

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday
3 October 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 8.30 pm**

Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Town Mayor)
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor Mrs J Cushing
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh – until 8.50 pm
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

		Action
257	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Councillor Stephens.	
258	<u>NHS Proposals for Future Care affecting Okehampton Hospital</u> - The Mayor referred to the recently produced 'Your Future Care' consultation document as published by North East & West (NEW) Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in which the retention of inpatient beds at Okehampton Hospital did not feature in any of the options presented. Cllr Leech had attended the CCG Board Meeting on 28 September and made a number of comments in his report of the proceedings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was open to the public, but was not a public meeting• The consultation would be based on the Devon Pre-Consultation Business Case, therefore there had been no opportunity to object to the selection of options presented to the Board• The proposed model had apparently been in consideration for 2 years, but there had been no consultation with Okehampton TC or West Devon BC• The pre-consultation meeting (8 September) had not raised the possibility of a threat to Okehampton beds• It was understood that if the public response was against the proposals, they would not be implemented (i.e. status quo for Okehampton inpatient beds). WDBC Cllr Davies had set up a Facebook page to facilitate general information-sharing (facebook/okeybeds) The Mayor was keen to ensure neighbouring parishes were included in any discussion to help produce a unified response to the consultation, as their residents would be equally affected by the proposed closure. It was appreciated that Okehampton Town Council would be the lead council in	

this action (at town & parish level). A closed meeting had been arranged for Friday, to include the constituency MP, Cllr Davies and the Mayor.

Suggestions for possible actions to be taken in due course included:

- Delegation to Parliament
- Letter of objection to NEW CCG concerning the failure to include the Okehampton Hospital in the options presented
- Challenge to the pre-consultation procedures, depending on legal advice
- The need for case-studies to form an evidence base
- The active support of WDBC and DCC through their Scrutiny Committees
- To convene a public meeting as part of the information-gathering process
- Petition.

After discussion, it was agreed as follows:

1. To prepare an A5 leaflet (5000 copies) for local circulation to identify the risks to be drafted by Cllr Goffey and Cllr Davies – proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Weekes,
2. To write to the Chairman of the CCG to express the Town Council's objection to the consultation on the basis of non-inclusion of Okehampton Hospital - proposed by Cllr Vachon, seconded Cllr Ireland,
3. The Council's Okehampton Hospital Working Group (Cllrs Leech, Cushing, Rush and Weekes) to meet on Wednesday 12 October at 2 pm in the Committee Room (closed meeting) to review the pre-consultation business case (inconsistencies, weaknesses) to inform the next step.

Cllrs
Goffey &
Davies

Clerk

Working
Group

The meeting was closed at 9.38 pm.

Councillor J Goffey
Mayor