

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on  
Monday 15 July 2013 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Fore Street, Okehampton at 7 pm**

**Members Present:** Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)  
Councillor K Ball  
Councillor R Boyce  
Councillor T Cummings  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor C Letchford  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh

**In Attendance:** Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)

Before proceeding with business, prayers were offered by Revd S Bourne.

93. **Apologies for Absence** – An apology for absence was presented on behalf of Councillors D Weekes and P Vachon.
94. **Deferment of Business** – (for comment by the public)  
Mrs K Bickley expressed her concerns for the Tourist Information Centre in Okehampton as funding from WDBC is to stop. She asked that the valued contribution of the staff should be considered in future discussions on this subject. Mrs Bickley also raised concerns re the service and efficiency of the Housing Benefit Department of WDBC as several of her tenants are experiencing difficulties. Cllr A Leech agreed to look into the issues on their behalf.
95. **Presentation** - Mr N Westman and Mr A Simons on behalf of the BID initiative. They explained the principles of the Scheme which are summarised in the booklet that was distributed. Main aim of the scheme to increase footfall in Okehampton and assist businesses. Ballot papers now issued to businesses in the catchment area with rateable value in excess of £4000.
96. **West Devon Borough Council** – Councillor Leech advised WDBC were meeting to discuss the Okehampton Masterplan and a reminder they are meeting with Okehampton Town and Hamlets Councillors 23<sup>rd</sup> July. He also advised the Boundary Commission review was taking place, this does not affect Parish boundaries.
97. **Devon County Council** – Councillor Ball reported that land had been identified but not secured for the new Primary School. Budgets have been ring fenced for this purpose.
98. **Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members thereon** –
- 98.1 **Policy & Resources Committee** – Councillor T Cummings invited members to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

2013 and 28 May 2013. Councillor T Leech proposed, Councillor Mrs J Goffey seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.

**98.2 Planning Committee** – Councillor A Leech invited members to adopt the minutes of the special meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 April 2013 and the Planning Committee meetings held on 29 April and 3 June 2013. Councillor M Ireland proposed, Councillor C Letchford seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.

**98.3 Parks Committee** - Councillor Mrs C Marsh invited members to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Parks Committee held on 15 April and 20 May 2013. Councillor T Cummings proposed, Councillor Mrs J Goffey seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.

**98.4 Property Committee** – Councillor Mrs J Goffey invited members to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Property Committee held on 8 April 2013. Councillor A Leech proposed, Councillor T Cummings seconded and there being no further questions or amendments the minutes were resolved.

**99. Full Council Meeting Minutes** – Members received the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 May 2013, the Annual General Meeting/Mayor Choosing held on 15 May 2013 and the Special Meeting held on 24 June 2013 which were approved, signed and adopted on the proposition of Cllr M Ireland, seconded by Councillor K Ball.

**100. Matters Arising -**

**100.1 Town Council Vacancies** – Councillor M Davies read out a letter of resignation from Councillor D Pledger which was received today. The Clerk advised no requests for co-option to fill the original vacancy have been received and that she would contact WDBC to advise the current situation.

**100.2 Charity Commission** - See attached update summary from Councillor Davies. Councillors agreed more investigations were required and resolved to review again at next meeting.

**101. Okehampton Tourist Information Centre** – Councillor Davies advised that with effect from 31 March 2014 funding for the Centre would cease. They have 12,000 visitors per annum with 8,000 making enquiries. Councillors resolved to support trying to ensure the Centre remains open and that Councillor Davies attend future meetings relevant to this.

**102. Okehampton Show** – Councillor Davies advised an invitation has been received for the Mayor to open the Show and for Councillors to attend. Resolved to accept invitation and that Mayor and Macebearers be given entrance tickets.

**103. Destination Okehampton** – Councillor Ireland advised a meeting is to be arranged. A draft letter was reviewed aimed at being sent to Councils whose electors would benefit from reinstatement of the rail link from Okehampton, requesting the Councils

to take actions supporting this. Resolved to issue the letter after review and agreement with the Clerk.

104. **BID Vote** – A secret paper ballot was completed by all Councillors present to decide the 2 votes (1 entitlement for the Town Hall and 1 for the Charter Hall) submitted by the Town Council. Result – 5 no votes to supporting the BID, 4 yes votes in favour of the BID.
105. **Mayor’s Community Breakfasts** – The Mayor suggested in an order to bring community groups together that monthly Community Breakfasts be held with an invited guest speaker. No costs to Council, attendees would pay for their breakfast with a donation to the Mayor’s Charities added on. Venues to be rotated. Resolved to support idea with a potential first breakfast in September.
106. **Civic Diary Report** – See attached list of events attended.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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**Councillor M Davies**  
**Town Mayor**

## **Okehampton Mayoral Diary**

**2013/2014**

**From 8<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> July**

9<sup>th</sup> May: Barnstaple Town Council – Mayor’s Choosing

11<sup>th</sup> May: Ten Tors – start

15<sup>th</sup> May: Okehampton Mayor Choosing

17<sup>th</sup> May: Lions Club Annual Dinner

21<sup>st</sup> May: WDBC annual lunch – Tavistock

7<sup>th</sup> June: Jeff Cunliffe funeral

15<sup>th</sup> June: South Molton Olde English Fayre and Lunch

18<sup>th</sup> June: Okehampton Primary School – school sports day

19<sup>th</sup> June: Tor Support Services AGM

21<sup>st</sup> June: Fountain Inn – opening

24<sup>th</sup> June: Community Transport Bus – trip with residents of Kent House

24<sup>th</sup> June: Puzzle Tree Sports afternoon.

25<sup>th</sup> June: Age Concern AGM

26<sup>th</sup> June: Launceston Mayor Choosing

26<sup>th</sup> June: Okehampton Health Summit – Ockment Centre

28<sup>th</sup> June: Get Changed Theatre Company performance

29<sup>th</sup> June: Okehampton Community Event – Charter Hall

30<sup>th</sup> June: Civic Service and Parade

2<sup>nd</sup> July: Friendly Circle AGM

3<sup>rd</sup> July: Meeting about the future of Okehampton Tourist Information Centre

7<sup>th</sup> July: Unveiled Fields in Trusts plaque in Simmons Park