

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 12 January 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton
at 7.45 pm**

Members Present:

Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
 Councillor Mrs J Goffey
 Councillor T Cummings
 Councillor Dr M Ireland
 Councillor A Leech
 Councillor C Letchford
 Councillor Mrs M McDonald
 Councillor Mrs C Marsh
 Councillor B Stephens
 Councillor B Tolley
 Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, there was a short period of silent prayer.

	Action
424. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors K Ball, M Davies and D Weekes.	
425. <u>Deferment of Business</u> - A member of the public present asked that if the Devon Heartlands Community Forum was a worthwhile forum, what could be done to make it more popular? It was noted that this was a question more appropriately to be put to the Devon Heartlands Community Forum. The Town Council was the elected forum for the Okehampton parish and had made a grant to the Forum to facilitate their meetings in Okehampton. The second question put was with reference to the reportedly poor state of external maintenance of Room 13. It was noted that this was essentially a tenant landlord matter. The Town Council had given a grant for garden improvement in the current financial year and the Mayor agreed to take the matter forward.	Mayor
426. <u>Members' Questions</u> - Nil.	
427. <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - Nothing to report after Christmas/New Year break.	
428. <u>Devon County Council</u> - As Councillor Ball was unable to be present, he had forwarded a written report which was circulated to all Members and included a comment on licences for Christmas decorations and Okehampton Station. The Council noted the report. It was agreed that the Council should continue to press its interest in the station properties during the 2015 - 2019 period. There was reference to the Council's	

<p>ongoing support for the Sunday Rover service and it was agreed to bring these matters forward to the next Devon County Council report.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>429. <u>Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon</u> -</p>	
<p>429.1 Property Committee meetings held on 13 October, 17 November and 8 December 2014 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Leech and approved.</p>	
<p>429.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 20 October and 17 November 2014 - adoption proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor McDonald and approved.</p>	
<p>429.3 Parks Committee held on 6 October 2014 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Goffey and approved.</p>	
<p>429.4 Policy and Resources Committees held on 22 September and 27 October 2014 - adoption proposed by Councillor Letchford, seconded by Councillor Goffey and approved.</p>	
<p>430. <u>Full Council Meeting Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3 November 2014 and the Special Council meetings held on 10 November and 1 December 2014 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Yelland with all in favour.</p>	
<p>431. <u>Matters Arising</u> -</p>	
<p>431.1 <u>Traffic Management Plan</u> - The Clerk reported that the specification and location of possible speed monitoring equipment had not yet been determined. Discussion with Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council was a necessary preliminary to any approach for TAP funding. Councillor Cummings reported that investigations on specification were continuing. The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for Mike Jones, Senior Traffic Engineer at Devon County Council, to brief the Council on a Traffic Management Plan for Okehampton on 9 February 2015. Concerns were expressed at the speed of traffic at the Primary School. It was agreed to take this matter for discussion at Okehampton Matters.</p>	<p>Cllr Cummings</p> <p>Okehampton Matters Representative</p>
<p>431.2 <u>Localism Agenda</u> - There had been no response from the appointed County Officer regarding the invitation to brief the Town Council on his findings.</p>	
<p>431.3 <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> - The Clerk reported on a briefing meeting with Rebecca Black, the Chairman and Clerk of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and the Mayor and Clerk of Okehampton Town Council. It was agreed that the Clerks would draft a joint councils working protocol for consideration.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>432. <u>Civic Diary Report</u> - The Mayor presented a summary of his appointments and engagements over the preceding weeks, noting in particular his attendance at the hundredth birthday celebration for Mrs Sally Walker.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>433. <u>Destination Okehampton</u> - Councillor Ireland reported on the meeting of the Destination Okehampton Working Group of 18 December. He reported further that Mr Finch had been in direct contact with Claire Perry MP's office with reference to the potential for overseas project funding. The Clerk would forward notes of the meeting in due course.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>434. <u>Budget 2015-16</u> - Noting that there would be a number of issues for further discussion, the Council resolved to approve the budget as presented on the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee. Proposed by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Stephens. (Copy of the budget as approved attached as Annex A.)</p>	
<p>435. <u>Community Energy Feasibility Study</u> - Councillor Leech, as Chairman of the Working Group, reported that a quotation from DARE had been accepted subject to satisfactory clarification on matters of contract and on capacity to feed into the National Grid. It was noted that after the initial Working Group meeting with DARE, co-option of non-council interested parties would be followed up. The Clerk to Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council had been formally elected as Secretary to the Working Group and the Town Clerk would add support where necessary.</p>	
<p>436. <u>Parish Poll Regulations</u> - The Council noted the government's intention to modernise parish poll regulations and the associated consultation document with deadline 30 January 2015.</p>	
<p>437. <u>Fees and Charges</u> - It was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>438. <u>Civic Service and Parade</u> - The Council resolved that the date for the Mayor's Civic Service and Parade in 2015 would be Sunday 28 June. Proposed by Councillor Letchford, seconded by Councillor Marsh.</p>	
<p>439. <u>Okehampton Older People's Community Services Network</u> - The Council had received an invitation from the Network to send a representative to their meetings. As information regarding this Network had just been received, it was agreed to circulate this and to discuss at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>440. <u>Correspondence to Note</u> -</p>	
<p>440.1 <u>Polar Express Road Traffic Congestion</u> - The Council had been copied into a letter of complaint sent to British American Rail Services concerning traffic congestion caused by Polar Express operations. After</p>	

	discussion it was agreed that improvements should be addressed in advance of the next season and the Mayor agreed to take the issue to the next Okehampton Matters meeting.	Action Mayor
440.2	Mill Road Car Park - The Clerk reported that a petition had been received by West Devon Borough Council on the Mill Road car park proposals. This would be the subject of a Community Services report by the Borough Council.	
440.3	Chamber of Trade - A letter of thanks had been received from the Chamber of Trade for the Town Council's support in the procurement of Christmas lights, which had attracted many positive comments this season.	
441.	<u>Civic and Ceremonial</u> - The Clerk reported that, in consultation with the current Mace Bearers, it was agreed to recommend to the Council that Mr Barry Armstrong be trained up as a relief Mace Bearer. The Council resolved to endorse the recommendation on the proposition of the Mayor, seconded Councillor Goffey. (Councillor Marsh leaves meeting at 8.55 pm.)	
442.	<u>Discussion Subject</u> - It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting and in order to allow the opportunity for the relevant Members to be present.	
443.	<u>Members' Reports</u> - (i) Dementia Awareness - Nothing to report. (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Members noted that the normal Northern Links meeting had been replaced with a Super Links meeting at which the leader of Devon County Council, Councillor Hart, had sought to explain the 'Tough Choices' implications. The general theme was cutbacks, with associated specific concerns for public transport and buses if subsidies are withdrawn. (iii) Okehampton Matters - Meeting scheduled later in the week. (iv) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Ireland reported a problem with support for this meeting as West Devon Borough Council had apparently withdrawn its administrative support for this group. Councillor Vachon reported that the minutes of the last meeting were awaited and another meeting was scheduled for the following week. (v) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - No meeting.	

The meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Town Mayor