

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Annual Assembly
held at 7pm on Monday 28th March 2022 in the Charter Hall, Okehampton**

The Assembly was chaired by Councillor Tolley, Town Mayor.

In Attendance: Town Council Members; Cllr's Abbotts, Button, Holt, Ireland, Leech, Matravers, Tolley, Yelland and Wood

Tor Support Services
North Dartmoor Search & Rescue
Cllr Samuels (DCC)
Approx. 6 members of the public
Mrs E James, Town Clerk

Action

2022.01 Apologies for Absence – Apologies from Cllrs Jessop, Goffey, Marsh, Sanger and Travers were noted.

2022.02 Welcome and Introduction – The Mayor, Cllr Tolley, welcomed those present. He advised that all meetings of the Council were open to the public to attend and there were monthly Council surgeries.

2022.03 Minutes of Previous Annual Town Assembly – The Minutes of the remote Town Assembly held on 22nd March 2021 were agreed as correct on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Holt, and signed by Cllr Tolley.

2022.04 Questions from the Public to the Town Council
Written Questions – No written questions had been received.

Questions from the public – Questions raised by those present included the following:

Q. Who decided the priority of road repairs. The condition of Fore Street was poor, why was Station Road given priority.

A. Fore Street resurfacing was planned to take place within the next few months. DCC Highways were responsible for road repair and maintenance.

Q. Who was responsible for the pedestrian bridge from Lidl to North Road.

A. DCC Highways.

Q. What were the railway station footfall figures.

A. Figures exceeded GWR's expectations

Q. CCTV – are the cameras in Simmons Park operational and are there cameras in the town?

A. Cameras in the park and town were operational and footage of recent incidents was being reviewed by police. Phase 1 of the CCTV scheme was complete, Phase 2 was about to be instigated.

Q. Parkway Station progress was queried.

A. A funding bid submitted to the Levelling Up fund was unsuccessful. Another application would be submitted as soon as it was possible to do so once some amendments had been made.

(Cllr Samuels, DCC, arrived)

Q. The station reopening was 10M underbudget, could this not have been used to fund the Parkway Station.

A. Unfortunately, it was a different funding budget and OTC had been advised it was not possible.

Q. What can be done about vehicles going through the one-way system no entry sign at North Road.

A. Cllr Leech had been asking for the priority at that junction to be reviewed by HATOC.

It was commented that parking on double yellow lines was a problem in multiple areas, including Northfield Road where parking on pavements forced people with prams etc have to go around them on the road.

Q. Huge amount of housing development in the area but there was little infrastructure to support it. What was the Council doing to address this?

A. The Council was constantly highlighting the issues to the relevant authorities. The housing was virtually all outside of the Town Council boundary and within that of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. Planning permission for a lot of the building development was given some years ago.

Q. Between Limehayes Road and Hunters Gate there should be yellow lines. They are ignored everywhere.

A. Enforcement is needed by the relevant authorities.

Q. Where can the Mobile CCTV camera be used

A. The camera can be moved to pre-designated areas only as it needed to be supported on specific brackets and required an electricity supply.

2022.05 Presentation from Local Police Officer – No Officers were able to be present.

2022.06 North Dartmoor Search and Rescue – The Chairman of North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team gave a short presentation about the history and work of the team which extended from the moor to other areas. The work included searching for missing persons, mental health support and helping with major incidents such as floods.

2022.07 Tor Support Services – Chairman of Trustees gave a short presentation. The service gave free support and counselling services to young people, either face to face or virtually. An average of 45 clients per/week were seen along with emergency appointments. 128 children had been supported in last year and 196 referrals had been seen so far this academic year.

2022.08 Conclusion and Thanks – The Mayor, Cllr Tolley, thanked everybody for taking the time to attend and closed the meeting at 8.05pm

Signed as a true record of the Assembly