

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 2 November 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 (until 8.37 pm)
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 D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

Attending: Councillor K Ball (Ward Member, DCC and WDBC)
Councillor Rev'd M Davies (Ward Member, WDBC)

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

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

243 **Urgent Items:** Councillor Leech reported that an ad-hoc working group had been convened from the Property Committee to draft a response to WDBC arising out of the Developers' Forum. The Mayor reported that he had asked for an Extraordinary Meeting to consider the draft response arising out of the above.

244 **Apologies for Absence** - All Councillors were present.

245 **Deferment of Business** - There were no members of the public present.

246 **Members' Questions** -

Councillor Goffey asked if the Town Council had taken any measures to publicise the Rickshaw Challenge as it was stopping in Okehampton between stages. The Mayor responded that information concerning the Challenge had been forwarded to the Chamber of Trade and the Okehampton Times, as well as being highlighted on the Council's website.

247 **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Leech reported on:

- the likely implications effecting affordable housing within the Borough

Action

arising out of Central Government proposals

- consideration on the future of Mill Road and Wonnacott Road sites requiring serious study
- new waste contract in consultation
- ongoing discussion about the allocation of business rates.

Councillor Yelland reported on a recent session in the use of social media for local authority communication and suggested this as a subject for future consideration by the Town Council.

248 **Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball's report had been circulated to the meeting for information and included comment on:

- Progress at Okehampton Business Park
- The new primary school site
- Fatherford pedestrian bridge
- Fatherford bridleway.

In addition, Councillor Ball reported that a submission had been made to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 22 South West local authorities in respect of the devolution agenda – Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Plan.

249 **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Member Questions arising:**

249.1 **Parks Committee** meetings held on 8 June and 10 August 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.

249.2 **Property Committee** meeting held on 6 July 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.

249.3 **Planning Committee** meetings held on 29 June, 27 July, 24 August and 14 September 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Cummings and agreed.

249.4 **Policy & Resources Committee** meetings held on 20 July, 17 August and 21 September 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Marsh and agreed.

250 **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 27 July and 24 August 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Vachon, seconded by Councillor Leech.

251 **Matters Arising:**

251.1 **TAP Funding** - Councillor Leech reported that he would raise the matter of speed measuring equipment at Okehampton Matters. With reference to the proposed application to support the Tourist Information Service in Okehampton, Councillor Leech reported that an application was in process of drafting to develop the volunteer base at the Tourist Information Point, thereby offsetting the loading on the Museum, with a view to joining with Okehampton Hamlets and Inwardleigh Parish Councils. He estimated that

<p>the amount of the application would be £2,000, possibly over 2 years. On the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Goffey, it was agreed that Councillor Leech should progress the drafting of the application together with Inwardleigh and Hamlets PCs with a view to submission through the Northern Links meeting in due course and report back accordingly.</p>	<p>Cllr Leech</p>
<p>251.2 Town Bus Service - The update had largely been covered by Councillor Ball's report (Minute 248). Councillor Leech noted that no-one had responded to the leaflet drop and that the Community Transport Group were awaiting delivery of a bus with a lower floor that would be more appropriate for buggy and shopping transport. On the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Weekes, it was agreed to contact City Bus with reference to a possible modification to their route 46 and to contact Devon County Council as the commissioner of the service.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>252 Civic Diary Report - The Mayor circulated a list of events attended from end July to date.</p>	
<p>253 Traffic Management Plan - Councillors Rush and Leech referred to the report arising out of the working group's meetings with the County Traffic Engineer Officers, previously circulated to all Members. The Clerk reported on the concern, forwarded through the Chamber of Trade, that the sequencing of the pedestrian lights in Market Street was a deterrent to shopping and parking in Okehampton. The recommendations outlined at paragraph 23 of the report were agreed on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Stephens. The Clerk to forward to the County Engineers for action.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>254 Reports of Council Working Groups -</p>	
<p>254.1 Destination Okehampton - Councillor Ireland reported he had attended the Peninsula Rail Task Force Meeting in September, had met with the constituency MP and that DCC had convened a rail forum on 1 December. He expressed a concern that the Task Force had published a report which, with reference to the Northern Alternative line via Okehampton, was now slotted for Control Period 7, rather than the earlier Control Period 6. The link to the document referred to would be circulated to Councillors.</p>	
<p>254.2 Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Goffey reported that the Okehampton and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan Group, now as a broader, community-based group, was being chaired by James Cox and was currently progressing the project through a number of work groups.</p>	
<p>254.3 Renewable Energy Feasibility Study - Councillor Leech reported that the feasibility study was ongoing. There had been a delay in the report due to government-imposed changes to the relevant processes concerning Feed-in Tariffs and a delay in submission had been requested formally.</p>	

- 255 **Committee Membership** - Councillor Holt had expressed an interest to be a member of the Parks and Property committees. This was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Stephens.
- 256 **Members Nominated to External Bodies** - Members considered nomination of a representative to attend and report on meetings of the Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust. Councillor Cushing said she had attended these meetings in the past and agreed to the Council's nomination on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Weekes.
- 257 **Okehampton Northern Link Road** - Councillor Rush introduced a discussion on the urgency of a solution for implementing a northern link road. As there was a lack of knowledge concerning the actual amount set aside for this project through section 106 agreement, Councillor Leech agreed to research the answer. It was understood that the section 106 agreement for parcel 2 had now been signed off. Cllr Leech
- 258 **West Devon Borough Council/Okehampton Liaison Group** - In view of time, it was agreed to consider this at the next meeting and after the forthcoming meetings of the Vision Group and the Liaison Group.
- 259 **Rural Roads Petition** - Members had received notification of the Rural Roads petition launched by Geoffrey Cox QC MP and it was agreed that the signing of the petition was a matter for individual consideration.
- 260 **Borough Draft Licensing Policy** - No amendments for consideration were suggested.
- 261 **Devon Mineral Plan Consultation** - No amendments for consideration were suggested.
- 262 **OCRA Presentation** - Councillors Marsh and Weekes declared interests. Councillor Marsh reported that two OCRA trustees had made a presentation to the trustees of Okehampton United Charities. The Mayor suggested that the same presentation be made to the Town Council and it was agreed to postpone further consideration for the present.
- 263 **Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF)** - Councillor Leech declared an interest. Councillor Goffey outlined the possible availability of funding for marketing the town under the LEAF parameters and sought agreement to investigate the possibility. On the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland, it was agreed that Councillor Goffey should complete the application form and report back. Cllr Goffey
- 264 **Suspension of Standing Order 3(z)** - In order to receive reports from Councillors it was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) on the proposition

of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland.

265 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - Councillor Cummings reported the next meeting was scheduled for 27 November and that he would attend if there were items relevant to Okehampton on the agenda.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Councillor Cummings had asked for further agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk to the meeting.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - The Mayor reported that the following had been discussed:
 - Update on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - Staffing increases to support response to 101 telephone
 - Discussion on speed cameras
 - Community safety concerns
 - Parking and traffic issues
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Community Services Network - No meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Vachon reported that the last meeting had included a presentation on the Rings project, discussion on the overlap between Vision Group and Liaison Group subject areas, and the Northern Alternative rail option.
- (vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - Next meeting scheduled for 9 November.

The meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor