

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 19 September 2016**  
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Mayor)  
 Councillor Dr M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)  
 Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
 Councillor Mrs J Cushing  
 Councillor Miss C Holt  
 Councillor A Leech  
 Councillor R Rush  
 Councillor B Stephens  
 Councillor B Tolley  
 Councillor P Vachon  
 Councillor D Weekes  
 Councillor Mrs J Yelland

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

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

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>206</b>	<b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings, Marsh and Ball (DCC, WDBC).	
<b>207</b>	<b><u>Deferment of Business</u></b> - Sally Shipton introduced herself as the new Reporter for the Okehampton Times.	
<b>208</b>	<b><u>Members' Questions</u></b> - None	
<b>209</b>	<b><u>West Devon Borough Council</u></b> - Councillors Davies and Yelland reported that much of their recent communication with residents had been in relation to the Dartmoor Railway consultation letter. This had been re-directed to Cllr Ball, as the County Member. Councillor Leech reported that WDBC had established a working party on Homelessness, with a consultation due to be published at the end of the year.	
<b>210</b>	<b><u>Devon County Council</u></b> - Councillor Ball had submitted a written report, which was made available at the meeting. The Mayor directed that questions on Member reports would be taken at the relevant agenda item (18).	
<b>211</b>	<b><u>Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon:</u></b>	
<b>211.1</b>	<b>Parks Committee</b> meeting held on 6 June 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Weekes and agreed.	

- 211.2 Planning Committee** meetings held on 27 June and 18 July 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Marsh and agreed.
- 211.3 Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 18 July 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Leech and agreed.
- 211.4 Property Committee** meeting held on 13 June 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Vachon and agreed.
- 212 Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25 July 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Yelland.
- 213 Matters Arising:** The Clerk reported that the Discipline and Grievance procedures had been taken through staff consultation. There being no objection, the revised procedures were now in force and in the Policy Register.
- 214 Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor's civic engagements report had been circulated.
- 215 DALC AGM** - The Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held at Newton Abbot Racecourse on 11 October 2016. On the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Weekes, it was agreed that the Mayor and Councillor Cushing would attend as the Council's representatives, together with Councillor Marsh as County Committee Member, if available.
- 216 Reports of Council Working Groups** -
- 216.1 Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 6 October.
- 216.2 Okehampton Hospital** - Councillor Leech reported that the working group had not yet met. He commented on an anticipated consultation for proposals on 'Your Future Care'.
- 217 Neighbourhood Planning** - Councillor Yelland had attended the recent WDBC Neighbourhood Planning Forum and reported that an application had been made on behalf of Okehampton Town and Parish Neighbourhood Planning Group to Locality for £4,500 for consultancy support. A further grant for technical support was being investigated. Councillor Goffey reported that the data from the questionnaire analysis report had been circulated between focus group leaders as an aid to formulation of questions for the various aspects of the survey.
- 218 Report from OkeRail Forum** - Councillor Ireland reported on the OkeRail forum of 15 September as follows:
- Councillor Rev'd Mike Davies had been re-elected as Chairman for the

	<p>year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It had been agreed to maintain the opportunity for Dartmoor Railway to return to the discussion</li> <li>• Data that had been produced for the season indicated that over 7,300 passenger journeys had been made</li> <li>• The trial of the Hatherleigh Bus service had been regarded positively</li> <li>• Councillors Rush and Ireland were scheduled to make a presentation on OkeRail at a CPRE event in Bridestowe</li> <li>• An update on the service provision franchise bid was expected in February 2017</li> <li>• Provisional date for a promotional special OkeRail train from Okehampton – Paddington would be 18 March 2017.</li> </ul>	
219	<p><b><u>Planning Decision 2731/15/OPA</u></b> - Councillors Yelland and Stephens declared personal interests. The Mayor reported on the decision at the Planning Committee to draft a letter outlining procedural complaints together with comments on the application itself following the decision made by the WDBC Planning Committee on 23 August 2016. The letter had been drafted by the Mayor and the Clerk and circulated to Members. Minor amendments were agreed at the meeting, after inclusion of which it was resolved to send the letter to Councillor Sanders as Chair of the WDBC Planning Committee on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Rush. (Letter at Annex A to the archive Minutes of the meeting.) It was further agreed to invite Councillor Sanders to a future meeting of the Town Council to explain some of the protocols involved with the Planning Committee, particularly in the light of the recent approval of the change of use of residential garage to shop premises in Castle Road.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
220	<p><b><u>Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group</u></b> - The Mayor reported that the terms of reference for Advance Okehampton (new name for the group) had thus far been agreed by DCC and the Hamlets Parish Council. On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Ireland, it was agreed to adopt the terms of reference and further to agree that Councillor Goffey (as Mayor) and the Clerk attend meetings (proposed Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Leech), on the basis of a 1+1 attendance by the councils represented. Councillors Yelland and Leech agreed to discuss the matter with Steve Jordan in order to obtain formal recognition at WDBC. (Terms of Reference at Annex B to the archive Minutes of the meeting.)</p>	<p>Cllrs Leech &amp; Yelland</p>
221	<p><b><u>Mayors' Boards</u></b> - Councillor Goffey introduced a draft for an amalgamation of 3 mayors' boards in the Chamber, using a computerised layout to be updated every year. After discussion, it was agreed that a calligrapher be sought again to carry out the necessary work. Councillor Vachon agreed to research a provider and costs. In the interim, Councillor Goffey volunteered to pursue a final draft of the computerised version independently and on a trial basis.</p>	<p>Cllr Vachon</p>
222	<p><b><u>Mayor's Meeting with Local Parish Chairs and Clerks</u></b> - Councillor Goffey</p>	

