

Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Tuesday 5 May 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 K Ball
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Rev'd M Davies
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 D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

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

	Action
654 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - All in attendance.	
655 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no questions or comments from the members of the public present.	
656 <u>Members' Questions</u> - Councillor Ireland asked if there was any news about the 318 bus service. It was agreed to include this item in the County Councillor's report.	
657 <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - Councillor Leech reported that the changes in staffing at the Borough Council were taking effect, with the certainty of more cost-saving measures to be implemented.	
658 <u>Devon County Council</u> - Councillor Ball reported on the following matters, which he agreed to summarise and email for circulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road network - in desperate need of additional funding, even to maintain the current state of repair. Winter gritting to be maintained for a further year.• Consultation launched on waste plan.• DCC was trying to engage with communities through locality officers.• Opportunity Okehampton site now advertised - inviting expressions	

of interest.

- Bus service 318 - consultation finished in April with input to be evaluated. No decisions taken to date.
- Footbridge at Fatherford - part of a larger grant involving 'access to Dartmoor'. There was no local input to design or (colour) finish.

Questions for the DCC Member included:

- Would the County Member raise the matter of reported unreliability of the 318 bus service with the operator?
- At the 'superlinks' meeting it had been made clear by the Council Leader that bus services would be considered on the basis of profitability and that there would be no subsidies in the future. Was this still the case?

659 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Questions from Members thereon:

659.1 Property Committee meeting held on 23 February 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor McDonald and agreed.

659.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 9 February, 9 March and 30 March 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor McDonald, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.

659.3 Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 16 February and 16 March 2015 - proposed by Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Cummings and agreed.

659.4 Parks Committee meetings held on 26 January and 9 March 2015 - proposed by Councillor March, seconded Councillor Goffey and agreed.

660 Full Council Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 2 March 2015 and the special Council meetings held on 30 March and 7 April 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor McDonald and agreed.

661 Matters Arising - none.

662 Civic Diary Report - The Mayor had included a written report of his Civic and Mayoral activities from early March to date.

663 Mayors Awards 2015 - The Mayor noted the proposals for the current Mayor's Awards and agreed to confirm nominees the following day.

664 Signatories to Nationwide Business Account - The Clerk advised that it would be prudent for the Council to nominate additional signatories to the Nationwide Business accounts, as two of the three current signatories were

Town
Mayor

not standing for election. The Council resolved to nominate Councillors Ireland, Leech, Marsh and Tolley as new signatories (returned uncontested for Okehampton North Ward) in addition to Councillor Goffey as existing signatory. Proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.

Clerk

665 Reports from Working Groups:

665.1 Destination Okehampton - Councillor Ireland reported that notes from the meeting on 24 March had been circulated and that observation of the litter problem had been started. As there was currently little knowledge about the future of the Sunday Rover services, the Group had drafted a connections timetable for publication and inclusion on the Council's website. On behalf of the Council, he had attended a seminar on rural rail services.

665.2 Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Leech reported that the Application for Designation of Area was being processed at West Devon Borough Council. A meeting of the Group was scheduled for 14 May.

665.3 Renewable Energy Feasibility Study - Councillor Leech reported that the study funding had been received, to be administered by Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. The Study was now being progressed by the Consultants (DARE) who were assembling a list of potential sites.

665.4 Traffic Management Plan for Okehampton - Currently awaiting further meeting with County Engineer on the potential scope of the Plan.

666 Co-option to Casual Council Vacancies - Councillor McDonald reported on the work that had been undertaken to revise the procedure for co-options to casual councillor vacancies. After discussion, it was agreed to adopt the revised information pack and procedure (as circulated 20 April 2015 and noting minor amendments) on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Yelland.

667 Publication of Attendance at Council Meetings - The Clerk reported on the methodology employed to produce councillor attendance statistics for the preceding year (until late March). The Council agreed that it wished to publish this information (to include only councillor name and percentage of meetings attended) on the website and to prepare attendance statistics for availability at Annual Town Assembly, this on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Goffey.

668 Correspondence. An email had been received from a member of the public concerning a parking penalty received whilst parked in a loading bay and an opinion as the effect on trading in the town. Discussion revealed that legislation concerning loading bays was unambiguous, that a loading bay was a restricted area for use by certified trades only and there was no

'grace' period permitted for inadvertent use of the bay. No further action.

669 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) Dementia Awareness - no meeting.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Councillor Cummings reported that the meeting in March had been poorly attended, covering TAP funding, parish feedback from the Road Warden scheme, the application of Section 106 funding criteria and the disproportionately large area of the SW links group. Councillor Ball added that Simon Kitchen and Sonia Burgess would attend the next meeting to talk about Locality Leads
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - meeting cancelled and no date re-scheduled.
- (iv) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Vachon reported that the last meeting had included discussion of the Older People's Services Network, an energy partnership, young people's issues and representation from DCC and WDBC, noting that WDBC had withdrawn both venue and clerking from this group, with the matter to be taken up with Steve Jorden.
- (v) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - Meeting in March with notes to be circulated.

670 Chairman's Closing Comments - As this was the last full Council meeting of the current term, the Mayor expressed his thanks to all councillors, whether continuing or candidates in the forthcoming election. He thanked, in particular, the councillors who were standing down from the Town Council this time: Councillors Ball, Davies, Letchford and McDonald for their services over the years.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor