

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

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

Other Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor Miss C Holt

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

352 **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Tolley and Weekes.

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

354 **Members' Questions** - None presented.

355 **Minutes** - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 16 and 30 November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Vachon and agreed.

356 **Matters Arising** - Investment of 8% Treasury Stock. The Clerk reported that the sum due at maturity (£21,760.64) had been invested in the Nationwide 95 day Business Account, as additional deposits in the 1-year account were not permissible.

357 **Budget and Precept** - The Chairman reported that work on the 16-17 Budget was progressing and the draft budget would be presented to the Committee at their next meeting on 11 January.

358 **Grant Applications** -

358.1 **Okehampton United Ecclesiastical Charity** - The Committee considered a request for a grant of £500 towards the cost of maintaining the town clock in good order. It was resolved to award a grant of £500 on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Yelland.

358.2 **Ockment Centre** - (Councillor Leech declared a personal interest). A request had been received on behalf of the Ockment Centre for the Council to

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consider making a grant of £5,000 to support the running costs of the community resource. After discussion it was agreed to make budget provision accordingly on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Goffey.

359 Grant Acknowledgements and Feedback Forms Received - None received.

360 Finances - The Committee considered the management accounts for the month ended 30 November 2015. It was noted that there was one significant debtor, the matter to be discussed further in Part 2. Adoption of the management accounts was agreed by the Committee on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Goffey.

361 Request for Involvement in TAP Funding Application - A request had been received from Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice seeking TAP sponsorship for a community education partnership event in the Spring. It was noted that the character of the event proposed had previously been co-ordinated by Advice West Devon. The Committee noted the ongoing need for funding and that the Town Council had, during recent years, made substantial grants to the CAB, the most recent being £3,500 in March 2015. In view of this, the Committee agreed that CAB should prepare the detailed application themselves and look to another parish council in the vicinity, perhaps Okehampton Hamlets, to be the primary sponsor, while the Town Council may be approached to support the application when prepared.

Clerk

362 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) **Chamber of Trade** - Councillor Marsh reported that the Chamber AGM was scheduled for January and asked what process should be pursued to gain the Council's involvement in Christmas lighting. It was suggested that a letter from the Chamber to the Town Council setting out their request would be normal.
- (ii) **CAB** - Councillor Leech reported some excerpts from the CEO's annual report. The advice line was working well. Face-to-face meetings were still important, particularly to those who were unable to access on-line facilities.
- (iii) **DALC** - County Committee. Minutes of December meeting had been circulated for information.
- (iv) **DALC** - Larger Councils Committee. Minutes of November meeting had been circulated for information.
- (v) **Fairtrade** - Councillor Cushing reported that the Group had set up stall at St James Church for Edwardian Evening. The next meeting was scheduled for 6 January.
- (vi) **Okehampton Carnival Committee** - No meeting.
- (vii) **Okehampton College Community Forum** - Councillor Leech reported no activity.
- (viii) **Okehampton & District Community Transport Group** - Councillor Leech reported there was no news concerning the change of bus to be delivered to the Group.

PART TWO ITEMS

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 item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Yelland and agreed.

360 Outstanding Debtors

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The meeting was closed at 7.50 pm.

**Councillor B Stephens
Chairman**