

Okehampton Town Council
Full Council Meeting 24th April 2023
Meeting Report

Date:	17 th April 2023
Name:	Emma James

10. Dartmoor National Park Authority - Nomination of Parish Members to DNPA Authority – to consider resolving to agree a nomination

Existing Parish Members of the DNPA cease to hold office following the elections on 4th May 2023. Nominations are being sought for Members to fill these places.

Members must be Parish Councillors, the Chairperson of Parish Meetings where there is no Parish Council, from parishes which are wholly or partly in the National Park. Nominations can only be made by a Parish Council or Meeting.

Nominations must be returned by 11th May.

12. Correspondence - To consider correspondence from a member of the public in relation to Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's restructure proposals

Dear Town Council,

I am writing following some most concerning news involving Okehampton primary school and redundancies. Both of my children attend the school and I am already aware of the large class sizes (35-38) pupils to one teacher. The Dartmoor Multi Academy trust has just announced job cuts which could see two thirds of the staff reduced in this school. This is an utterly absurd proposal in times where parents are struggling to provide for their families and schools are more heavily relied on than ever.

I cannot begin to conceive how the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust believes that this is in the best interests of any community or the children that they are obligated to serve. The Executive Team for the trust are getting paid between circa £100K-£200K a year. You know as well as I that these are not wages you relate to any occupation across Dartmoor. This is unjust, corrupt and verging on an abuse of the governing system at the detriment of the children.

I am aware that there is outrage across social media and I would like this matter to be discussed on the agenda of the next town council meeting. Preferably culminating in a statement by the town council being released on the matter.

15. Asset Register – To resolve to approve the asset register as of 31st March 2023

Okehampton Town Council
Asset Register 2022/2023
31st March 2023

Serial	Description of Asset	Location	Acquisition Date	Annual Return 2022	Additions £	Disposals £	Annual Return 2023	Insurance Value (2021/22)	Valuation £	Valuation Date	Notes
Land and Buildings											
1a	Town Hall/Charter Hall	Fore S/Market St	1974	£5,287,208.00			£5,287,208.00	3,440,562	£3,369,500.00	01/04/2019	Grade II Listed (Town Hall)
1b	Market Hall (Cinema)	Market Street	1974	£2,357,399.00			£2,357,399.00	2,407,117	£2,025,000.00	01/04/2019	
1c	Lower Market Hall (shop/offices)	Market Street	1974	£212,799.00			£212,799.00	550,176	£538,813.00	01/04/2019	
2	Granite Shelter	Simmons Park	1907	£9,115.00			£9,115.00	35,841	£35,100.00	01/04/2019	
3	Mayor's Shelter	Simmons Park	2002	£22,440.00			£22,440.00	29,887	£29,250.00	01/04/2019	
4	Park Keepers Office	Simmons Park	2002	£30,856.00			£30,856.00	53,761	£35,259.00	01/04/2019	
5	Tin Workshop	Simmons Park	2002	£30,856.00			£30,856.00	41,813	£40,950.00	01/04/2019	
6	Millennium (Jubilee) Bridge	Simmons Park	2002	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	59,734	£58,500.00	01/04/2019	Transferred to Simmons Park Charity
7	Pond Pumps	Simmons Park	2002	£7,662.00			£7,662.00	8,735	£8,606.00	01/04/2019	
8	Bus Shelters x 3	Across Town	2009	£22,880.00			£22,880.00	15,853	£15,525.00	01/04/2019	
9	Band Stand	Simmons Park	2011	£63,275.00			£63,275.00	153,623	£150,450.00	01/01/2019	
10	Clapps Wood	Off Wesbridge Street	2006	£6,703.00			£6,703.00		£6,703.00		
11	Okehampton Cemetery	Land off South Church Street	20/06/2006	£4,000.00			£4,000.00		£4,000.00		
12	Skate Park/BMX Track	Off North Street		£1.00			£1.00		£1.00		
13	Fairplace Toilets	St James Street	01/04/2019	£1.00			£1.00		£1.00	01/04/2019	Transferred from WDBC
14	Fairplace Gardens	St James Street	01/04/2019	£1.00			£1.00		£1.00	01/04/2019	Transferred from WDBC
15	Land at Westbridge	Land at Westbridge	01/04/2019	£1.00			£1.00		£1.00	01/04/2019	Transferred from WDBC
16	Land Behind Lidl	West Street	01/04/2019	£1.00			£1.00		£1.00	01/04/2019	Transferred from WDBC
17	Naturalistic Bridges x 2	Naturalistic Bridges x 2	25/03/2002	£150.00		£0.00	£0.00	1,123,220			Transferred to Simmons Park Charity
18	Land adjacent to Pig Bridge	N.East of The Coach House, EX20 1EH		£150.00			£150.00		£150.00		Transferred to Simmons Park Charity
19	Leased to Waitrose (DN454454)	School Way		£1.00			£1.00		£1.00		Title No. DN460293 (Bridge owned by others)
19	Jim the Walker Statue	11 St James Street	2003	£8,850.00			£8,850.00		£8,850.00		
				£8,055,348.00	£8,851.00	£0.00	£8,064,199.00	£8,003,930.00	£6,399,556.00		
Investments											
18	Tamar Energy Community (5000 shares @ £1p/share)		27/10/2021	£5,000.00	£0.00		£5,000.00		£5,000.00		Invested amount
Contents Vehicles and Equipment											
19	Furniture, Tools and Equipment	Town Hall and Charter Hall		£87,037.00	£0.00		£87,037.00	96,822			
20	Furniture and Equipment	Parks Office		£225.00	£0.00		£225.00	5,075			
21	Garden machinery and equipment	Simmons Park		£0.00	£520.00	£0.00	£520.00	13,164			Honda Mulch Mower
22	Play Equipment	Simmons Park & Parklands		£236,402.00	£16,061.62	£6,990.00	£245,473.62	260,446	£236,042.00		Zip Wire
23	Telephone Kiosk	Simmons Park	13/10/2011	£1.00			£1.00				Type 6 Kiosk
25	Vehicles and Attachments	Simmons Park		£39,085.00	£2,330.00	£1,300.00	£40,115.00	2,055,154.500			Benches/Picnic Bench
26	CCTV System	Simmons Park and Town		£30,828.94	£0.00		£30,828.94	60,000			
27	Street Furniture	Simmons Park and Town	Sep-21	£3,540.10	£2,545.10		£6,085.20				
29	Christmas Lights	Various	Sep-21	£23,716.52	£0.00		£23,716.52				Nov-17 Mayors Chain valued 2019
31	Noticeboards	Various	10/03/2021	£553.00	£0.00		£553.00				Nov-17
				£421,388.56	£21,456.72	£8,290.00	£434,555.28	2,055,590,007	£237,295.00		
Community Assets											
32	Civic Regalia, Artefacts & Silverware	Town Hall	1974	£319,442.00			£319,442.00	528,875	£323,192.00	Nov-17	
33	Paintings	Town Hall	Oct-21	£69,252.00	£0.00		£69,252.00	73,114	£26,250.00	Nov-17	
				£388,694.00	£0.00	£0.00	£388,694.00	601,989	£349,442.00		
				£8,870,430.56	£30,307.72	£8,290.00	£8,892,448.28	2,064,195,926	£6,991,293.00		
Leased Property											
34	Market Street Toilets	Market Street	01/12/2019								Sep-19 Leased from WDBC until Dec 2021

