

Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 27 July 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 Miss C Holt
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Councillor Rev'd M Davies (WDBC)
P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Councillor Rev'd M Davies

	Action
111 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Weekes and from Councillor Ball as the Devon County Member. The Mayor welcomed Councillor Miss Holt to her first meeting of the full Council.	
112 <u>Urgent Item for Information</u> - The Mayor reported that there was concern about the resurfacing of the <i>Tramlines</i> path. Further information had been requested from DCC but not yet received. It was agreed to place the matter on a later agenda.	Clerk
113 <u>Deferment of Business</u> -	
113.1 <u>Presentation by Turning Tides</u> - In order to facilitate better dialogue with the Group, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Ireland. Vicky Hooper and members of the Turning Tides Group gave a presentation on their work and aspirations. The Mayor thanked all members of the Group for a lively and comprehensive presentation and looked forward to seeing them at the Okehampton Carnival. On the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Cummings, it was agreed to reinstate Standing Orders.	
113.2 <u>Fire Officer John Donovan</u> introduced himself and described his role as	

seeking to engage with local councils to address issues regarding fire risk in the community.

114 Members' Questions - None

115 West Devon Borough Council - Councillor Davies reported on issues he had been investigating which included:

- problems with contacting WDBC Customer Services by phone
- the fact that Locality Officers were now in post
- problems with the Planning Portal and the number of enforcement cases that the Borough Council were currently dealing with
- there were now 4 Planning Officers shared between both districts (previously 8 Officers serving West Devon) supported by Planning Assistants.

Councillor Yelland reported that a 15-minute question time (pre-submitted questions only) had been introduced as part of the WDBC Scrutiny Meeting.

116 Devon County Council - As Councillor Ball was unable to attend, he had provided a written report which was circulated at the meeting for comment. The following points were raised:

- There was apparently no indication on the Town Bus Service as to when the service would terminate and which limited services would be taken on by other buses. Councillor Vachon agreed to take this matter forward with the County Member.
- Councillor Cummings had questions relating to Stagecoach services 75A & B, which he would take up directly with the County Member.

Cllr
Vachon
Cllr
Cummings

117 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Questions from Members thereon:

117.1 Property Committee meeting held on 27 April 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Cummings and agreed.

117.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 20 April, 5 May and 1 June 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Cummings and agreed.

117.3 Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 15 June 2015 - proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.

118 Full Council Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 22 June and 6 July 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Cummings and agreed.

119 Matters Arising - None.

120 **Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor circulated a list of events attended during July and included an invitation to attend the forthcoming match of the Ladies Okehampton Argyle team, who would be wearing the new tops afforded by the Council's earlier grant.

121 **Traffic Management Plan** - Councillor Leech reported on the paper from the Working Group which had been circulated previously. It was noted that many of the points raised in the report had been reinforced independently at the Neighbourhood Plan launch event. The paper included the initial comments on scope and funding by the County Engineer, Mike Jones. After discussion, it was resolved that the County Engineer be asked to take forward all the points that had been set out in the report and which had been notionally agreed as being a part of the Traffic Plan, on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Cummings. (Annex A to the Minutes.)

Clerk

122 **Reports from Working Groups:**

122.1 **Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland reported that he was due to make a presentation to Members of Plymouth City Council on the advantages of the Northern Alternative rail route, supported by detailed documentation prepared by Mr Bligh. A meeting of Destination Okehampton would be scheduled as a follow-up.

122.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** - The Mayor reported that the launch event had been received very positively and was attended by some 320 members of the public. The consultation highlighted traffic and infrastructure as a key theme. Councillor Yelland added that comment could still be contributed via the social websites that had been set up by the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

122.3 **Renewable Energy Feasibility Study** - Councillor Leech reported that the consultants were continuing their investigations. Recent Government statements had, however, introduced some unhelpful doubts as to the future viability of community energy schemes. The information stand at the Neighbourhood Plan launch was considered successful. With some 20 people having signed up to get involved.

123 **Development and Infrastructure at Okehampton** - Councillors Yelland and Leech declared potential personal interests as Ward Members. Councillor Rush introduced a discussion theme and proposal based on his paper as previously circulated. This focussed on the need for a northern by-pass link and the funding therefore. After a period of general discussion of the issues, the Mayor adjourned the discussion with the request that Members who wished to comment on the matter to Councillor Rush should do so, copying in all Members.

124 **TAP Funding Proposal** - Councillor Goffey declared a personal interest. Councillor Leech noted that Hatherleigh had made a successful TAP (Town & Parish Grant) application to support a Tourist Information Centre and proposed that Okehampton and Hamlets should also join in making a bid to support the Tourist Information Point based in the Museum of Dartmoor Life. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Leech should take the matter forward on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Ireland.

Cllr Leech

The meeting was adjourned at 8.40 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor