

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 2 March 2015 in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

Members Present: Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rev'd M Davies
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor T Leech
Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Councillor Rev'd M Davies

	Action
536 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Ball, Cummings, Letchford, Stephens and Weekes.	
537 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - .	
537.1 Strategic Review of Leisure Centres in West Devon – The Mayor welcomed Mr Ross Kennerley, (Natural Environment and Recreation Manager, West Devon Borough Council) who spoke about the Borough's Strategic Leisure Review and potential implications for Parklands. Councillor Marsh declared an interest, also at item 550, as Chairman of the Borough Council's Review Group. Mr Kennerley explained that the Borough Council were seeking a process by which the leisure centres in West Devon would be managed on a group basis for up to 25 years. Detailed figures for Parklands were not available for contractual reasons. WDBC were looking for the most affordable way of delivering the service and offered the Town Council a more detailed discussion, although the Council would need to take their own advice on viability, pros and cons.	
537.2 There were no members of the public present	
538 <u>Members' Questions</u> - None presented.	
539 <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> – Councillor Leech reported on the consultation phase of the Borough Council's 'Our Plan', noting that the consultation roadshow would be at the Charter Hall in Okehampton on Wednesday 4 March.	

540 **Devon County Council** – Councillor Ball had submitted an emailed report, due to his absence. The report included:

- Confirmation of county council tax increase of 1.99%
- Funding to retain lollipop patrols and road gritting status-quo for a further year
- Confirmation that the Sunday Rover would continue for a further season
- Funding to support dedicated ‘town’ bus services.

Questions for the DCC Member included:

- What Section 106 funding remained for community use?
- Was the additional funding sustainable or a one-off?
- What was the Member doing to seek funding to maintain local services?
- What was the future of the commercial bus service (7B) – understood now to be retained for 3 years

It was agreed the Clerk would communicate these questions for response.

Clerk

541 **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Questions from Members thereon:**

541.1 **Property Committee** meetings held on 1 December 2014 and 5 January 2015 – adoption proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded Councillor McDonald and agreed.

541.2 **Planning Committee** meetings held on 15 December 2014 and 26 January 2015 – adoption proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Goffey and agreed.

541.3 **Policy and Resources Committee** meetings held on 12 and 19 January 2015 – proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.

542 **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 2 February 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Ireland and agreed.

543 **Matters Arising – Dartmoor National Park Authority Council Workshop.** Councillor Cummings had reported that he was now unable to attend the workshop scheduled for 11 March. It was agreed that Councillor Weekes would fill the vacancy created.

544 **Civic Diary Report** – The Mayor reported that there had been fewer civic functions since the last report, but there had been a number of coffee mornings and presentations of Council grant cheques. Councillor Goffey had deputised at a civic event in Bideford. The Mayor and Councillor Ireland had also hosted a visit of Plymouth University students.

- 545 Simmons Home Charity** – The Clerk to the Charity had notified the Council that Councillor Webber was due for retirement in May and was willing to stand for a further term if the Council were in agreement. It was resolved to nominate Councillor Derek Webber for a further term of four years until May 2019 on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Ireland.
- 546 Standing Orders** – The Council noted the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee. After discussion, it was agreed to adopt the revised Standing Orders as presented, together with the Protocol on the Filming and Recording of Town Council and Committee Meetings on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Leech.
- 547 Review of Policies** – The Policy and Resources Committee, having reviewed the following policies, recommended for adoption:
- 547.1 Risk Assessment Management** – resolved to adopt on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Yelland;
- 547.2 Statement of Internal Control** – resolved to adopt on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Leech;
- 547.3 Investment Strategy** – resolved to adopt on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor McDonald.
- 548 Neighbourhood Planning** – The Council considered and resolved to adopt the Joint Councils' Working Protocol between Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council to initiate a process for a Neighbourhood Plan on the proposition of Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Leech.
- 549 Destination Okehampton** – Councillor Ireland reported on the following points:
- Mr Brian Finch's enquiry relating to overseas rail funding had been addressed by the Department for Transport and he had been referred to Councillor Leadbetter, Devon Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth.
 - Councillor Ireland was due to attend a meeting at Bude-Stratton Town Council to discuss rail connectivity.
 - Despite Okehampton Town Council being the lead council in pursuing reinstatement of the northern rail alternative, there had been no invitation to attend the Peninsula Rail Task Group. This was considered a serious omission, and the Councillor Ball's intervention was requested to correct the situation.
- A letter on behalf of Okement Rivers Improvement Group had been circulated and the Council had agreed that the issues concerning litter in supermarket car parks should be taken up by Destination Okehampton. It was noted that litter had become a prevalent problem in the town, and

Clerk

Councillor Ireland confirmed that the matter would be on the next Destination Okehampton agenda.

550 Discussion on proposed strategy for Leisure Centres in West Devon - It was agreed that Mr Kennerley had provided a helpful account of the strategy but that more information was required. It was agreed to discuss further in Part Two, due to contractual information.

551 Public Transport Review Consultation – Sampford Courtenay Parish Council had suggested a joint council meeting to discuss a response to the DCC Public Transport Review. It was agreed to refer this to the next Northern Links meeting, which provided a suitable forum for such matters.

Clerk

552 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) Dementia Awareness – no meeting
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – Meeting scheduled 19 March.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - No meeting
- (iv) Okehampton Vision Steering Group – Meeting scheduled for 4 March.
- (v) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group – Meeting scheduled for 16 March.

PART TWO ITEMS

It was resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.

Action

550 Leisure Centre Strategy with reference to Parklands

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor