

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 31 October 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) [from 7.23 pm]
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs J Cushing
Councillor Miss C Holt
Councillor A Leech
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
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
Councillor K Ball

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

	Action
286. <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies for a late arrival were presented by Councillor Ireland.	
287. <u>Deferment of Business</u> -	
(i) Room 13 - Five members of Room 13 gave a presentation based on improvements that they felt would improve and enhance the skate park at Brayham's Terrace, including new floodlighting, extensions to the existing layout and a new covered area and waste bins.	
(ii) For Comment by the Public - James Bradley introduced himself as a lay member of NEW Devon CCG (Mid-Devon Locality Forum). He opined there was an NHS directive to close bed wards and sell properties and promoted the broader view of developing services using the hospital as a hub with the aim of keeping the hospital building available.	
288. <u>Members' Questions</u> - None.	
289. <u>West Devon Borough Council</u> - No new matters to report other than those already on the agenda.	
290. <u>Devon County Council</u> - Councillor Ball had submitted a written report, which had been circulated earlier in the day and which was available at the	

meeting. By way of additional update, Councillor Ball reported that broadband had now been agreed for the Business Park site, the CCG Consultation was an item on the County Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Police and Crime Commissioner was scheduled to speak at Okehampton on 25 November at 7.30 pm.

291. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon:

291.1 Parks Committee meeting held on 1 August 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Weekes and agreed.

291.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 1, 15, 30 August and 12 September 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Carpenter, seconded Councillor Cushing and agreed.

291.3 Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 26 September 2016 - adoption proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.

292. Full Council Meeting - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 19 September and 3 October 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Stephens.

293. Matters Arising:

293.1 Dartmoor Railway - Measures to improve traffic management during the Polar Express experiences had been discussed in depth at the recent Okehampton Matters meeting and Councillor Ball also outlined further items from his earlier report confirming that Dartmoor Railway had contracted a Traffic Management Group who had responsibility for direction of traffic for the forthcoming season.

294. Civic Diary Report - The Mayor's civic engagements report had been circulated.

295. Okehampton Hospital - The Mayor reported on the Save Our Beds Campaign chaired by Councillor Davies:

- meeting with MP and Friends of Hospital had taken place
- flyers had been printed and circulated in and around Okehampton
- copies of the petition had been placed in various locations both in and in the vicinity of Okehampton
- members of Okehampton Town Council would attend the CCG Board Meeting in public on 3 November
- Okehampton Town Council would host a public meeting on the CCG

Consultation in the Charter Hall on Friday 11 November prior to the CCG Consultation meetings on 16 November

- the sum of £146.25 had been expended on flyer and public awareness materials in pursuit of previous Council resolution.

296. Reports of Council Working Groups -

296.1 Destination Okehampton - Councillor Ireland reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 2 November.

296.2 Okehampton Hospital - Councillor Leech reported that the group had incorporated their discussions into questions for the MP.

297. Neighbourhood Planning Forum - Councillor Yelland reported that the Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Planning Group had secured a £9,000 conditional grant from Localities with an additional grant commitment for technical support to update the housing needs assessment.

298. Report from OkeRail Forum - Councillor Ireland reported on the OkeRail Forum of 26 October as follows:

- OkeRail had now been incorporated as a Community Interest Company
- preparation for public meeting in Charter Hall on 12 November
- planning for a special train to promote OkeRail in the new year
- support received from public meetings at Bude and Launceston.

299. CCTV (Town Centre) - Councillor Leech reported in detail on further conversations he had had to progress the project and on the current initiative being promoted by the Police and Crime Commissioner to support a centrally-monitored CCTV network in Devon towns. It was requested that Councillor Leech's report be circulated.

Cllr Leech

300. Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group - Councillor Goffey reported that the Group had now amended its name and terms of reference as Advance Okehampton - Working in Partnership.

301. Edwardian Evening - Mayor's Carols - Councillor Goffey reported that it had been agreed with the Town Band that the carols would take place outside St James' Chapel this year, where there was lighting and cover available. As in previous years, there would be civic hospitality for visiting guests before the carols in the Council Chamber.

302. Proposed Removal of BT Phone Box at Station Road - The Clerk reported that West Devon Borough Council were co-ordinating a consultation concerning the removal of certain BT phone boxes within the area. The only one within the town's parish was at Station Road. It was agreed that this phone did not appear to meet the parameters for removal as specified by BT and on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Ireland, it

Clerk

was agreed to object to cessation of use as a phone box due to need.

303. Questions Arising from Member Reports –

Councillor Vachon asked that the following assertions be clarified by County Member:

- that a small panel of Members would have authority for the allocation of (airport sale) funds
- it was understood that £360k was originally available from the above fund, with £110k available for the refurbishment of the existing station
- that the link road should be funded by Parcel 2 rather than Parcel 3 of the East of Okehampton development

Cllr Ball

Councillor Weekes asked of the WDBC Members if any enforcement action was being progressed with reference to the shuttering of the windows and doors at the Plume of Feathers. Councillor Yelland agreed to pursue this matter.

Cllr Yelland

Councillor Rush asked for information concerning the employment opportunities with the Business Park.

Cllr Ball

304. Consultation on Possible Closure of Pharmacies – The Council noted the possible closure of local pharmacies due to withdrawal of national funding. On the proposal of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Marsh, it was agreed to inform the National Pharmacy Association of the Town Council's support.

Clerk

305. Consultation on Closure of Okehampton RISE Office – The Clerk reported that a response to the consultation of the possible closure of the RISE office at the Ockment Centre had been made.

306. Discussion Paper – Councillor Cummings introduced a paper on possible future use of the Plume of Feathers building. After discussion, it was agreed to note the paper and the need for establishment of a community interest group if this were to be taken forward within the community.

A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Weekes and agreed.

307. Correspondence Received – A letter had been received from a Northfield Road resident inviting the Council's consideration in requesting the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Leech would raise the matter at the forthcoming HATOC meeting.

Cllr Leech

308 Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – No meeting
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – No meeting

- (iii) Okehampton Matters – No report
- (iv) Okehampton Older People’s Network – No meeting
- (v) Okehampton Remembers – Councillor Marsh reported that initial fundraising was in progress.
- (vi) DALC Annual General Meeting – Councillor Cushing reported on the DALC AGM primary themes; to encourage authorities to work together, to encourage CCGs to work with authorities, Newton Abbot’s progress with taking over assets from DCC and devolution issues.
- (vii) Okehampton Vision Steering Group – Councillor Ireland had passed on a list of Vision Group members to the Clerk to be contacted with a view to co-ordinating a meeting.

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 Marsh, seconded by Councillor Weekes.

Action

309. Okehampton Leisure Centre - Lease to Fusion

310. Traffic Management and Access Issues - Market Street

The meeting closed on Part Two and ratified decisions taken on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Leech. The meeting was closed at 9.04 pm.

Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Mayor