

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 18 January 2016 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 Mrs V 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 (from 7.38 pm)
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

Attending: Councillor K Ball (Ward Member DCC, WDBC) [until 8 pm]
Councillor Rev'd M Davies (Ward Member, WDBC) [until 8 pm]

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Father Darline Marianathan

	Action
390. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor Cummings.	
391. <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no questions from the members of the public present.	
392. <u>Members' Questions</u> - Nil.	
393. <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - Councillor Davies reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the issue of dog fouling in central Okehampton with Inspector Sloman, with agreement to develop a project with the Primary School West Devon and South Hams joint training session noted the failure of the planning portal, particularly with time pressures regarding the Hannard application Autism Awareness Day on 11 March 2016. Councillor Yelland reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an extension to the deadline for response to the Hannard application traffic management problems associated with Polar Express during November and December and the need to report to the police where relevant. 	

Councillor Leech reported that the waste contract with West Devon Borough Council was due for review and Councillor Stephens reported on the problems associated with the verification of the council tax base.

394. Devon County Council - Councillor Ball had prepared a written report which included:

- Okement Surgery - Councillor Ball had sent a report to the Devon County Council Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, whose meeting had been brought forward to 20 January
- funding for the Sunday Rover was in the budget for the financial year 16-17 but subject to ratification
- the Community Rail Group was currently chaired by Devon County Council, but a new independent Chair was sought
- Okehampton Business Park - bids received thus far reflected a good mix of business/employment uses. Arrangements were in hand to consult with Okehampton Town Council on their views.

395. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon -

395.1 Parks Committee meetings held on 5 October and 30 November 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.

395.2 Property Committee meetings held on 9 and 30 November 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Carpenter and agreed.

395.3 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 16 and 30 November and 21 December 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Goffey and agreed.

396. Full Council Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 December 2015 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Vachon, seconded by Councillor Carpenter.

397. Matters Arising - The Clerk reported on a response he had received from the Transport Co-ordination Service at Devon County Council concerning a possible extension of the Citybus routes in Okehampton. No extension was envisaged due to funding.

398. Civic Diary Report - The Mayor reported on events he had attended during December, noting in particular the ATC Award Ceremony carried out at the Golf Club and noted that there would be a further parade in Falmouth in February.

- 399. Budget Financial Year 2016-17** - The Council considered the draft budget and noted the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee. The Clerk reported that, due to the errors discovered in the Town and Hamlets tax bases, he would discuss the discrepancies with the Clerk to Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council before liaising further with West Devon Borough Council. On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Marsh, the budget for financial year 16-17 was agreed and the overall precept request was provisionally agreed, subject to an extraordinary council meeting to be arranged when the tax base had been finalised and the implications for the Band D rate were established.
- 400. Reports of Working Groups** -
- 400.1 Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland reported on the recent Destination Okehampton meeting, the notes of which had been circulated. Councillor Ireland highlighted the request to the Chairman of the Peninsula Rail Task Force Group that the implementation of the Northern Route Option be re-introduced in control period 6 (2019-24 in the PRTF report).
- 400.2 Neighbourhood Plan** - Councillor Leech reported that the questionnaire was current work in progress and that a summary advance-notice leaflet was in preparation.
- 400.3 Renewable Energy Feasibility Study** - Councillor Leech reported that the feasibility study was due to be completed by the month end and a final draft was awaited from the consultants.
- 401. Traffic Management Plan for Okehampton** - The Clerk had circulated a further briefing note dated 12 January 2016 based on the Traffic Management Plan Working Group meeting of 23 December 2015. The Council considered the recommendations listed at paragraph 25 (document attached to archive copy of minutes as Annex A) and, on the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded Councillor Yelland, agreed the recommendations.
- 402. Okement Surgery** - Councillor Leech gave a report on the meeting called on 17 December regarding the notified closure of the Okement Surgery in April. It was recognised that the lack of consultation by NHS England had caused much distress and dissatisfaction within the community and it was agreed that the Town Council would host a public meeting on 22 January, with the Mayor chairing the meeting, on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Stephens. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information that could be submitted to Devon County Council's Scrutiny Committee or Healthwatch as appropriate. Key representatives from NHS England and the relevant surgeries had agreed to attend.

		Action
403.	<u>Marketing Okehampton</u> - Councillor Goffey introduced her paper, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The paper generated much discussion on what may be counted as a unique selling point. It was agreed to include the subject on the next agenda of the Destination Okehampton Working Group.	Cllr Ireland
404.	<u>West Devon Borough Council/Okehampton Liaison Group</u> - It was noted that the future purpose of this group may include aspects of the Okehampton Vision Group, which had not met to date. It was agreed to maintain the status quo until the opinion and aims of the Vision Group were known.	
405.	<u>Civic Dinner</u> - The Council considered the allocation of 'duty tickets' for the Civic Dinner on 4 March 2016. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be six 'active volunteer paid tickets' for the Civic Dinner, allocation in accordance with the previous two years.	
406.	<u>TAP Funding Applications</u> - Councillor Leech reported that an application for £2000 had been completed in support of the Tourist Information Services for Okehampton. Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and Inwardleigh Parish Council had both indicated their support and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council had agreed to contribute financially to the project. On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland, it was agreed to include the support of Okehampton Town Council to the application, noting that a grant of £1500 had been made towards the Tourist Information Service in the financial year 15-16 and was also included in the forthcoming budget. Councillor Leech further reported that there had been no further progress on the TAP application for speed monitoring signs.	
407.	<u>Q90 Planning</u> - Councillor Goffey reported that a co-ordinating group had met and had agreed the date of 12 June for a Picnic in the Park event with Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council overseeing the lighting of a beacon on 21 April 2016. A number of Okehampton organisations were represented on the co-ordinating group and Councillor Goffey was investigating the availability of an official portrait of the Queen for the Town Hall.	Cllr Goffey
408.	<u>Nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party</u> - On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Ireland, it was agreed to nominate the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the draw for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 24 May 2016.	Clerk
409.	<u>Open House & Coffee Morning - 30 January 2016</u> - Councillor Goffey reported on the arrangements that had been made for an Open House and Coffee Morning on 30 January, noting that the Council Chamber would also be open between 10 and 12 midday to show off pictures and artefacts on display. The Mace Bearers had kindly agreed to also be on duty in the	

	Council Chamber that day. Pictures and other items from the archive would be selected to bring either to the Council Chamber or for display in Charter Hall on the day.	Action
410.	<u>Nomination for Parish and Town Council Leadership Programme</u> - Councillor Yelland had volunteered to attend the programme and was formally nominated on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Weekes.	
411.	<u>Annual Town Assembly</u> - The Council noted the date for the 2016 Annual Town Assembly as Monday 21 March and agreed that the format should be similar to that adopted in the last two years. Invitations would be sent to Town Council grant recipient organisations to give a short presentation on how the funds had been spent during the year.	Clerk
412.	<u>Members' Reports</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting. (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - No recent meeting. (iii) Okehampton Matters - Next meeting scheduled for 3 March 2016 (iv) Okehampton Older People's Community Services Network - No meeting. (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - No meeting. (vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - Next meeting 29 February 2016. 	

The meeting was closed at 8.42 pm.

Councillor P Vachon
Mayor