

Minutes of the Okehampton Town Council Policy and Resources Committee
Meeting held on Monday 23 June 2014 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs M McDonald (Chairman)
Councillor C Letchford (Vice Chairman)
Councillor K Ball
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor Mrs J Yelland
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman, Parks)

Other Members Present: Councillor D Weekes

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

88. Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors A Leech, Mrs J Goffey and M Davies.

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

90. Members' Questions - None presented.

91. Minutes - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Letchford. All in favour.

92. Matters Arising -

92.1 Investment of Funds - The Clerk advised the Committee that, to date, only CCLA seemed to provide a deposit account with a meaningful rate of interest. All other bank deposit rates were of a very low order, in the order of 0.1% - 0.15%. Councillor Letchford noted the possibility of investment with Rafaels Bank on a six month bond. The Committee agreed that it was worth further investigation. The Clerk agreed to investigate suitability of the account and report back.

92.2 Cinema Rent Deposit - The Clerk reported on the lease provisions for rent increases over the period of the lease. It was noted that the next review date for the rent was 19 October 2015. The Clerk further reported that a meeting would be arranged between the Director of Merlin Cinemas and the Chairman of the Property Committee in due course.

92.3 Parking Permits - The Clerk reported that passes were only issued for Simmons Park. There were no passes for Market Street due to the difficulty of attempting to enforce them. The terms and conditions for Simmons Park season tickets had now been amended. In response to a question about the validity or possible fraudulent use of season tickets in Simmons Park, the Clerk agreed to investigate the number of passes in use and report back to the next meeting.

92.4 Use of Logo - The Chairman reported that she, together with the Mayor, had made preliminary investigations into the use of the Town Council's crest and logo. There was no connection with any of the major families in Okehampton. Councillor Mrs Marsh recalled that some investigation had been carried out at the time of the last painting of the coat of arms on the south side of the building. Councillor Mrs Marsh agreed to investigate any reports that were written at that time and to forward for the next meeting.

93. Grant Aid -

- (i) Get Changed Theatre Company - The application to fund the purchase of equipment for self-publicity and promotional work was considered. After discussion it was agreed that some further clarification was required, whilst being supportive of the application in principle. It was agreed to defer decision on this application, pending receipt of further clarification. Proposed by Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Stephens, with all in favour.
- (ii) Okehampton and District Chamber of Trade - Upon consideration, the Committee were unclear as to the community benefit, as opposed to the commercial benefit of this application. In order to clarify the matter it was agreed to refer the matter to the next meeting for consideration, in order to allow the Chamber of Trade time for further refinement of their application. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs McDonald, with all in favour.
- (iii) Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust - The request for a grant of £120 to cover room hire for four community forums in Okehampton was approved on the basis of payment of the grant upon submission of invoices. Proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh, with all in favour.

94. Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 - The Chairman reported on Peninsula Pensions' request to Councils to confirm their position vis-à-vis certain discretionary policies to do with pensions. It was agreed to delegate the drafting of the discretionary policies to the Chairman, Councillor Cummings, and the Clerk. The resulting draft would be circulated prior to return to Peninsula Pensions.

95. Finances and Management Accounts - The Committee noted that documentation for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 had been completed and dispatched. The Clerk reported that the monthly management accounts for the current year would be circulated as soon as they were available. Councillor Letchford enquired if it were possible to include a statement of free reserves within the monthly management accounts. The Clerk would investigate.

96. Land Adjacent to Skate Park - The Committee noted comments from the Planning and Parks Committees as to whether a small piece of land adjacent to the river and the skate park might be available for sale. The Committee determined that this land was not for sale or lease and they expressed a preference to maintain this space as a small green area on approach to the skate park. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs McDonald, all in favour.

97. Members' Reports -

- (i) Chamber of Trade - Councillor Mrs Marsh reported that the next meeting would take place at Petrockstowe.
- (ii) CAB - No report.
- (iii) Fairtrade - The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged between Councillor Mrs Goffey, members of the Okehampton Fairtrade Group and the Clerk, early in the month, to consider what actions may be recommended to the Town Council to support the town's Fairtrade status.
- (iv) Okehampton Carnival Committee - Councillor Mrs Yelland reported that the preparations for this year's Carnival were running smoothly. A process was in place to manage street traders. The search continued for a Carnival King and Queen.
- (v) Okehampton College Community Forum - Councillor Mrs Marsh reported that the College had reached the semi-finals in a competition for renewable energy projects. Councillor Ball noted that the College had won a significant amount of money (approximately £150,000) for its energy saving projects.
- (vi) Okehampton & District Community Transport Group - Councillor Mrs McDonald reported that the Roadshow in the Co-op car park had received good publicity.
- (vii) Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) - The Clerk reported that he, together with Councillor Davies, had attended the recent meeting of the Larger Councils Sub-Committee. The main focus was a report on the Devon County initiative of 'Doing Things Differently'. Both representatives had been surprised to learn that Okehampton was one of four pilot towns involved in this programme, but that the Council had received no information on this to date. Councillor Ball agreed to contact the allocated County Officer and request that he make contact with the Town Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Chairman