charter Hall on 30 th November. On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Jessop, it was RESOLVED that a plan for the public meeting be prepared by the group at their next meeting for review and agreement of the Clerk that it could go ahead without the presence of an Officer.	Working Group/ Clerk

435.3 **Strategic Plan** – The plan had been approved earlier in the meeting. No further work to report upon.

Clerk

436 **Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation** -

436.1 **Neighbourhood Plan Group** – Cllr Leech reported that he had not been able to attend the previous 2 meetings, and attendance had been low at the most recent with only 2 persons present. The next step had been agreed with the Consultant, and a draft report would be written by the group over the next few months.

437 **Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items** -

437.1 **Okehampton Matters** – Cllr Tolley reported that he had attended the meeting when various topics had been discussed, including; the Pretoria, parking on pavements, the new Speedwatch scheme that was commencing in the Hamlets, and that the Street Pastors were short of volunteers. Cllr Vachon advised that recent issues with hair dye in the toilets at Fairplace had been reported.

It was requested that previously discussed issues relating to anti-social behaviour in Okehampton be taken back to the next meeting.

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 Ireland, seconded by Cllr Leech.

438 **Town Crier** – The Clerk reported upon a response from Ms Chard.

A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (bb) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Ireland, and agreed.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Ireland (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Crier could be invited to attend any events by organisations and groups as well as the Town Council, and they should consult with her individually regarding the conditions.

On the proposition of Cllr Vachon, seconded by Cllr Leech, a fee for invitations to Cry for the Town Council was agreed and **RESOLVED**.

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Vachon, it was **RESOLVED** that occasions on which she be invited to cry for the Town Council would be agreed by the Mayor and Clerk, and funded from the Marketing Budget

Clerk

On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** to exit Part Two and ratify decisions made in Part Two.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

Councillor Mrs J Yelland
Mayor