

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 6 May 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton  
at 7.00 pm**

**Members Present:** Councillor M Davies (Town 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 B Stephens  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before proceeding with business, prayers were offered by Councillor Reverend M Davies.

**574. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor T Cummings.

**575. Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - None.

**576. Members' Questions** - Councillor Weekes noted the severity of the pothole by the White Hart. It was understood to have been reported.

Councillor B Stephens arrived at 7.05 pm.

**577. West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Leech noted the forthcoming workshop on 'Our Plan' and commented on the prospects for maintaining the Borough's swimming pools. Councillors Ball and Mrs Marsh commented further on leisure facilities, particularly swimming pools, within the area and the Chairman emphasised the importance of protecting Okehampton's interests. It was agreed to invite Rebecca Black to give a presentation to the Council once the first run of 'Our Town' workshops had been completed.

**578. Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball reported that consultations were in progress at various levels concerning the importance of an alternative northern rail route via Okehampton in case of closure of the Dawlish track. Councillor Ball agreed to locate a copy of the Passenger Demand Forecasting Handbook to assist the Destination Okehampton Working Group in preparing its report.

**579. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon** -

**579.1 Policy and Resources Committee meeting minutes 17 February 2014 and 17 March 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Letchford, seconded by Councillor Leech and approved.

- 579.2 Planning Committee meeting minutes 3 February, 3 March and 31 March 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Mrs Goffey, seconded by Councillor Leech and approved.
- 579.3 Property Committee meeting minutes 10 February 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Mrs McDonald, seconded by Councillor Weekes and approved.
- 579.4 Parks Committee meeting minutes 27 January 2014 and 17 March 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Ireland and approved.
- 580. Full Council** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings of 3 March and 31 March 2014 and of the Annual Town Assembly (24 March 2014) were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Goffey, seconded by Councillor Leech.
- 581. Matters Arising** -
- 581.1 Simmons Homes Charity** - There had been two applications for the current trustee vacancy. At this point Councillor Leech withdrew his application. Councillor Reverend M Davies had also submitted an application and it was therefore agreed to nominate Councillor Davies as trustee for a period of four years. It was also agreed to nominate Mr Derek Drew for a further period of four years after his current term expires in October 2014. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh and seconded by Councillor Ball.
- 581.2 Investment of Funds** - It was agreed that the Policy and Resources Committee would undertake research of suitable deposit holders and report back. Councillor Mrs McDonald noted that different strategies were required if investing for the Council as opposed to charity funds.
- 582. Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor reported on the events he had attended from 4 March to the end of the Mayoral Year (Annex A attached). He had had a meeting with the owner of an Okehampton-made clock who had indicated an intention to donate the clock to the Council.  
The Deputy Mayor had attended the opening of the Museum of Dartmoor Life which was looking much brighter and attractive for the new season.
- 583. Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Dr Ireland reported on a special meeting on 23 April which had been fully reported in the recent edition of the Okehampton Times. The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a response to the Network Rail Study Remit (West of Exeter Route Resilience Study). This response needed to focus on a strong business case, identifying the benefits to Okehampton and its hinterland. Councillor Ireland proposed that the Council support Destination Okehampton Working Group in preparing this report, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh, with all in favour.  
There was further discussion about the change of ownership of BARS and implications for the ownership of property at the station and goods yard. Councillor Ball reported that Devon County Council were involved. Councillor Mrs Goffey suggested that if the station were to be listed as a community asset, it would need to be effected by Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council.

Councillor Ireland reminded the Council there was a breakfast meeting at the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock on 16 May again focusing on the subject of the northern rail alternative.

- 584. Devon County Council Consultations** - on the County Library Service and Devon's Children's Centres were now available for participation on line. The Council resolved to make individual representations.
- 585. Schedule of Meetings 2014-15** - There was a full discussion of the proposed alternatives, covering pros and cons of double meeting sessions. In conclusion, the Council adopted the schedule at Option B, maintaining the existing meeting pattern. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Ball and approved.
- 586. Members' Reports** -
- (i) Dementia Awareness - Councillor Mrs Goffey reported on the campaign at Okehampton College and the Awareness Day planned for 11 July in Red Lion Yard.
  - (ii) Northern Parishes Links Committee - Councillor Mrs McDonald reported next meeting scheduled for 7 pm on 5 June.
  - (iii) Okehampton Matters - Councillor Mrs McDonald reported next meeting scheduled for 22 May.
  - (iv) Okehampton Vision - Councillor Vachon had reported to the Planning Committee that the scheduled meeting had been postponed, but he had attended a meeting with Councillor Andrew Leadbetter (DCC) with reference to the railway.
  - (v) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - Councillor Davies reported that the minutes of the last meeting were now confirmed and would be circulated.

## **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 Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs Yelland.

### **587. Okehampton Station**

Before the meeting closed, Councillor Ball expressed the Council's thanks to Councillor Davies for chairing the Council as Mayor over the last two years during a difficult time in the Council's history.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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**Councillor M Davies**  
**Town Mayor**