

Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 23 May 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm

Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Town Mayor)
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Stephens
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Rev'd Canon Tim Newcombe.

	Action
<p>12. <u>Urgent Items for Information</u> -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Clerk reported that the West Devon Borough Council Duty Planner Service had been reintroduced on two days during the month at the St James Street office. Information about the service would be included on the Town Council's website for general information.2. The Council had received a Notice of Hearing before a Licensing Subcommittee (Licensing Act 2003) in connection with the variation to the premises licence at Dillon's Kebab House, 9 West Street, Okehampton. The Clerk would submit the return and Councillor Leech, as Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee, would attend the hearing on the Town Council's behalf.3. Spring Fair - the Clerk reported that the Fair proprietor had requested amended dates for attending at Okehampton Simmons Park, these now being 1st - 6th June.	
<p>13. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Rush, Ball (DCC Ward Member and WDBC Ward Member) and Davies (WDBC Ward Member).</p>	
<p>14. <u>Deferment of Business</u> - There were no comments from members of the public present.</p>	
<p>15. <u>Members' Questions</u> - Nil.</p>	

16. **West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Yelland reported with reference to the re-opening of the Planning Officer service at the Borough Council's office in St James Street that she had requested a press release to ensure that the service was well advertised and the conditions of use were understood.
17. **Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball had presented apologies for absence, but through the Clerk reported that the Secretary to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee had requested information regarding the maintenance of the minor injuries unit and other services at Okehampton Community Hospital and would take further action if responses were not forthcoming.
18. **Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9 May 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Yelland.
19. **Matters Arising** - The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made with Tiffany Arthurs, General Manager, Dartmoor Railway CIC, to attend the next Council meeting on 20 June 2016.
20. **Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor reported on her prioritisation of attendance at civic events during the last 10 days.
21. **Reports from Working Groups** -
 - 21.1 **Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland reported on the meeting of 4 May that:
 - the Denbrook Wind Farm had received prior approval for the location of the turbines
 - the issue of weeds in the town had been raised and it was thought that a possibility may exist for ex-offender groups to be engaged with this
 - it was reported that the name of OkeRail had been adopted by the Rail Forum and an OkeRail CIC was in process of registration
 - the Sunday Rover service had been launched for the summer season
 - the possibility of a rail/bus link to Hatherleigh would be investigated.
 - 21.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** - Councillor Goffey reported that response forms were still being input and the next meeting of the group was scheduled for 1st June.
22. **Okehampton Hospital** - Councillor Goffey reported that, through enquiries to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and through the Practice Manager at the Medical Centre, it was clear that the Council were very concerned about the future of the hospital. Councillor Leech reported that the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Okehampton Hospital had taken place recently and the notes of their meeting would be added to the file on this matter in due course. Councillor Leech further reported that he would be attending the CCG Eastern Board meeting later in the week.

23. **OkeRail Forum** - Councillor Ireland reported on the meeting of 20 May with the following points:
- presentation to representatives of South West Trains
 - Mr Bligh and Mr Proctor were working on time-tabling
 - the possibility of through trains to London Waterloo
 - the next OkeRail meeting to take place on 9 June
 - an update on the Sunday Rover service
 - consideration of who would be in the frame as possible service providers for a daily rail service to Exeter
 - communication strategy.
24. **Council Annual Meeting** - Councillor Marsh commented on various aspects of the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing Ceremony. It was generally agreed there was some potential for streamlining and also to consider carefully the number of people invited to the Mayor Choosing Ceremony in the Council Chamber. It was agreed to put this forward as an agenda item for March 2017 to include the guest list.
25. **Twinning Visit** - Councillor Goffey reported that the party from Craon would be visiting Okehampton over the August Bank Holiday weekend ie from 27 - 29 August. On the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Weekes it was agreed that a civic reception should be offered.
26. **Q90 Planning** - Councillor Goffey gave a report on preparations in hand for the Picnic in the Park on Sunday 12 June 2016.
27. **Members' Reports** -
- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting.
 - (ii) Northern Parishes Link Meeting - No meeting.
 - (iii) Okehampton Matters - No meeting.
 - (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - No meeting.
 - (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - No meeting.
 - (vi) West Devon/Okehampton Liaison Group - Next meeting scheduled for 6 June.

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 Stephens, seconded Councillor Carpenter and agreed.

28. **Honorary Freeman**

On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland it was agreed to move out of part two and to ratify decisions made in part two.

The meeting was closed at 7.54 pm.

Councillor J Goffey
Mayor