

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 3 March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton
at 7.00 pm**

Members Present: Councillor P Vachon (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor K Ball
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor C Letchford
Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)

- 469. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor M Davies, Councillor B Stephens and Councillor T Cummings.
- 470. Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - There were no questions raised by members of the public present.
- 471. Presentation** - Connected Communities, Mrs Margaret Conkey, West Devon CVS. Mrs Conkey advised this is a new pilot project in Devon within the framework of DCC's prevention strategy. The aim of the project is to connect vulnerable adults who are not accessing the full range of available support from local voluntary and community activities and services and to provide organisations and communities with support to meet the opportunities to fill any gaps in the service. Pilot areas are Okehampton, Cullompton, Whipton Exeter, Ashburton and Modbury. It is for those over the age of 18. Briefing note issued, for further information Mrs Conkey can be contacted at the Okehampton CVS office.
- 472. West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor K Ball advised that the Council had petitioned government to reinstate the railway line through Okehampton to Tavistock. Councillor A Leech advised that businesses with a rateable value of less than £50,000 would be receiving £1,000 off their business rate, this was a two year scheme and charity shops in West Devon would be included. He also advised that the Standards Procedures were being amended.
- 473. Devon County Council** - Councillor K Ball advised various consultations re services were taking place - day centres, youth services etc. Members of the Town Council attended a meeting in connected with Puzzle Tree and Wardhayes. All encouraged to send in individual responses to the consultations. It was agreed Councillor Ball to invite Michael Lloyd of Devon County Council, Locality Lead Officer, to attend a future Town Council meeting. It was agreed that any future meetings in connection with the railway, that representatives of the Town Council should be included. Councillor K Ball left the meeting to attend another meeting.

- 474. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon -**
- 474.1 Policy and Resources Committee** - Councillor Mrs M McDonald invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 January 2014. Councillor A Leech proposed, Councillor Mrs J Goffey seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.
- 474.2 Planning Committee** - Councillor A Leech invited Members to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6 January 2014. Councillor Mrs M McDonald proposed, Councillor Dr M Ireland seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.
- 474.3 Property Committee** - Councillor Mrs J Goffey invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Property Committee held on 13 January 2014. Councillor A Leech proposed, Councillor C Letchford seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.
- 475. Full Council Meeting Minutes** - At the suggestion of the Deputy Mayor it was agreed to carry this item forward to part two of the meeting.
- 476. Matters Arising -**
- 476.1 Dementia Awareness** - Following the presentation at the previous full Council meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Goffey and seconded by Councillor D Weekes that the Council support the initiative together with assisting the town becoming a dementia-awareness town. All Councillors in agreement.
- 476.2 Simmons Homes Charity** - The Acting Clerk advised the trustee vacancy had been advertised in the Okehampton Times, to date no applications, closing date 7 March.
- 477. Investment of Funds** - In the absence of the Mayor it was agreed that the Mayor, Councillor Mrs M McDonald, Councillor C Letchford and the Acting Clerk meet prior to the next Policy and Resources Committee and full Council meeting to enable more information to be presented to these meetings. Councillor Letchford stated that the Council needed an investment strategy and this would be reviewed at that meeting.
- 478. Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor advised he had attended the following events from 3 February to 3 March 2014.
4 February - assisted Cllr Dr M Ireland with the annual visit of the University of Plymouth students to Okehampton for their field studies, also assisted by the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Mrs McDonald.
8 February - attended the opening of the sports pavilion.
17 February - guest speaker at Probus, speaking on the office of Mayor.
18 February - attended the Okehampton Rotary 50th Anniversary lunch.
Various cheque presentations.
- 479. Devon Heartlands - Rail Link Exeter to Okehampton** - After discussion it was agreed to accept the offer of the Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust to

attend a Council meeting to give a presentation outlining their project to develop the rail link between Exeter and Okehampton. Proposed by Councillor A Leech, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Goffey. It was also agreed that as the Town Council have not, at this stage, written a letter to persons and agencies in support of the reinstatement of the Exeter to Plymouth railway line via the town, that a letter be written to the government, local MP's, train operating companies etc. Proposed by Councillor D Weekes, seconded by Councillor A Leech, all Councillors in favour with one abstention.

480. West Devon Connect - It was agreed to attend the Okehampton Community Event on 12 July, proposed by Councillor A Leech, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Goffey.

481. Community Asset Register - Councillor A Leech advised West Devon Borough Council were updating the guidelines for this scheme and, therefore, the Council should wait for these to be available before progressing.

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 items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor A Leech, seconded by Councillor M Ireland.

482. Full Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting closed 8.10 pm.

Councillor M Davies
Town Mayor