

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Annual Assembly**  
held at 7pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the Charter Hall, Market Street, Okehampton

**In Attendance:** **Okehampton Town Council:** Cllrs Colman, Holt, Fisher, Ireland, Leech, McNeill, Richards, Tolley, Weekes, Yelland  
Mrs E James (Town Clerk), Mrs A Horn (Assistant Clerk)  
**Okehampton Youth Council:** Cllrs Kathryn and Ava  
**WDBC:** Cllrs Dexter and Jory  
**BID:** Temporary Business Manager and Board Member  
**Singing for Wellness** – 11 members  
**Members of the public:** approximately 12, Cllr Goffey (OHPC)

The Assembly was chaired by Councillor Fisher, Town Mayor.

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1     <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> – Apologies had been received from: Town Cllrs Bird, Marsh, Cummings and Hart Youth Cllrs Ellie, Niamh and Lilly 1 member of the public</p>	
<p>2     <b><u>Welcome and Introduction</u></b> – The Mayor, Cllr Fisher, welcomed those present.</p>	
<p>3     <b><u>Minutes of Previous Annual Town Assembly</u></b> – Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were agreed as correct on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Yelland, and signed by Cllr Fisher.</p>	
<p>4     <b><u>Questions from the Public to the Town Council</u></b> <b>Written Questions</b> – None  <b>Questions from the public</b> – None</p>	
<p>5     <b><u>Guest Speakers</u></b> <b>Singing for Wellness</b> – A short introduction was given by a member of the group who explained their aim. The group met weekly on Thursdays at the Pavilion in the Park. Meetings started with refreshments followed by singing and lasted for 2 hours.  The group then sang 2 songs; The Diggers’ Song and Spring is Here.  <b>Okehampton Youth Council</b> – A presentation was given by the Youth Councillors present and Mrs Horn, Assistant Clerk, highlighting the work they had done which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Playing ‘Splat the Councillor’ at Okehampton Show which they attended to raise awareness of the group</li><li>• Created a Logo with the help of a local designer, Guy Cracknell</li><li>• Obtained grants including from DCC enabling them to host a free first aid course for young people</li><li>• Walked around Simmons Park to look at safety and towards the Green Flag Award</li><li>• Participated in the Civic Service and Remembrance Parade</li></ul> <p>The objectives of the Youth Council included the opportunity for young people to have voice, obtain their views, consult with town council, develop confidence and communication skills, provide an introduction to democracy and develop pride in the community.</p> <p>Grants had been awarded from WDBC Cllr Dexter, and DCC Lois Samuel Visitors to meetings had included Barnstaple Town Council, the DCC</p>	

Engagement Officer, WDBC, an OTC Cllr, Okehampton Links magazine.

Future plans were to meet with and interview the CEO of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and assist with the BMX/skatepark improvement consultation.

**Okehampton Business Improvement District** – The temporary Business Manager and a Member of the Board gave an oversight into the work of the BID to date and future plans. Interviews for a BID Manager had taken place. Initial work had focused on the establishment of the Board in a way that ensuring a spread of representation across the business community from both the town centre and industrial estates.

Over the first few months, communication to levy payers had been through newsletters. In the lead up to Christmas the BID had started marketing the town and were working more closely with Visit Okehampton who were now being paid to ensure time could be spent on this aspect of the BID strategy.

Christmas and the current Easter trail had been arranged with the aim of bringing families into the town and businesses, encouraging more footfall. A free training scheme for levy payers and their employees was about to be launched. £10K had been received from the UK prosperity fund to enable purchase of new Christmas lights, the existing having been transferred to them from the Town Council.

- 6** **Conclusion and Thanks** – No further questions were forthcoming. The Mayor, Cllr Fisher, thanked everybody for taking the time to attend and closed the meeting at approximately 7.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the Assembly.

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