

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 22 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 V Cushing
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance:

P R Snell (Town Clerk)
Councillor K Ball (Devon County Council & West Devon
Borough Council)
Councillor Rev'd M Davies (West Devon Borough
Council)

Before business, prayers were offered by Cllr Rev'd Davies.

56. Apologies for Absence - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Ireland and Rush.

57. Deferment of Business -

57.1 Local Policing Issues - Inspector Mark Sloman gave a brief presentation as the Area Inspector, summarising the resources available in Okehampton and the immediate area. Inspector Sloman commented that opportunity theft from vehicles on Dartmoor was now prevalent and that the police were beginning engagement in social media. The following observations were made in the course of the following discussion:

- Local takeaways - public order offences had been committed and were being charged.
- Although crime was reducing, there was an increase in violent crime.
- It was noted that there was considerable difficulty in contacting the police on the routine number of 101.
- The loss of the front office at Okehampton Police Station along with others was presenting a noticeable difficulty for members of the community.
- Okehampton Matters was continuing.

Action

- Councillors had the opportunity to email Inspector Sloman directly in case of need.

To conclude, the Mayor thanked Inspector Sloman for his presentation and the ensuing discussion. Inspector Sloman left the meeting.

57.2 No members of the public present.

58. **Members' Questions** - Nil.

59. **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Davies reported that he had taken up a complaint concerning an overflowing litter bin at Waitrose car park. On investigation, it was found that the rogue bin was owned by Waitrose, but had not been collected. It had now been replaced with a West Devon Borough Council cover.

Officers were currently working on the planning portal in an effort to address the failure.

Councillor Davies reported that councillors had complained about the amount of time taking to answer the phones at the Borough Council. Councillor Leech added that Locality Officers and Managers were supposed to be mainly in post by 23 June.

60. **Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball had provided a written report covering Fatherford Bridge, Okehampton Business Park update, the subsidised bus service draft changes, and archaeological excavations at Lifton Fort.

Town Council Members raised the issue of the 318 service, noting that it was a significant aid, not only to elderly residents, but also to children in providing a school service. Councillor Ball reported that the situation he had reported was not conclusive, but was likely to be the outcome. The Mayor asked Councillor Ball to keep the Council informed of the latest developments, particularly with reference to the 318 service. (Councillor Ball left the meeting at 7.40 pm.)

61. **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and the Opportunity to Receive Questions from Members Thereon** -

61.1 The minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 20 April 2015 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.

61.2 The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 13 April 2015 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Weekes and agreed.

62. **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 20 May and 1 June 2015 were agreed on the proposition of

	Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Stephens.	Action
63.	<u>Matters Arising</u> -	
63.1	New Electoral Arrangements for Devon County Council - The Mayor reported that he had received no comments from Members concerning the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Devon County Council.	
63.2	Co-option of Councillor - The Clerk reported the vacancy had been published and information on how to apply was on the website and notice boards. A Special Full Council meeting would be scheduled for 6 July to consider applications received.	
64.	<u>Civic Diary Report</u> - The Mayor circulated a list of events attended during June. Councillor Goffey added that she had deputised for the Mayor at events at Castle Drogo and South Molton for May Queen Day.	
65.	<u>Annual Return and Accounts for Financial Year ended 31 March 2015</u> -	
65.1	Accounting Statements for 2014/15 - The accounting statements, having been previously considered by the Policy & Resources Committee, were now recommended for agreement by the full Council on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland. It was resolved to agree the accounting statements for 2014/15.	
65.2	Annual Governance Statements - The Annual Governance Statements for 2014/15 were agreed unanimously on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland.	
66.	<u>Charter Day</u> - The Mayor proposed that a Charter Celebration in the form of a market day be held on a day in late September and invited assistance to form a Working Group. Councillors Leech, Weekes and Davies (WDBC) agreed to join the Working Group to progress this initiative.	Cllr Vachon
67.	<u>Election of a Nominated Trustee to Okehampton United Charity</u> - The Council considered the letter received from the Clerk to the Trustees of Okehampton United Charity and agreed to nominate Councillor Dr Michael Ireland for a further period of four years commencing 23 October 2015 on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Stephens.	
68.	<u>Reports from Working Groups</u> -	
68.1	Destination Okehampton - No report.	

		Action
68.2	Neighbourhood Plan Group - The nominated representatives reported that there was a meeting the following day, a current focus on recruiting more members of the public, and discussion of the voluntary role of secretary to the group. A launch event for the Neighbourhood Plan had been scheduled for 25 July in order to inform the public and to augment the committee to take the project forward.	
68.3	Renewable Energy Feasibility Study - Councillor Leech reported that at the meeting on 18 June a first sorting of possible sites had taken place. It had been anticipated, and was proving to be the case, that discussion with Western Power with reference to grid capacity and the Environment Agency with relation to small-scale hydro projects was not easy to establish.	
68.4	Traffic Management Plan - The Working Group was scheduled to meet the following Wednesday and a written report would be prepared for the next Council meeting.	
69.	<u>Policy for use of the Town Seal</u> - After discussion, it was agreed that the town seal should be used only for formal purposes in accordance with Standing Order 22 on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Yelland. The Mayor agreed to investigate a supplementary Town Council mark for use in less formal circumstances.	Cllr Vachon
70.	<u>Additional Signatories for Bank Accounts</u> - It was agreed to add Councillors Stephens, Yelland and Tolley to the list of Councillors currently authorised as signatories to the Council's bank accounts on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Cummings.	
71.	<u>Members' Reports and Reminders for Agenda Items</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting. (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Meeting scheduled for 2 July. It was agreed that the police statistics included with the agenda information for the Northern Links be circulated to all Members for information. (iii) Okehampton Older People's Community Services Network - No meeting. (iv) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - No meeting 	Clerk

The meeting was closed at 8.22 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Town Mayor