

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 17th October 2022 at 4pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor B Tolley (Mayor)
Councillor C Marsh (Chairman, Parks Committee)
Councillor A Wood (Chairman, Property Committee)
Councillor J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources Committee)
Councillor T Abbots
Councillor C Holt
Councillor A Fisher
Councillor T Leech
Councillor B Matravers

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
Cllr Mott (WDBC)
WDBC Officer
2 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Project Team
2 Members of the Tavistock BID
Cllr Wood (Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council)

Action

Welcome was extended to Cllr Fisher who had been co-opted to the Council on 26th September and thanks were given to Debra Travers, Paul Jessop and Deborah Sanger who had recently resigned.

328 **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies tendered by Cllr Ireland, who was at a GWR conference, and Cllr Goffey were **approved** on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Wood.

Apologies from Cllr Davies (WDBC) were noted.

329 **Declarations of Interest** – None

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331 **Public Participation** – None

332 **Business Improvement District** – A jointly commissioned report by West Devon Borough Council and Okehampton Town Council to explore the feasibility of the creation of a BID in Okehampton was explained by a member of the project team.

It had been established that there was good potential for the creation of a BID but there were risks which included the rejection of a previously proposed BID and the current economic climate (cost-of-living crisis).

Questions were posed by Councillors and it was noted that at the time of the previous BID rejection there had been a Chamber of Trade operating in the town which may have contributed to the outcome.

Cllr Marsh declared an interest being a member of Everything Okehampton, of which Cllr Fisher was also a member. Everything Okehampton had taken over some of the work of the previous Chamber of Trade, including the organisation and running of the annual Edwardian Evening.

(Cllr Wood, Chairman of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council arrived)

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to continue to explore the possibility of the creation of a BID through an independent contractor in conjunction with WDBC.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to contribute 50% of the £10,000 quoted within the report for the next part of the work within Stage 1 of the process.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Members of the Tavistock BID commented that they were very pleased about the way the BID worked and they would be happy to support and offer information from their perspective. They explained how they contributed towards community events including Dickenson Evening and the Christmas Lights.

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Holt, it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

The meeting was closed at 4.30pm.

Councillor Tolley
Mayor