

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 29 February 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.30 pm**

**Members Present:** Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor T Cummings (present until 9.00 pm)  
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  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

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

**In Attendance:** P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Father Darline Marianathan

**470. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor Weekes.

**471. Deferment of Business** - Mr Flexman commented that the problems of litter in the supermarket car parks in the town centre had not improved over the preceding 12 months and asked for the support of the Town Council in encouraging the supermarkets to contribute their part of helping keep the town centre clean. The Mayor noted that a survey on street cleanliness was being conducted under the agenda of the Destination Okehampton sub-committee and Councillor Davies agreed to take the matter further with the West Devon Borough Council Locality Officer.

**472. Members' Questions** - Nil.

**473. West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Davies reported on:

- prevalence of litter and dog fouling within the Borough
- limited powers of the police in respect to spot fines for littering and dog fouling
- initiating an education programme at primary school age to increase awareness of dog fouling and littering.

Councillor Ball reported that the current Place and Strategy Specialist Officer at the Borough Council was leaving post and that a successor was in the

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<p>process of being appointed.</p> <p>Councillor Leech reported that the Borough Council was in the process of reviewing its housing needs assessment in conjunction with South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council.</p>	
<p><b>474. <u>Devon County Council</u></b> - Councillor Ball had prepared a written report which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council approval for provision of an additional classroom at the Primary School</li> <li>• ongoing negotiations for the purchase of the new primary school site</li> <li>• the availability of the Wardhayes site to Okehampton College</li> <li>• progress with interested parties looking to take up plots at Okehampton East Business Park</li> <li>• the County Council response to the planning submission for plots 3 and 4 East of Okehampton</li> <li>• County Council budget 2016-17 and reduction in spending since comprehensive spending review in 2010.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Ball agreed to address any points arising from his report and left the meeting at 7.54 pm.</p>	
<p><b>475. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon -</b></p>	
<p><b>475.1 Parks Committee</b> meeting held on 14 December 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.</p>	
<p><b>475.2 Property Committee</b> meeting held on 21 December 2015 - adoption proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Leech and agreed.</p>	
<p><b>475.3 Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b> meeting held on 11 January 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.</p>	
<p><b>475.4 Planning Committee</b> meetings held on 23 November, 14 December 2015 and on 11 January 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Cummings and agreed. Councillor Cushing enquired if any further action had been taken regarding the closure of the Okement Surgery. Councillor Leech responded that he had asked the West Devon Borough Council Scrutiny Committee whether any further action could be undertaken legally and free. Councillor Cushing further enquired with reference to minute 300 (Denbrook Wind Farm) if any further action had been taken on this matter. Councillor Yelland responded that the matter had been researched and she had contacted Councillor Parker for further information, noting that the Denbrook Wind Farm was well outside the Town Council's parish area.</p>	

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476. <b><u>Full Council Meeting Minutes</u></b> - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18 January 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Cummings.	
477. <b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> - Nil.	
478. <b><u>Civic Diary Report</u></b> - The Council noted the Mayor's report of events and civic functions attended during January and February.	
479. <b><u>Okehampton Remembers</u></b> - Councillor Stephens declared a personal interest. The Council noted the point brief supplied by Messrs Jenkins and Fisher on behalf of the Okehampton Remembrance Group and agreed to support the further development of the project in principle on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Cummings. The Council further agreed that Councillor Marsh be the nominated Council representative to the volunteer group on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Cummings.	
480. <b><u>Reports of Working Groups</u></b> -	
480.1 <b><u>Destination Okehampton</u></b> - Councillor Ireland reported on the following points arising out of the last meeting on 18 February: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a presentation on the marketing of the town by Councillors Vachon and Goffey</li> <li>• the continuing importance of litter picking in the town</li> <li>• the recent County Working Group Forum working to develop rail connections in the area</li> <li>• a presentation by Councillor Rush concerning the suggested plans for an Okehampton East rail halt</li> <li>• confirmation from Councillor Ball that funding for the Sunday Rover would be forthcoming for the 2016 summer season</li> <li>• discussion on naming of the line.</li> </ul>	
480.2 <b><u>Neighbourhood Plan</u></b> - Councillor Leech reported on progress made towards the circulation of the general questionnaire and noted Councillor Goffey's significant input to the business and general questionnaires. Councillor Vachon reported that leaflets advertising the questionnaire were due to be delivered in time for circulation on 14 March with the questionnaire being ready for circulation on 28 March.	
481.1 <b><u>Renewable Energy Feasibility Study</u></b> - It was agreed to combine this report with the next agenda item on further actions from the renewable energy feasibility study. Councillor Leech reported that the feasibility study itself had now been completed with the positive outcome that all surveyed sites for solar PV were found to be feasible. Some soundings and calculations for	

