

**Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 27 February 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 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.

- 507. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings, Stephens and Davies.
- 508. Deferment of Business** -
- 508.1** Presentation by Debbie Locke (RBL Advice & Information Officer, Devon & Cornwall) covering role and activities and including the once-monthly outreach session held in the Ockment Centre.
- 508.2** No matters brought by members of the public present.
- 509. Members' Questions** - Nil.
- 510. Report from West Devon Borough Councillors** -
- Joint Local Plan almost ready for consultation, and includes town centre access route and rail link to Exeter.
 - Garden waste collection to be an opt-in charged service from April.
 - Joint Local Plan - comments, whether critical or supportive, will be equally welcomed.
- 511. Devon County Council** - Cllr Ball presented a verbal report which included the following points:
- Thanks to Okehampton Town Council for the £500 grant towards the running of the Royal Oke special train. Despite a number of obstacles, all seats had been sold out within a week of going on sale.

Action

- Devon County Council has now approved its budget for 2017-18. Funding towards the station from the Invest in Devon fund is still available and is being carried forward and funding has been assured for the Sunday Rover service for 2017. Great Western Railway have committed to a two-coach train for the Sunday Rover service and are looking to produce a promotional leaflet in the near future.
- The transfer of ownership from Devon County Council to Okehampton College in relation to the Wardhayes building is continuing with the intention that it will be made ready for Sixth Form Centre use in late 2017/early 2018.
- Business Park - agreement on completion for a second site is close to announcement and any further developments will be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation to Members.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Ball for his significant input to the organisation of the special train and Cllr Ball left the meeting at 7.17 pm.

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

512.1 Parks Committee meetings held on 21 and 28 November 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes and agreed.

512.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 21 November, 12 and 19 December 2016 and 9 January 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Weekes, seconded Cllr Ireland and agreed.

512.3 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 14 November 2016 and 9 and 30 January 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Holt, seconded Cllr Leech and agreed.

512.4 Property Committee meeting held on 7 November 2016 - adoption proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Marsh and agreed.

513. Full Council Meeting - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 January 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Yelland.

514. Matters Arising -

514.1 Joint Local Plan Forthcoming Consultation - Cllr Leech reported that the Joint Local Plan would be available to the public shortly and there would be a six-week consultation period during which all Members individually and collectively were invited to discuss and respond to the consultation. There would be an item on the Planning Committee agenda on 3 April to coordinate the Council's formal response.

514.2 Garden Party Invitations - The Clerk reported that four names had been drawn from the hat for this year's garden party invitations. Unfortunately

local nominations had not been successful on this occasion.

514.3 Street Naming Consultation - The Clerk reported that representation to West Devon Borough Council had been made following discussion of this matter at the Parks Committee on 23 January.

515. Civic Diary Report - The Mayor had circulated a report of her civic diary for the months of January and February 2017.

516. Review of Policies - On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes, the Council noted the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee and endorsed the following policies:

- a) Financial Regulations
- b) Financial Risk Assessment Management
- c) Statement of Internal Control
- d) Investment Strategy

The Council further noted that draft policies for Leave and Absence Management will go through staff consultation before returning to the Council for endorsement.

517. Reports of Council Working Groups -

517.1 Destination Okehampton - Some members of the Destination Okehampton Working Group had attended a consultation event in Bude on 18 February. A further meeting of the Working Group would be scheduled after the running of the Royal Oke special train.

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

518.1 Neighbourhood Planning Forum - Cllr Yelland that:

- A planning consultant had been engaged to assist in the formulation of planning policies.
- A desk-top study of housing needs had been undertaken and the conclusions noted. It had been agreed to hold comments until after Regulation 19 for the Joint Local Plan had been implemented. Cllr Leech added that a local land-availability survey was being conducted and that he was collecting responses, with seven contacts to date.
- A Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group event was planned for 25 March subject to the availability of Devon County Council planning officers.

518.2 Okehampton Hospital - 'Save our Beds' (Cllr Goffey) -

- The Clinical Commissioning Group were due to meet at the Racecourse on Thursday 2 March. Cllr Goffey was due to attend.
- The result of the Your Future Care consultation was not due for release until Thursday 2 March in the afternoon.
- Cllr Goffey would have a pre-briefing with Ms J Fitzgerald on Wednesday 1 March, prior to the Save our Beds Group meeting to discuss a

response.

518.3 OkeRail Forum (Cllr Ireland) -

- The Forum had last met on 26 January. The minutes had now been forwarded to the Clerk for onward circulation. A document had been tabled in response to the Peninsula Rail Group's paper 'Closing the Gap'. The Forum now awaited the results of the rail franchise awards.
- Links had been established with Exeter City Futures Group. The Forum had expressed their gratitude to Okehampton United Charities for underwriting the Royal Oke special train.
- The newly-established OkeRail CIC was now working productively with the Forum and providing a financial vehicle.
- The Forum had now become part of the Travel Watch South West Group and would attend a meeting on 4 March in Taunton.

519. Questions Arising from Member Reports - Cllr Weekes asked if the County Member would investigate the potential for a hotel as part of the Business Park development, in the event that the proposal at White House Services did not win approval?

Clerk

520. Okehampton Marketing - Cllr Vachon outlined the purpose of a 'Marketing Okehampton' publication on which he was working together with Stephen Foster and Rachel Hopper. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would consider the funding issue regarding printing costs when presented with a full statement of overall costs, other financial contributors and a full draft of the proposed publication, this on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes.

521. Proposed Cycle Stands - A proposal had been received from Devon County Council concerning the placement of new cycle stands at various locations in the town. After discussion, it was agreed to register the Council's interest in the proposal in principle, concentrating on potential sites at the station car park and Jacob's Pool/George Street.

Clerk

522. Civic Service 2017 - After extended discussion on an appropriate time of year for the Mayor's Civic Service and Parade, noting the lead-in time required for parade elements and road closures it was agreed to hold the service on Sunday 10 September 2017 at 3 pm and aim for the second Sunday in September for 2018 on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Yelland. The Mayor confirmed that the service proposed for 7 May would not be pursued further.

Clerk

523. Annual Town Assembly - It was generally agreed that using a four-table layout for the Committees, together with an invitation to different groups (eg Chamber of Trade, Police, OkeRail CIC) to attend the Annual Parish Meeting may make a more attractive package and encourage participation from the town's electors. The Council noted the Clerk's briefing note and the presentation to be made by Fusion.

At this point Cllr Leech proposed suspension of Standing Order 3(z) to enable the extension of the Council meeting beyond 90 minutes.

524. Members' Reports and Items for Agendas -

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting.
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee (Cllrs Cummings & Ireland) - Next meeting scheduled for 9 March.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters (Cllrs Goffey & Ireland) - Points discussed included:
 - update on town CCTV
 - parking issues in the East Street/Northfield Road area
 - speed monitoring on Exeter Road (most travelling faster out of Okehampton than into Okehampton).
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network (Cllr Yelland) - No meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Remembers (Cllr Marsh) - Reduction of scale of proposed feature being considered.
- (vi) Okehampton/West Devon Liaison (Cllr Goffey) - No further meetings planned under current terms of reference, with a date for newly formed 'Advance Okehampton' in consideration but pending input from West Devon Borough Council.

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 Leech, seconded Cllr Yelland.

525. West Devon Mayoral Awards

526. Informal Periodic Meeting between Town and Hamlets

The meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Mayor

Action