

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 16 January 2017  
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 Carpenter  
Councillor T Cummings  
Councillor Mrs J Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

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

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

	<b>Action</b>
<b>426. <u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Rush, Ball and Davies.	
<b>427. <u>Deferment of Business</u></b> - No public presence.	
<b>428. <u>Members' Questions</u></b> - Cllr Yelland reported that she had received an enquiry about an archive copy of a previous Okehampton Carnival, and asked if any Members had any knowledge of such a video. As there was no such information available within the Council, the enquiry was to be referred on to the Carnival Committee.	
<b>429. <u>West Devon Borough Council</u></b> - Cllr Leech reported that the Joint Local Plan was progressing. Cllr Yelland added that there had been a meeting between Ward Members and Devon County Council to consider assessment of priority of local infrastructure projects to be funded through section 106.	
<b>430. <u>Devon County Council</u></b> - Cllr Ball's written report was made available at the meeting. Questions and comments arising from the report included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how much did the land for the new primary school cost?</li><li>• the Chairman confirmed that the purpose of the 'Invest in Devon monies' had been previously clarified as being for the station</li><li>• the previous week's discussions between West Devon Borough Council and Devon County Council on the Joint Local Plan had emphasised the importance of the link road and the building of Okehampton Parkway railway station.</li></ul>	

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

**431.1 Policy & Resources Committee** meetings held on 28 November and 19 December 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Vachon, seconded Cllr Yelland and agreed.

**432. Full Council Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5 December 2016 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Stephens.

**433. Matters Arising** - BT Phone Box at Station Road - The Clerk reported that the objection registered with the Borough Council had been taken forward to BT about the proposed removal of the phone box in Station Road.

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

**435. Budget and Precept 2017-2018** - The comments and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee were noted and, after discussion, the budget for the financial year 2017-2018 (attached as Annex A to the file copy of these minutes) were agreed as presented on the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Stephens. The precept demand on West Devon Borough Council in the amount of £226,381 was signed off at the meeting.

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

**436.1 Destination Okehampton** - The notes of the Destination Okehampton Working Group of 5 January 2017 had been previously circulated and were noted.

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

**437.1 Neighbourhood Planning Forum** - Cllr Leech reported that the Forum was in the process of co-ordinating an evening event where all the appropriate focus groups could meet at one time. Cllr Yelland added that the technical support was in the process of co-ordinating a desk-top study for the housing needs assessment.

**437.2 Okehampton Hospital - 'Save our Beds' Campaign** - The Mayor reported that a document entitled 'Our Future Care' was finalised in early January as a formal response to the CCG consultation proposals. This had been submitted to Jeremy Hunt MP, local MPs and the CCG Board amongst others. A vote of thanks was recorded to Cllr Goffey for the significant role she had taken personally in the production of this document. It was agreed to discuss personal references further in part two.

- 437.3 OkeRail Forum** - Cllr Ireland reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 26 January.
- 438. Questions Arising from Member Reports** - It was noted that all questions arising from the Devon County Council member's report had been noted under that agenda item.
- 439. Standing Orders and Members' Code of Conduct** - Cllr Vachon noted there had been some relaxation of the standards set out in the Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct and suggested that it would be opportune for all Members to refresh their knowledge of these documents. On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Leech, it was agreed to introduce a session on Standing Orders for new Councillors in the future. The meeting noted the Clerk's report that Standing Orders were already included in the in-house new Councillor induction training.
- 440. Civic Service 2017** - The meeting noted the date set for a non-denominational service on 7 May 2017 and further considered implications for a service at this time in future years. Lead-in time, availability of parade participants, venue availability and proximity to election dates contributed to a doubt as to the viability of this date for future years. After discussion and on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Leech, it was agreed to maintain this date as a celebratory service of the Mayoral year in 2017, but that another date for the formal Civic Service and Parade would be discussed at the next full Council meeting.
- 441. Garden Party Invitations** - On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was agreed to include the names of Cllr Goffey and Cllr Vachon in the draw for Buckingham Palace Garden Party invitations on this occasion.
- 442. Members' Reports and Items for Agendas** -
- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting.
  - (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Cllr Ireland reported the next meeting was scheduled for 9 March.
  - (iii) Okehampton Matters - Next meeting scheduled for 2 February.
  - (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network - Cllr Yelland reported on the recently introduced retired police handyman service (Trust in Blue) - second office opened by Age Concern in North Street and a comment that the Network had not been included in the consultation specifically by the Clinical Commissioning Group.
  - (v) Okehampton Remembers - Cllr Marsh reported that funding applications were in progress.

- (vi) Okehampton/West Devon Liaison Group - No meeting.
- (vii) Okehampton Vision Steering Group - It was noted that this group had not met for a considerable period and no meetings were planned.

**443. Urgent Items for Information** - The Clerk reported that a street naming process had been initiated for the naming of the development in Castle Road on the site of the former laundry. As the Council intended to make representation about the proposed names, it was noted that the matter would be discussed formally at the Parks Committee meeting on 23 January.

**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 Cllr Cummings.

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

**445. Civic Dinner and Ex Gratia Tickets**

**437.1 Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups (continued) -  
Okehampton Hospital - 'Save our Beds' Campaign -**

**Action**

The Council then agreed to move out of part two proceedings and to ratify decisions made in part two on the proposition of Cllr Stephens, seconded Cllr Leech.

The meeting was closed at 8.39 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Mrs J Goffey**  
**Mayor**