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the small hydro generation locations had yet to be completed due to the volume of water in the Okement rivers. As Members had now had access to the summary report, it was proposed by Councillor Cummings and seconded by Councillor Goffey that the final report be adopted by the Council. Agreed unanimously.	
<p><b>481.2</b> Councillor Rush reported on a recent seminar attended through Regen South West, where meetings with a number of similarly-orientated community benefit organisations were facilitated. Councillor Rush reported that a local community benefit organisation 'CORES' (Community of Okehampton Renewable Energy Society) was in the process of being set up and in due course would seek to enlist the support of the Town Council. The Mayor suggested that, once a full prospectus for CORES had been produced, the document be brought to the attention of the Town Council for further consideration.</p> <p><b>482.</b> <u><b>Application for Section 106 Communities Facilities Fund</b></u> - The Council considered an application for £30,000 made by Okehampton RFC to West Devon Borough Council towards improving the second pitch. The Council resolved to support the application on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Marsh.</p> <p><b>483.</b> <u><b>Okehampton East Business Park</b></u> - Councillor Leech reported on the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> February attended by representatives of Okehampton Town Council and Devon County Council. Indications were that all plots would be taken and negotiations were currently in progress to complete services to all plots individually. The Town Council representatives had pressed for a spur road to connect the business park with the proposed rail halt car park. The concern of drainage from the site had also been expressed.</p> <p><b>484.</b> <u><b>Discussion Theme - Council Support for Elderly and Disabled Transport Services</b></u> - The Mayor introduced the discussion noting that the 318 town bus service withdrawal had produced a number of significant problems particularly for elderly and disabled residents in Okehampton. The Council noted that under section 106A of the 1985 Transport Act, local councils had limited powers in supporting bus services which were wholly or mainly for the benefit of members of the public who are elderly or disabled. After discussion it was agreed to investigate what further might be done with the Okehampton and District Community Transport Group.</p> <p><b>485.</b> <u><b>Air Ambulance Helipad in Okehampton</b></u> - Councillor Leech declared a personal interest. The Mayor reported that, through the support of the Lions, Devon Air Ambulance was investigating possible locations for a permanent helipad in Okehampton. It was noted that three possible locations were being sought, where portable mobile lights could be installed at short notice.</p>	Clerk

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<p><b>486. <u>Review of Policies</u></b> - The Council noted the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee with reference to the recent reviews of:</p> <p>1. Risk Assessment Management 2. Statement of Internal Control  3. Investment Strategy 4. Council Standing Orders and on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Goffey, agreed the endorsement of these four policies.</p> <p><b>487. <u>Q90 Planning</u></b> - Councillor Goffey gave an update on the Working Group's activities in preparation for Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. A number of organisations had expressed a willingness to contribute to the Picnic in the Park either by way of supporting services or by way of entertainment for the afternoon. Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council were progressing with arrangements for a beacon lighting on 21 April 2016. The next Working Group meeting would be on 17 March.</p> <p><b>488. <u>Town Mayor's Annual Award Nominations</u></b> - The Mayor reported that he had already received some nominations and asked Councillors to forward any further nominations to him with a reason for the proposed nomination.</p> <p><b>489. <u>Members' Reports</u></b> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting.</li> <li>(ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Meeting scheduled for 10 March.</li> <li>(iii) Okehampton Matters - Meeting scheduled for 3 March.</li> <li>(iv) Okehampton Older People's Community Services Network - No meeting.</li> <li>(v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Councillor Cushing reported that it had been assumed that the recent meeting was to be the last for the time being pending further discussion on how the group's objectives would be taken forward.</li> <li>(vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - The Mayor reported on the meeting that had taken place earlier this day. The key item was the start of a discussion on the purpose and development of the Liaison Forum, noting the increased significance of devolution issues and the involvement of both local authorities at County and Borough levels. A further meeting was scheduled for April.</li> </ul>	

The meeting was closed at 9.02 pm.

**Councillor P Vachon**  
**Mayor**