

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Annual General Meeting/Mayor Choosing held on Wednesday 11 May 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street, Okehampton at 12 noon**

**Members Present:** Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey  
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor Mrs V Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** Mr P R Snell (Town Clerk)  
Mace Bearers  
Invited Guests

Before proceeding with business, a welcome was offered by the current Town Mayor, Councillor Vachon, prayers were offered by the Rev'd Canon Tim Newcombe.

1. **Election of Town Mayor** - It was proposed that Councillor Mrs J Goffey serve as Mayor for the coming year by Councillor Holt, seconded by Councillor Marsh. All Councillors were in favour.
2. **Election of Deputy Town Mayor** - On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Weekes, Councillor Dr M Ireland accepted the nomination of Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year. All Councillors were in favour.
3. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings and Rush.
4. **Retiring Town Mayor** - Councillor Vachon referred to the highlights of the year in office which included progress made on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Renewable Energy Feasibility Study completion. He thanked the Town Clerk, Council staff team and fellow Members for their support. He further thanked the Mayor's Cadet, Cadet Charlotte Farrington, for her attendance at civic functions during the year. Councillor Vachon then presented a cheque for £1,160 to Lynn Lane as Co-ordinator of the Forget Me Not Café and this year's Mayor's Charity. The Mayor's Award certificates were presented to Flt Lt Andy Oliver RAF VR(T) (collected by Sergeant D Wilkinson) and to Mrs Helen Cann for their services in the community.
5. **Declarations of Acceptance of Office** - The Mayor and Deputy Mayor read out and signed their respective declarations of acceptance of office.
6. **Mayor's Address** - Councillor Goffey gave an address by way of acceptance speech, thanking Councillor Vachon for his two years of office as Mayor and presenting him with

the Retiring Mayor's badge, also presenting the Consort's badge of office to Mr Lyn Evans and nominating the Mayor's Cadet for the ensuing year as Cadet Robert Braime.

- 7. Expenses incurred by the Office of the Mayor** - To endorse the payment of an allowance of £2,500 to the Town Mayor to defray the expenses attached to this office in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland.
- 8. Committees of the Council** -
  - 8.1** It was agreed to appoint Councillors to the following Committees for the ensuing year: Parks, Planning, Policy and Resources, Property, Emergencies (Mayor and Committee Chairs) as set out in the schedule at Annex A to the file minutes, proposed en bloc by Councillor Vachon, seconded Councillor Goffey.
  - 8.2** To elect Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the Standing Committees as follows:
    - Parks - Chairman Councillor Marsh, proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Tolley. Vice Chairman of Parks - Councillor Holt, proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Tolley.
    - Planning - Chairman Councillor Leech, proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Ireland. Vice Chairman - Councillor Rush, proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Leech.
    - Policy and Resources - Chairman Councillor Stephens, proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Vachon. Vice Chairman - Councillor Yelland, proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Tolley.
    - Property - Chairman Councillor Weekes, proposed by Councillor Holt, seconded Councillor Vachon. Vice Chairman - Councillor Vachon, proposed by Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Yelland.
- 9. Working Groups** - The Council noted the following Working Groups which report to the full Council: Destination Okehampton and Okehampton and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan Group as per the schedule in Annex B to the file copy.
- 10. Representatives on Other Bodies** - It was agreed to appoint Councillors as representatives of this authority to Other Bodies in accordance with the schedule set out at Annex C to the file copy of these minutes on the proposition en bloc of Councillor Vachon, seconded Councillor Goffey.
- 11. Council and Committee Schedule of Meetings 2016-17** - It was resolved to adopt the schedule of meetings for the ensuing year as set out at Annex D to the file copy of these minutes on the proposition of Councillor Weekes, seconded by Councillor Leech.

The Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12.45 pm and welcomed all to a buffet lunch in the Charter Hall.

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**Councillor Mrs J Goffey**  
**Town Mayor**