

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 5 December 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 Cushing  
 Councillor Miss C Holt  
 Councillor A Leech  
 Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
 Councillor R Rush  
 Councillor B Tolley  
 Councillor P Vachon  
 Councillor D Weekes  
 Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**Attending:** Councillor K Ball

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

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

	<b>Action</b>
<b>378. <u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Cllrs Carpenter, Cummings and Stephens and for Cllr Davies.	
<b>379. <u>Deferment of Business</u></b> -	
(i) Question and Answer Session with Cllr Philip Sanders (Chair, West Devon Borough Council Planning and Licensing Committee) and Pat Whymer (Head of Development Management, West Devon Borough Council) A number of questions concerning Okehampton-based planning applications, section 106 agreements, funding for infrastructure improvements and the composition of the Planning and Licensing Committee had been sent in advance of the session. The session was extended to 85 minutes in all and generated a number of associated questions and comments. Cllr Sanders agreed to research some of the answers further and respond to the Council in due course. It was also agreed to arrange a planning information and procedures session through Mr Whymer in the new year.	
(ii) <b>For Comment by the Public</b> - None.	
At 8.30 pm, suspension of Standing Order 3(z) was proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Yelland and agreed.	
<b>380. <u>Members' Questions</u></b> - Cllr Cushing had some questions she wished to ask of the County Member concerning his report of 31 October. It was agreed that, in the interests of expediency, the questions would be emailed to Cllr	

Ball and he would respond by email which could be circulated to other Cllr Cushing Councillors.

- 381. West Devon Borough Council** - Cllr Leech reported that the Joint Local Plan consultation was progressing. New land parcels brought forward would be subject to assessment in closed sessions by a panel of developers, agents and specialists, but Cllr Leech reported that he was having difficulty in ascertaining precisely who would be on the panel. He further reported that the Borough Council was looking at additional ways to generate income to avoid a forecast shortfall in 2020/21.  
Cllr Yelland reported that the Borough Council were currently addressing recruitment challenges for the service and contact centre.
- 382. Devon County Council** - Cllr Ball summarised his written report which was made available at the meeting. Included in the report were:
- update on the business park
  - update on the new primary school
  - update on Invest in Devon funding for Okehampton East station
  - the link road
  - potholes
  - refugees
  - Moor Otters Public Arts Initiative.
- 383. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and Members' Questions arising thereon:**
- 383.1 Parks Committee** meeting held on 3 October 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland and agreed.
- 383.2 Planning Committee** meetings held on 10 and 31 October 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Goffey, seconded Cllr Cushing and agreed.
- 383.3 Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 17 October 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Vachon, seconded Cllr Leech and agreed.
- 383.4 Property Committee** meeting held on 5 September 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Marsh and agreed.
- 384. Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 31 October and 7 November 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Yelland.
- 385. Matters Arising** - BT Phone Box at Station Road - The Clerk reported that an objection had been registered with the Borough Council about the proposed removal of the phone box in Station Road due to the frequency of use and general need.
- 386. Civic Diary Report** - The Mayor's civic engagements report had been

circulated.

**387. Reports from Council Working Groups -**

**387.1 Destination Okehampton** - Cllr Ireland reported that the next meeting of Destination Okehampton was scheduled for 5 January 2017 and that notes from the previous meeting would be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation.

**388. Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation -**

**388.1 Neighbourhood Planning Forum** - Cllr Yelland reported that Mr Graham McGrath would provide technical support for a table-top housing needs assessment.

**388.2 Okehampton Hospital - 'Save our Beds' Campaign** - Cllr Goffey reported that paper petitions were being collected prior to travelling to London to submit the combined petition on Thursday 8 December. An analysis of the proposals and proposed finances for the future care scheme were being evaluated locally.

**388.3 OkeRail Forum** - Cllr Ireland reported on issues arising from the OkeRail Forum held on 1 December. A number of associated liaison meetings were taking place and Cllr Goffey was drafting a response to the Peninsula Rail Task Force on the recent consultation document. Cllr Ireland brought the proposition that: "This Council proposes that a minimum service of four trains per day on a seven-day per week basis is introduced at the Okehampton Station at the earliest opportunity on or before 2020. To deliver this, Okehampton Town Council will work with leaseholders and the relevant train operating companies." The motion was seconded by Cllr Leech and agreed.

**389. Questions Arising from Member Reports - No additional comments.**

**390. Dartmoor National Park Otter Trail Project** - Cllr Goffey summarised the Moor Otters Public Arts Initiative and suggested this as a useful marketing opportunity in Simmons Park. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes, it was agreed to fund a £500 gold sponsorship for the initiative from the marketing budget.

**391. Civic Service 2017** - Cllr Goffey proposed a change in the Civic Service pattern to provide for a non-denominational open-air service in Simmons Park to take place at 2.30 pm. (The existing morning service pattern precluded the involvement of churches other than Fairplace.) It was still intended that a civic procession take place to Simmons Park on this day. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Marsh, it was agreed to suggest Sunday 7 May for the event, subject to formal agreement at the Parks Committee.

Cllr Goffey

**392. Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -**

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No report.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - No report.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters - Next meeting scheduled for January.
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 7 December.
- (v) Okehampton Remembers - No further update at present.
- (vi) Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group - Cllr Goffey reported that the last meeting of the Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group had now taken place in its current format, with the next meeting being under the Advance Okehampton terms of reference. It was noted that a member of the Chamber of Trade had now been agreed to attend the next meeting. Cllr Leech reported that West Devon Borough Council was due to determine its position in January.
- (vii) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - Cllr Ireland reported that an email had been sent to members of the Vision Group with a view to co-ordinating a meeting, but there was no further progress to report at present.

**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 Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Weekes.

**Action**

**393. Okehampton Leisure Centre - Lease to Fusion**

The meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

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