17. Neighbourhood Plan – To consider correspondence from the Senior Strategic Planning Officer, SHDC/WDBC, and the Neighbourhood Plan Group Chairman

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXX

As I think you know, XXXXXXXXXXXX contract with SHDC/WDBC has now finished. As from April I am taking on the neighbourhood planning role for the foreseeable future.

I understand that XXXXXXXXXXXX has had several discussions and e-mail exchanges with you over recent weeks, particularly regarding the submission of the neighbourhood plan documents. I am sure that XXXXXXXXXXXX would have told you that at this stage of the plan-making process WDBC's role is to provide advice and assistance.

Thank you for sending the proposed neighbourhood plan document on behalf of Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. You have also sent a Statement of Community Consultation.

Having reviewed the submitted documents my comments and advice are as follows. This is largely based on the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Regulation 15 stipulates that:

(1) Where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include—

(a) a map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;

(b) a consultation statement;

(c) the proposed neighbourhood development plan; and

(d) a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.

(2) In this regulation "consultation statement" means a document which—

(a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;

(b) explains how they were consulted;

(c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and

(d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

Comments (ref. above):

1 (a) - A separate map has not been provided. Please send one, or alternatively we can supply a copy.

1 (b) - The submitted 'Statement of Community Consultation' does not summarise the main issues raised by consultees and how these have been addressed. Neither does the statement detail the people and bodies who were consulted, and while there is some text of how consultation was undertaken, it does not set this out in detail. As such, where there are elements of the draft

neighbourhood plan that might be contentious at the Examination, the Consultation Statement is unlikely to provide evidence to the Examiner of how those elements were consulted upon and how any representations were taken into account and how they informed any revisions to the plan. In my opinion the Consultation Statement in its current form does not meet the requirements 2 (a) (b) (c) and (d) above. Please also bear in mind that for the next stage (Reg. 16 consultation) WDBC has to consult all of the bodies and individuals who were consulted and made comments at the previous (Reg. 14) stage – which we cannot do if they are not stipulated in the statement. If the documents are deficient so that WDBC is not able to notify all consultees or provide the Examiner with all of the Regulation 15(1) documents, the qualifying body is running the risk that following the Regulation 16 consultation either the Examiner or WDBC will decide that the Basic Conditions have not been met.

1 (c) - The proposed neighbourhood development plan (dated February 2023) has been received.

1 (d) – A Basic Conditions Statement. This should be provided as a separate document. It is currently presented as ‘Meeting the Basic Conditions’ on p.14 of the plan document. The statement as currently drafted is deficient in that it does not address fully, if at all, all of the Basic Conditions.

A further significant concern is the lack of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report. I understand that Elliott spoke to your consultant, AECOM, on Friday 27th March and they said they would further liaise with you on addressing this issue and would also explore with you if this could be secured through Locality funding (government funded resource). Please advise how this issue will be addressed. My advice is that it is better to address this issue now, rather than having to address it later and potentially having to go back a stage in the process.

I recommend that Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council, as the qualifying bodies for the plan, give careful consideration to the above points. I will be happy to provide any clarification and further advice that you may need.

If the town and parish councils wish to take the above comments and advice on-board and modify the documents and re-submit them, please do inform us accordingly. However, please note that at this stage WDBC legally has no say over the NP documents and their content or the power to decline to accept them.

If the town and parish councils wish to proceed with the plan documents in their current form, WDBC will publish the documents for public consultation under Regulation 16. This would then be followed by submission of the plan and any representations made for examination. This is an important point as it brings into question the veracity of the information currently provided and how this might be viewed by the examiner.

Please advise on how you wish to proceed. We are here to support you through the process and will be happy to advise further if required.

Kind regards,