



Okehampton Town Council

Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1AA

01837 53179
www.okehampton.gov.uk

**Minutes of an Okehampton Town Council Planning Committee Meeting
held on 19th October 2026 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present:

Councillor T Leech (Chairman)	Councillor L Bird (Chairman, Property)
Councillor M Ireland (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor B Tolley (Chairman, Parks)
Councillor T Cummings	
Councillor M Ricketts	
Councillor J Yelland	

In Attendance:

Mrs E James (Clerk)

The meeting was livestreamed through the Council Facebook page.

303. Apologies for Absence

On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Cummings it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies tendered by Cllr Colman (prior commitment).

304. Declarations of Interest

None

305. Public Participation

None

306. Members' Questions

A complaint had been received about buses being unable to stop in the designated bus stop in Fore Street because of other vehicles blocking the space.

307. Minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Cummings and seconded by Cllr Tolley it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd and 17th August, 7th September for signing by the Chairman.

308. Planning Applications for Consideration

0505/26/VAR Application for variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 7 (Landscaping) and 9 (Boundary Treatments) of planning consent 0938/2015 (Appeal Ref: APP/Q1153/W/17/317503). Maynebrooke Heights, Castle Road, Okehampton

On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Ireland (1 abstention) it was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT to the application on the following grounds:

- The footpath is now very steep and there is a danger to the public when coming out onto the road, particularly if they are on cycles, mobility scooters and for prams or other wheeled forms of transport.
- The negative design impact the parking area has on the footpath and the surrounding landscaping

- The footpath is no longer in its original location
- Details about protection of the footpath have not been provided and there is potential for its obstruction by vehicle parking

309. Planning Applications for Information

2738/26/PAD Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed demolition of former garden centre and commercial buildings
Pift Ltd 52, North Road Industrial Estate Okehampton EX20 1BQ

310. Planning Authority Decisions

The decisions were noted.

311. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Recent presentation by WDBC had explained the new process which would take effect from 1st November 2026. Planning Officers would make most of the decisions and WDBC Cllrs would only get 3 working days to respond and would not have any input in asking for an application to be brought into committee. Town and parish councils would still be a consultee and able to submit a comment. WDBC had been asked to provide an updated list of the material considerations, although it was understood the changes would not be substantial.

312. Traffic Waiting Restrictions

Correspondence from Cllr Grainger requesting suggestions for changes to waiting restrictions in Okehampton was considered and some suggestions were made. It was commented that lack of enforcement of current restrictions was at times an issue.

On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Rickets it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask all Cllrs for suggestions which would be forwarded Cllr Grainger for consideration. The suggestion would need to be sent to the Clerk for forwarding by 26th October and must include a photograph of the area and information about the issue.

313. Payment of Invoices

Comments were made about the invoice for the Town Passport which had been well received, and adults had found as interesting as children had, and the invoice for electrical work in the park which had previously been approved by the council/parks committee. On the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded by Cllr Bird it was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments, the BACS payments totalling £41,188.81 exclusive of VAT and including October salaries.

314. Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items

314.1 Citizens Advice

Cllr Leech had received information earlier in the day, the 6-month impact report was not yet finalised. An additional fulltime advisor to cover Tavistock and Okehampton for face-to-face and digital support was being provided.

It was commented that the organisation was actively recruiting for Tuesday volunteers to offer face-to-face and digital support.

314.2 Devon Communities Together

There was no update to report upon, and emails received had been circulated.
Cllr Cummings was attending a briefing later in the week.

314.3 Ockment Centre

Cllr Leech reported that the police had been involved in a recent anti-social behaviour issue.

314.4 Okehampton & Area Health & Wellbeing Alliance (CVS)

Cllr Yelland provided an update advising she was unable to attend as meetings were generally on Thursdays. On 7th November a Wellbeing Fair was being held in the Charter Hall.

314.5 Okehampton & District Community Transport Group

The AGM had been held earlier in the month, only 3 people had attended. It was commented that those who attend are able to vote. Finance was noted as the biggest issues and grants available grants were diminishing and getting harder to obtain. The organisation now had more clients and drivers. Biggest cost was fuel.

114.6 Rail Forum (previously Oke Rail)

Cllr Ireland reported on a number of items:

- Travel Watch South West meeting on 9th October
- Connect Bude AGM on 17th October
- Connect Bude meeting on 20th October
- Rail Forum meeting on 22nd October
- Copies of passenger rail timetables were available from the Town Hall along with bus timetables

314.7 Rural Market Town Group

Cllr Leech had attended a recent meeting from which information had been circulated earlier in the day about youth councils, including a comment from a Devon town council who had advised they had visited this Council before setting one up themselves.

315. Urgent Business

Asset of Community Value – The nomination by a local group for Wonnacotts Meadow to be listed as an Asset of Community Value had been approved by WDBC.

PART TWO – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

316. On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Tolley 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 items which are CONFIDENTIAL by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council.

317. Enforcement Issues

The most recent list of ongoing cases and those that had been closed were noted.

318. Highways Matters

Information received from Cllr Grainger was noted.

On the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded by Cllr Ireland it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders and the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.28pm.

Cllr Leech, Committee Chairman