

Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 1 June 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 Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs J Cushing
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Father Darline Joseph.

		Action
10	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Tolley.	
11	<u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no members of the public present.	
12	<u>Members' Questions</u> – Councillor Marsh asked if the total raised by the Mayor for his charities had been determined. The Mayor confirmed that, to date, a total of £2,518 had been distributed between the three charities. Councillor Marsh asked if there was a reason to have planned two full Council meetings in June. The Clerk responded that the present meeting was the first after Mayor Choosing/Annual General Meeting and the second was necessary due to the statutory requirement to approve the Annual Return prior to submission to the Auditor on 24 June.	
13	<u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - Councillor Davies reported that he had taken up a complaint concerning the emptying of the dog bin on the Ball Hill footpath, which was now being addressed by Street Scene. He was also addressing a complaint concerning litter in the Waitrose Car Park. Councillor Leech reported that training was in progress for new borough councillors.	
14	<u>Devon County Council</u> - No report as the Member was not present.	
15	<u>Full Council Meeting Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 5 May 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Yelland and agreed.	

16	<u>Matters Arising:</u>	
16.1	Town representation on external bodies - The Clerk had emailed West Devon Borough Council with reference to future support for Okehampton Matters and the Okehampton/West Devon Borough Council Liaison Meetings. No answer as yet. With reference to the Battle of the Bands, the committee had not specifically asked for Council representation and suggested forwarding minutes of meetings for circulation to Members. At present, there was no response to similar letters sent to the Twinning and Dementia groups.	
16.2	Support for the transfer of assets programme - The Clerk had investigated the possibility of professional brokerage services for the transfer of assets project, but the required input appeared likely to far exceed any possible benefit and no formal application had therefore been made.	
17	<u>Civic Diary Report</u> - The Mayor circulated a list of events attended during May.	
18	<u>North Ward Vacancy following an Election</u> - The Mayor outlined the options for co-option to the single seat, noting that the procedure to a casual vacancy was not necessarily appropriate in this case. After discussion, it was resolved to advertise the vacancy and to amend the application form appropriately, this on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland.	Clerk
19	<u>Draft Recommendations on the new Electoral Arrangements for Devon County Council</u> - The draft recommendations were discussed, noting that the overall effect was a reduction in the number of councillors by two. As the consultation was due to close on 6 July, it was agreed that Members would forward their comments to the Mayor, through the Clerk, by no later than 20 June.	All
20	<u>Invitation to nominate to the DALC County Committee</u> - After consideration, it was agreed to nominate Councillor Christine Marsh for election to the DALC County Committee on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Ireland.	Clerk
21	<u>Nomination to Council Committees</u> - Councillor Weekes had asked to be a member of the Planning and Policy & Resources Committees in addition to the other Standing Committees with immediate effect. The request was endorsed on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Cummings and agreed.	
22	<u>Reports from Working Groups:</u>	
22.1	Destination Okehampton - Councillor Ireland reported that, while there had been no formal meetings, members of the working group had produced an	

information leaflet showing rail connectivity using the Sunday Rover service, funded by himself in order to progress the project. Members of Destination Okehampton were currently contacting newly elected MPs in the area (including North Cornwall) to bring them up-to-date on the Northern Alternative Rail Option.

22.2 Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Leech reported that the Application for Designation of Area was being processed at West Devon Borough Council. A smaller group was working on a launch event and was due to report to the full Group the following week.

22.3 Renewable Energy Feasibility Study - Councillor Leech reported that the consultants were continuing their investigations.

22.4 Traffic Management Plan for Okehampton - It was agreed that the Working Group needed to meet urgently.

23 Protocol for Okehampton & Hamlets Neighbourhood Planning Group to incur expenditure - The Clerk reported that, having consulted with the Clerk to the Hamlets, he had drafted a protocol to permit the Group to incur limited and minor expenditure on behalf of the Councils, to be drawn from the budgeted provision made by each Council. (See Annex A). The Protocol was agreed without modification on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Weekes.

24 Civic Service 2016 - The Council agreed to set the date of the 2016 Mayor's Civic Service and Parade for 26 June 2016.

25 Local Council Award Scheme - The Clerk reported that this scheme had replaced the Quality Council Awards Scheme and required new registration at a cost of £50. After discussion, it was resolved that the Council should register for the new scheme at Foundation Level and seek to determine what additional costs would be attached to the process of accreditation, this on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Marsh.

Clerk

26 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Next meeting in July.
- (ii) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Vachon reported that the last meeting had included discussions on branding, clerking support for the Group (nothing further from West Devon Borough Council), energy partnership, the older people's network, policing in Okehampton and modification of the Vision Statement. Councillor Cushing added there had been discussion on the status of Homes such as Allan House and the future of Wardhayes.

The meeting was closed at 8.07 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor