

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Policy and Resources Committee held on
Monday 17 October 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Councillor B Stephens (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Vice Chairman)
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Town Mayor)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)

Other Members Present:

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	Action
271. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - None.	
272. <u>Deferment of Business</u> - No public presence.	
273. <u>Members' Questions</u> - None.	
274. <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Yelland.	
275. <u>Matters Arising</u> -	
275.1 <u>Policies Working Group</u> - A meeting of the Working Group would be convened in November.	
275.2 <u>Training</u> - Councillor training had been booked for Councillors Carpenter and Holt on 16 November in Tavistock and the Planning Session requested by Councillor Cushing was fully booked and the request had therefore been placed on the waiting list.	
276. <u>Grant Applications</u> - The Committee considered the following applications for a Town Council grant:	
276.1 <u>Devon UK Mega 2017</u> - On the proposition of Councillor Tolley, seconded Councillor Cummings, it was resolved to decline the application for a grant.	
276.2 <u>Okehampton Men's Hockey Club</u> - It was agreed to award a grant of £500 to contribute towards the purchase of goalkeeping equipment for the Club on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Yelland.	

- 276.3 Okehampton Carnival** - Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest. On the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Goffey, it was resolved to award a grant of £1,000 to the Okehampton Carnival Committee to contribute to the costs of staging the Carnival.
- 276.4 Okehampton Fairtrade Group** - After discussion, and on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Goffey, it was resolved to award a grant of £150 under the provisions of section 137 towards the provision of 3 Fairtrade Town signs for Okehampton.
- 277. Feedback and Acknowledgements from Grants Awarded** - None to report.
- 278. Finance - Management Accounts** - The Committee considered the management accounts for the month ended 30 September 2016 and, on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Vachon, the accounts were agreed.
- 279. Consultation Paper - 2017-18 Local Government Finance Settlement** - Councillors Stephens and Vachon presented a report on the technical consultation paper and proposed that the Committee return answers as follows:
question 4 - disagree that the referendum principles be extended to larger, higher-spending town and parish councils
question 5 - qualified agreement with the transfer provisions where assets/liabilities were transferred to town and parish councils from borough and district councils
question 6 - disagree that referendum principles be extended to all precepting authorities
question 7 - reflected the unfairness of forcing a referendum and the disproportionate costs to be incurred.
These responses were adopted by the Committee on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Leech.
- 280. CCTV Park Funding** - Councillor Marsh reported that the Park CCTV Project Group had identified two possible contractors and a trial of equipment was currently in progress. The earmarked fund of £4,199 was insufficient to cover the cost of the quotation and supply of ancillary connections and a request was therefore being made for approval of expenditure from reserves of up to an additional £3,500. It was noted that the free reserves were adequate to support this application. The request was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Cummings, seconded Councillor Yelland.
- 281. RBL Poppy Appeal** - In response to a request for a donation to the RBL Poppy Appeal (to include the cost of the Town Council wreath) and confirmation of wreath order for November 2017, a donation of £50 was proposed by Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Marsh and agreed.

- 282. Policy Request - Support to Chamber of Trade Volunteers** - On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Marsh, it was agreed that, in principle, Okehampton Town Council caretaking staff may volunteer to assist the Okehampton and District Chamber of Trade in the putting up of Christmas trees and lights subject to their availability during normal working hours and specific employee safety requirements.
- 283. Hospital Awareness Leaflets** - Councillor Goffey summarised the steps taken thus far to promote awareness of the NHS consultation proposals and the associated risk to Okehampton inpatient beds. On the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Tolley, it was agreed to a print run of 5000 flyers for local distribution and associated poster materials to promote awareness of the situation, on the basis of the quotes being agreed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- 284. Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items** -
- (i) Chamber of Trade (Councillor Marsh) - The next meeting would have on its agenda development of the food and music festival.
 - (ii) Citizens Advice (Councillor Leech) - The newsletter received from Citizens Advice had been circulated. There had been a large increase in the use of CA services year on year, in particular for benefits and housing. There was reported difficulty in obtaining legal aid.
 - (iii) DALC County Committee (Councillor Marsh) - No meeting.
 - (iv) DALC - Larger Councils Sub-Committee (Councillor Stephens + Town Clerk) - The next meeting is scheduled for 10 November.
 - (v) Okehampton Fairtrade Group (Councillor Cushing) - The group met on 28 September to progress the Fairtrade Town renewal. The Fairtrade Fortnight in 2017 would end on 11 March. The group would be participating in the Edwardian Evening on 1 December.
 - (vi) Okehampton Carnival Committee (Councillor Yelland) - It was reported that the Mayors of Okehampton and West Devon Borough Council had been involved in the procession. As the White Hart balcony was no longer available, scaffolding had been erected outside the Town Hall. Future events: 22 December Christmas bingo. It was noted that some of the bollards had gone missing after the event and the Committee had issued a general request for anybody finding the bollards to return them to the Committee.
 - (vii) Okehampton and District Community Transport Group (Councillor Leech) - The newsletter had been recently circulated. The new bus was being very successfully used by different groups and drivers were now available for it.

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 Leech, seconded by Councillor Goffey and agreed.

Action

285. Debts Outstanding for more than 3 Months

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Councillor B Stephens
Chairman