

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 1st September 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton
at 7.00 pm**

Members Present: Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor M Davies
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Mr P R Snell (Town Clerk)

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

185. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor K Ball, Councillor T Cummings, Councillor C Letchford and Councillor D Weekes.
186. **Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - None.
187. **Members' Questions** - None.
188. **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Leech reported that it was a very quiet time at the Borough Council.
189. **Devon County Council** - No report.
190. **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon** -
- 191.1 **Property Committees held on 9 June and 14 July 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Yelland and approved.
- 191.2 **Planning Committees held on 3 June and 7 July 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Goffey and approved.
- 191.3 **Parks Committee held on 16 June 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Ireland and approved.
- 191.4 **Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 June 2014** - Adoption proposed by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Leech and approved.
192. **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 14 May, 16 June and 7 July 2014 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Ireland with all in favour.

193. **Matters Arising** - None.
194. **Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor presented a summary of his appointments and engagements over the preceding weeks.
195. **New Business Deposit Accounts** - The Council noted and endorsed the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee, ‘That one or more accounts be opened with Nationwide Building Society and that Nationwide Building Society is authorised to accept instructions or requests given by Okehampton Town Council relating to withdrawals and transfers in accordance with the signing mandate supplied. The signatories to these accounts are, until further notice, Councillors Goffey, Letchford and McDonald.’ The endorsement was proposed by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.
196. **Destination Okehampton** -
- 196.1 Councillor Ireland reported on the success of the meeting with the Minister and Mel Stride MP on 7 August. The notes of the meeting were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed. Councillor Ireland reported on the publication of the advertisement for professional consultancy applications in Rail Professional. Colin Coleman had agreed to collate responses, which would be considered by the Destination Okehampton Working Group. Councillor Ireland had also been invited by the Clerk to the Eastern and Northern Link Parishes Groups to make the Option II presentation at their next meetings. A recent meeting of the Rail Group at Plymouth University had discussed the link to Tavistock, but there had been no discussion on Option II. Councillor Leech noted that the proposed rail link to Tavistock would dissect the planned housing development and Councillor Ireland reported that this information had been forwarded to Chris Bligh and Bruce Thompson (Devon County Council).
- 196.2 Councillor Ireland reported that the business questionnaire had been amended and was now ready to circulate. He had also prepared a letter for town and parish councils inviting contributions to the consultancy fighting fund, to be circulated to all councils who were represented at the initial interest meeting of 2 June.
197. **Neighbourhood Planning** - The Council considered the working draft of the terms of reference and after discussion, agreed to the following changes to the initial draft:
- a) Membership - the core constitution of the Working Group shall be 3 Members of Okehampton Town Council, 3 Members of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and up to 6 members of the community
 - b) Section 3 Quorum of the Working Group - 7 members of the Working Group shall constitute a quorum of which at least 3 must be Council Members, to include at least 1 from each Council
- It was agreed to send the amended copy of this working draft to the Clerk of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor McDonald and agreed. With reference to the Vision and Objectives paper, it was agreed to adopt this document as a working draft ending further consideration on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Ireland and agreed.

198. **Our Plan** - It was agreed to ratify the response made to West Devon Borough Council through the Property Committee concerning the development site assessments on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor McDonald and agreed.
199. **Community Energy Feasibility Study** - The Council noted the recommendation to support the commissioning of an integrated feasibility study for Okehampton Town and Hamlets. Andrew Shadrake (Devon Association for Renewable Energy [DARE]) had informed the Council that the presentation to Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council would not now be possible within the envisaged schedule and he had suggested a course of action to prepare the groundwork for a feasibility study pending subsequent decision by Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. It was agreed to set up an interim Working Group on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Marsh and agreed.
200. **Okehampton Fairtrade Group** - The Council considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for the endorsement of action points in support of maintaining Okehampton's status as a Fairtrade town. After consideration it was agreed to endorse the action points as presented on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Yelland and agreed.
201. **Civic Dinner** - The Council agreed the proposed date for the Civic Dinner as Friday 6 March 2015.
202. **Okehampton Litter Pick** - Councillor Davies reported that an initiative of the Rivers Group and Primary School had resulted in a recommendation to have a litter-pick on 29 November 2014 as part of the Keep Okehampton Tidy campaign. The Council agreed to endorse the date and action on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.
203. **Council Vacancy** - After discussion it was agreed to refer this matter to the Policy and Resources Committee to take forward, with a view to encouraging prospective Councillors to come in to the Town Hall and see what's involved.
204. **Declaration of Interests** - The Clerk requested all Members to complete a new general notice of registrable interests, where appropriate, and return to him for forwarding to West Devon Borough Council Monitoring Officer.
205. **Members' Reports** -
- (i) Dementia Awareness - Nothing to report.
 - (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Councillor McDonald reported that a meeting was scheduled for the following week.
 - (iii) Okehampton Matters - Councillor Davies reported that minutes were awaited from the meeting and that the primary themes were those of the Pretoria extended hours, dog fouling bins, traffic management plan and assessment of speed within built-up areas.
 - (iv) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Ireland reported on a study which had been completed by a student researching the railway and Councillor Vachon reported on discussions about branding Okehampton and promoting

the town with a presentation to be circulated to the Council at some point in the future.

- (v) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - No meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8.07 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Town Mayor