

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Annual General Meeting/Mayor Choosing held on
Wednesday 20 May 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Fore Street, Okehampton at 12 noon**

Members Present: Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Mr P R Snell (Town Clerk)
Mace Bearers
Invited Guests

Before proceeding with business, a welcome was offered by the current Town Mayor and prayers were offered by the Mayor Elect's Chaplain, Father Darline Marianathan.

1. **Election of Town Mayor** - It was proposed that Councillor P Vachon serve as Mayor for the coming year by Councillor Mrs Cushing, seconded by Councillor Cummings. All Councillors were in favour. Councillor Vachon then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor.
2. **Election of Deputy Town Mayor** - Councillor Mrs J Goffey. Proposed by the Town Mayor, Councillor Vachon and seconded by Councillor Mrs Yelland. All Councillors were in favour. Councillor Goffey then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Town Mayor. The Deputy Town Mayor responded with a short speech.
3. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor Rush.
4. **Town Mayor** - Councillor Vachon referred to highlights of the past year, thanking the Town Clerk and Council staff team as well as retiring Councillors for the work that had been achieved. He identified priorities for the year ahead including the Neighbourhood Plan, Feasibility Study for Renewable Energy Projects, the continuing co-operation between Town and Hamlets Councils and introduction of a Charter Day. Councillor Vachon thanked the Mayor's Cadet, Cadet Corporal Shaw for fulfilment of his duties in the last 12 months and was pleased to announce that the Mayor's Cadet for the next year would be Cadet Charlotte Farrington. Councillor Vachon then presented cheques (each of £506) to the Mayor's Charities for the past

year: Royal British Legion, Ocmundtune and Toilet Twinning. This year Councillor Vachon awarded Mayor's Award Certificates to Mr Chris Bligh for contributions and professional advice to the Council in support of the reinstatement of a Northern Rail Option; to Mr & Mrs John Holland for their input to music in the community through Okehampton Choral Society and to the Volunteer Team staffing the Museum of Dartmoor Life and Tourist Information Point (Certificate received on behalf of the Team by Brenda Hague and John Lloyd).

5. **Expenses of the Office of Mayor** - To endorse a payment of an allowance of £2,150 to enable the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to defray the expenses attached to this office in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Ireland. All Councillors in favour.

6. **Committees of the Council** -

- 6.1 It was agreed to appoint Councillors to the following Committees for the ensuing year: Parks, Planning, Policy and Resources, Property, Emergencies (Mayor and Committee Chairs) as set out in the schedule at Annex A to these minutes, proposed en bloc by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Goffey.

- 6.2 To elect Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the Standing Committees as follows:
Parks - Chairman Councillor Marsh, proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Tolley. Vice Chairman of Parks - Councillor Ireland, proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Tolley.
Planning - Chairman Councillor Leech, proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Stephens. Vice Chairman - Councillor Cummings, proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Leech.
Policy and Resources - Chairman Councillor Stephens, proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Goffey. Vice Chairman - Councillor Yelland, proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Marsh.
Property - Chairman Councillor Goffey, proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Leech. Vice Chairman - Councillor Carpenter, proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Yelland.

7. **Working Groups** - The Council currently had representation on the following Working Groups which reported to the full Council:

- Okehampton and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan Group (community group with representation from Okehampton Town and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Councils),
- Okehampton Renewables Working Group - Joint Councils Feasibility Study (Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council) with co-opted community representatives,
- Okehampton Traffic Management Plan - currently Town Council-led Working Group.

The representation to these Working Groups was agreed in accordance with the schedule set out at Annex B to these minutes on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Weekes with all in agreement.

8. **Representatives on Other Bodies** - It was agreed to appoint Councillors as representatives of this authority to Other Bodies in accordance with the schedule set out at Annex C to these minutes on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Marsh.
9. **Council and Committee Schedule of Meetings 2015-16** - It was resolved to adopt the schedule of meetings for the ensuing year as set out at Annex D to these minutes on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded by Councillor Leech.

The Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12.30 pm and welcomed all to a buffet lunch in the Charter Hall.

Councillor P Vachon
Town Mayor