

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 27th January 2020 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 J Goffey
Councillor C Holt
Councillor P Jessop
Councillor D Sanger
Councillor D Travers
Councillor M Tucker

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
Cllr K Ball (DCC)
3 Members of the Public

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| <p>623 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> – Cllr Button who had a personal emergency and Cllr Penna who was ill. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Jessop, the apologies were approved.
Cllr Davies (WDBC) had also tendered apologies.</p> | |
| <p>624 <u>Deferment of Business</u> – 2 members of the public spoke in full support of the reinstatement of the regular passenger rail service from Okehampton to Exeter and advised that the station and café were currently operating as normal.</p> | |
| <p>625 <u>Members Questions</u> – None</p> | |
| <p>626 <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> – No reports</p> | |
| <p>627 <u>Devon County Council</u> – Cllr Ball reported that he was attending a Scrutiny Meeting the following day, the aim of DCC was to increase the revenue budget slightly.
Highways LED streetlight replacement programme had not yet been completed and had been deferred whilst the contract was renewed.
Dartmoor National Park (DNP) were looking for hosts for the Moor Otter 2020 project, of which the Town Council was one. Okehampton Primary School had been invited to take part in a similar school project. The DNP draft management plan consultation was due to commence in early February.
Okehampton Railway leases were commented upon, one of which for the line had been up for sale. Cllr Ball advised he had asked DCC's legal team to investigate potential issues and would report further in due course.</p> | |
| <p>628 <u>Questions Arising from Members Reports</u> – Cllr Ireland commented on the Railway station leases.
<i>(Cllr Ball and 2 members of the public left the meeting)</i></p> | |
| <p>629 <u>Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising Thereon</u> –</p> | |
| <p>629.1 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 2nd and 9th December 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Sanger, seconded Cllr Tucker and
AGREED</p> | |

629.2 Parks Committee meetings held on 18th November and 2nd December 2019 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland and **AGREED**

630 **Full Council Meeting Minutes** – The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th December 2019 were received, signed and **APPROVED** on the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Marsh.

631 **Matters Arising** –

631.1 **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner had agreed to a meeting with the Mayor, Clerk and other persons on 2nd March 2020.

631.2 Moor Otters 2020 – The Otter allocated to the Council was viewed and noted. On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Tucker, it was **RESOLVED** to delegate all other arrangements for the project, including the siting of the Otter, to Cllr Marsh and the Clerk.

Cllr Marsh/
Clerk

632 **2020/21 Budget and Precept** –

632.1 Budget papers and options presented by the Clerk were considered. On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Option D, which included provision for the installation and running of a CCTV system in the town and Simmons Park. The budget and precept amount to be requested from WDBC being £286,702.

632.2 On the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to roll forward remaining funds up to £500 in the Commemorative/Charter Celebration budget heading to the 2020/21 budget in order to prevent that amount being requested again through the precept.

On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Vachon, it was **RESOLVED** to roll forward remaining funds up to £500 in the Mayoral photo framing budget heading to the 2020/21 budget in order to prevent that amount being requested again through the precept and that it was hoped the project would be completed in the next financial year.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** to roll forward remaining funds up to £3,000 in the Wildlife Interpretation Boards budget heading to the 2020/21 budget in order to prevent that amount being requested again through the precept and so that the project could be undertaken in 2020/21.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Tolley, it was **RESOLVED** to roll forward remaining funds up to £350 in the Telephone box resiting budget heading to the 2020/21 budget in order to prevent that amount being requested again through the precept and allow the project to be completed in 2020/21.

633 **Dartmoor Railway** – Cllr Ireland reported on the current position, as known, regarding the sale of Dartmoor Railway.

On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk write to the Minister of Transport, copying in the Prime Minister and Mel Stride MP expressing the Council's support and the importance of the reinstatement of the line

Cllr Yelland/
Clerk

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 Marsh, seconded by Cllr Goffey. *(A member of the public left the meeting)*

Dartmoor Railway – On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Goffey, it was **RESOLVED** that possible opportunities are investigated

On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Leech, the meeting returned to Part 1. *(Member of the public returned to the meeting)*

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| <p>634 <u>Meeting Dates</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Leech, it was RESOLVED, due to the change in bank holiday dates by the Government, to move meetings scheduled to take place on 5th May 2020 to Monday 4th May 2020.</p> | <p>Cllrs/Clerk</p> |
| <p>635 <u>Royal Garden Party Nomination</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Marsh, it was RESOLVED to nominate the previous Mayor, Janet Carpenter.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>636 <u>West Devon Mayoral Awards 2019/20</u> – Cllr Leech, being Mayor of WDBC, declared a personal interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded by Cllr Sanger (1 abstention), it was RESOLVED to nominate Christine Munkenbeck in the Over 18/Organisation category.• On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Marsh (1 abstention), it was RESOLVED to nominate Room 13 in the Over 18/Organisation category.• On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Tucker (1 abstention), it was RESOLVED to nominate Fran Rickwood for the Green Award. | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>637 <u>Preventing Business Crime</u> – The response to a request that the survey includes other areas of crime/concern was noted. On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was RESOLVED to accept the invitation for a survey.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>638 <u>Freedom of Information Request</u> – A request for information regarding the recent tenders for a CCTV system in the town and park, and subsequent response, was noted.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>639 <u>OCRA Stakeholder Trustees</u> – Cllr Marsh declared a personal interest being a Trustee.</p> <p>Noted that Cllr Tolley’s term of office as a Trustee had ceased on 15th January 2020. On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Goffey (1 abstention), it was RESOLVED to nominate Cllr Tolley for a further term of office as Trustee.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>640 <u>Consultation – Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Holt (2 abstentions), it was RESOLVED that Cllr Yelland and the Clerk respond to the consultation taking into consideration comments made and which would be noted on the relevant section of the form.</p> | <p>Cllr Yelland/
Clerk</p> |

- 641 **Consultation – Devon Association of Local Councils** – The draft Memorandum and Articles of Association relating to the forthcoming registration of DALC as a company in April 2020 were noted.
- 642 **Town Centres Meeting** – Notes of the meeting held in November 2019 were noted along with resulting actions.
- 643 **Two Museums Walk** – Noted that Sticklepath Parish Council were hoping to reinstate the Two Museums Walk between Okehampton and Sticklepath. On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Tolley, **RESOLVED** that Cllr Goffey be nominated to attend any meetings on behalf of the Council.
- On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Ireland, **RESOLVED** that Cllr Goffey report to the Parks Committee. Cllr Goffey/
Clerk
- 644 **CCTV** – Deferred to be discussed under Part 2 later in the meeting
- 645 **Civic Diary Report** – Events attended by the Mayor during December were noted.
- 646 **Civic Events**
- 646.1 **Civic Dinner** –The Council considered the allocation of ‘duty’ (free) tickets for the dinner on 6th March 2020.
On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** that the 2 long-standing Mace Bearers, Mr Hollinshead and Mr Jones would receive full complimentary tickets and the other 3 Mace Bearers would receive tickets at the discounted rate of 50%. In addition, the Councillors, the Mayors Chaplain and the Clerk would also receive duty tickets
- 646.2 **Civic Service** – On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Jessop, **RESOLVED** that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements with the preference of alternating the service. Clerk
- 647 **Payment of Invoices** – On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Sanger, the schedule of payments was **APPROVED**.
- 648 **Reports of Council Working/Task & Finish Groups** –
- 648.1 **Charities** – The Trustees had reviewed proposed documentation and were awaiting further advice from the solicitors.
- 648.2 **Climate Change** – Cllr Goffey reported that the recent Coffee Morning/ Climate Workshop had been well attended with 14 representatives from different groups. Recommendations were considered as follows:
- Further consideration to be given to alternative paper in relation to reducing the quality and another local source that Cllr Goffey has located
 - On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Ireland, **RESOLVED** that coloured paper continue to be used for agendas and confidential documents.
 - On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Jessop, **RESOLVED** that a meeting outside of the Town Council remit, not needing the presence of a Clerk, be set up to discuss climate related matters not directly related to the Council.
- Climate WG
- Noted that an ‘Opt-in’ recycling scheme now being offered by Devon Contract Waste would be trialled ‘in-house’ by office staff in the near future.

648.3 Strategic Plan – Documentation relating to one of the strands had been drafted by the Clerk and would be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee in February.

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

649.1 Neighbourhood Plan Group – No meeting had been held. Cllr Leech reported that there was a possibility, following the Town Centres Meeting, that WDBC would have more input into the creation of the plan.

650 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

650.1 Okehampton Matters – Meeting due to take place.

PART TWO ITEMS

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651 CCTV – Cllr Leech provided an update following a meeting with the preferred contractor and the Clerk the previous Friday, and in relation to monitoring hubs.

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

It was possible that one of the monitoring hubs would be able to be the data controller for the recently approved bodycams for the parks staff and had offered free training on their use.

Cllr Leech was thanked for all the time he had spent working on this project and the Clerk was given authorisation to seek grant funding to assist with the costs of both installation and ongoing running of the system.

652 Town Centre Traffic and Infrastructure Survey 2018 – Correspondence from DCC advised that changes had been made to the proposals taking into account feedback provided by Members.

On the proposition of Cllr Jessop, seconded Cllr Ireland (1 abstention), **RESOLVED** to agree DCC could go ahead with the proposed public consultation, utilising the council's facilities as required, and that the Clerk promote the consultation.

Clerk

653 Town Development – Item deferred.

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

**Councillor Mrs J Yelland
Mayor**