

**Minutes of the Okehampton Town Council Policy and Resources Committee held on
Monday 21 September 2015 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Councillor B Stephens (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chairman, Property)
Councillor A Leech (Chairman, Planning)

Other Members Present: Councillor Miss C Holt

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
191 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings, Marsh and Weekes.	
192 <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no members of the public present.	
193 <u>Members' Questions</u> - None presented.	
194 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Monday 17 August 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Tolley and agreed.	
195 <u>Matters Arising</u> - Review of Financial Standing Orders. The Chairman reported that the review was ongoing and would be reported on at the next meeting.	
196 <u>Grant Applications</u> -	
196.1 Meldon Viaduct Company Ltd - The Committee considered a request to contribute £500 to the upkeep of the Meldon Viaduct. After discussion, it was resolved to award a grant of £500 under Section 137 (LGA 1972) on the proposition of Councillor Vachon, seconded Councillor Goffey and to ask for information on works and maintenance planned for the future.	
196.2 North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team - (Councillor Vachon declared a personal interest). A request had been received for a grant of £500 towards the purchase of an inverter generator for the mobile control vehicle. It was resolved to award a grant of £500 under Section 137 (LGA 1972) for the purpose specified on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Tolley.	

196.3 Get Changed Theatre Company - The Committee considered an application for a grant towards the cost of production of a 2015 Annual Review Yearbook. Under the provision of Section 137 (LGA 1972) it was agreed to award a grant of £300 to Get Changed Theatre Company and to ask for an acknowledgement in the resulting publication on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Goffey.

197 Grant Acknowledgements and Feedback Forms Received - The Clerk reported that an updated 'dashboard' for the CAB operation at Okehampton had been received. Members agreed it would be helpful to include specific statistics to show the number of Okehampton residents advised. A Feedback form had also been received from OCRA.

Clerk

198 Finances -

198.1 Management Accounts - The Committee considered the management accounts for the month ended 31 August 2015. It was noted that the current debtors report was being kept under review. Adoption of the management accounts was agreed by the Committee on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Vachon.

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the auditors that the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 had been signed off, with a note about the financial standing orders under review. The Committee expressed their thanks to the staff involved in preparing a clean set of accounts.

198.2 Rail Resilience EMR - (Councillor Leech declared a personal interest). The Clerk reported on the expenditure incurred on behalf of Rail Resilience project and activity. It was agreed that the sum of £308.53 be agreed for expenditure from the Rail Resilience Earmarked Reserve on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Yelland.

Clerk

199 Training Courses Attended - Councillors Cushing, Holt and Rush had attended a day course designed for new councillors and found it both full and valuable. It was noted that the memory sticks issued took no account of councillors who were not computer-literate. The Clerk reported that he had attended a detailed training session on Cemetery Legal Compliance.

200 Banking Matters -

200.1 Financial Services Compensation Scheme - The Clerk reported that recent changes to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme meant that small local authority depositors were protected for a total of up to £75,000 with effect from 3 July 2015. It was agreed that the extent of the risk should be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Clerk

200.2 Santander Account - The Council had held an account with Santander in the past which, although holding a zero balance, had not been closed. On the

proposition of Councillor Vachon, seconded Councillor Leech, it was resolved to close account R16701246 OAK with immediate effect.

Clerk

201 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Chamber of Trade** - No meeting to report.
- (ii) **CAB** - Councillor Leech reported no formal meeting, but continuing presence at the Ockment Centre indicated strong local demand.
- (iii) **DALC** - County Committee. Minutes of earlier meeting had been circulated for information
- (iv) **DALC** - Larger Councils Committee. Last meeting reported on previously and minutes circulated for information. Councillor Stephens noted the next meeting scheduled for November.
- (v) **Fairtrade** - Councillor Cushing reported the national statistics for Fairtrade over the last 20 years. Meeting scheduled for following day.
- (vi) **Okehampton Carnival Committee** - Councillor Yelland reported that a grant from Okehampton United Charities had enabled purchase of parking cones, which would be available for community use.
- (vii) **Okehampton College Community Forum** - Councillor Leech. Nothing to report.
- (viii) **Okehampton & District Community Transport Group** - Councillor Leech reported briefly on current challenges, particularly with reference to the loss of the Town Bus Service.

The meeting was closed at 8.04 pm.

Councillor B Stephens
Chairman