reported that she had arranged a meeting with local parish Chairs and Clerks (21 September) in order to facilitate a more immediately-accessible local network. Recent experiences of surgery closure and move of the Minor Injuries Unit where a rapid Okehampton area response may have been influential were cited.

**223**     **Questions arising from Members' Reports** - The following questions were registered for forwarding to relevant ward Members:

**(i)     To Councillor Ball (DCC):**

- Requested to ascertain if the Okehampton Hospital site was leased, and if so, what would happen when the lease expired?
- Section 11D money for the station - Clarification was again requested on the status of the £250k. It was understood from committee minutes that the money was specific to the station rather than rail infrastructure (general). A definitive statement was requested from DCC through the Member.
- It had been alleged that a team at DCC were engaged in seeking to recoup elements of the personal care budget from individuals who had been released from hospital with a care package. Would the Member please confirm if this was so? (Councillor Ireland to provide further detail if required).
- DCC had increased council tax by 2% to support additional health care in 2016 - how had this translated to the County's care budget?
- If a written report was to be provided, would the Member please provide well in advance of the meeting in order to provide opportunity to read it before the meeting?

**(ii)     Hospital Working Group:**

- In preparation for their letter to NHS England, would the Group include a question to confirm how home care for the elderly will be catered for as a standardised service, thereby avoiding a 'postcode lottery' as referred to in a recent Nuffield Trust report?

**(iii)     OkeRail Forum:**

- Arising out of the significant and comprehensive analysis of passenger rail journeys made in the recent Sunday Rover season, would the Town Council write to commend Mr R Proctor for his enthusiasm and commitment for the study undertaken? Proposal put by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.

Clerk

**224**     **Discussion Paper** - Due to the absence of Councillor Cummings, it was agreed to defer the discussion item of the Community Purchase Initiative until the next meeting. Members were asked to retain the papers issued for the future discussion.

**225**     **Dartmoor Railway** - The Council noted the communication that had been issued by Dartmoor Railway concerning traffic and parking management

during Polar Express events and it was reported that this had provoked considerable ill-feeling and objection, particularly by those living in Station Road and the roads leading off Station Road. It was agreed that respondents should address their concerns to Dartmoor Railway and it was noted that any request for parking restrictions would need to be considered by DCC.

- 225a** Procedural motion for suspension of Standing Order 3 (z) to permit continuation of meeting proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.

**226    Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -**

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - Not attended.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Councillor Ireland reported on a data analysis provided by Angela Welch with reference to perceptions of Okehampton. There was a discussion on need for affordable housing.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - Meeting scheduled 22 September.
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - Councillor Yelland reported there had been a successful relaunch event. The RBL Handyman Scheme had been promoted. DCC had introduced a new on-line community directory, Pinpoint. A Transitions Project had been launched to provide advice (eg debt advice) to people who were otherwise unable to access normal advice channels. A Time for Life project had been launched for the over-50s.
- (v) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - In the absence of a chair or vice-chair of the group, Councillor Ireland had agreed to co-ordinate a meeting of remaining members to agree or determine the future of the group.
- (vi) Okehampton Remembers - No report.

The meeting was closed at 8.48 pm.

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