

Minutes of a Meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on Monday 8 May 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

In Attendance: P R Snell (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe.

- 612. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings, Stephens, Ball (DCC & WDBC Ward Member) and Davies (WDBC Ward Member).
- 613. Deferment of Business** - No public presence.
- 614. Members' Questions** - Cllr Cushing had registered a question concerning recruitment for the Clerk's appointment, which would become vacant at the end of the month. The Chairman determined this to be a Part Two item, which was on the agenda.
- 615. West Devon Borough Council** - Cllr Yelland reported that signage at Mill Road car park concerning signposting to public toilets was being addressed. West Devon Borough Council was also seeking to address the plethora of A-frame advertising boards on pavements and would be writing to businesses on the matter.
Cllr Leech reported that the recent Parking Strategy group were looking further at car park signposting particularly for coach parking. Green waste would be charged for separately on an opt-in basis starting later in the year. There were a number of respondents to the Joint Local Plan Consultation who had been unable to register for online comment - this would be looked into. Structure changes were planned to combine the Internal and External Scrutiny Committee function.
- 616. Devon County Council** - The Ward Member had given apologies for absence and no report was available.

Action

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

617.1 Parks Committee meeting held on 23 January 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland and agreed.

617.2 Planning Committee meetings held on 30 January, 13 February, 6 and 13 March 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Cushing and agreed.

617.3 Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 13 February and 20 March 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Tolley and agreed.

617.4 Property Committee meetings held on 28 November 2016 and 6 February 2017 - adoption proposed by Cllr Carpenter, seconded Cllr Yelland and agreed.

618. Full Council Meeting - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 27 February 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland.

619. Matters Arising -

619.1 Cycle Stands - The Council's expression of interest has been acknowledged and the Project Officer is further investigating sites at the train station and at the post office.

619.2 Civic Service - A request will be submitted to All Saints Church to hold the Civic Service there on Sunday 10 September 2017 at 3 pm.

619.3 Joint Local Plan (JLP) - The Clerk reported that a response to the JLP consultation had been submitted and circulated to Members.

619.4 Annual Town Assembly - The Mayor reported that the Assembly had been well attended and the Annual Report circulated. The minutes of the Assembly were on the Council's website.

620. Civic Diary Report - The Mayor had circulated the March summary previously. The report for April would come to the next meeting. The recent weekend had been very active with two civic social functions and the Ten Tors Expedition start.

621. Review of Policies - The Council considered the following policies (as previously circulated):

- Standing Orders
- Leave Policy
- Absence Management Policy

and on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Leech, endorsed them.

622. Reports of Council Working Groups - Cllr Ireland reported that the next Destination Okehampton Committee was scheduled for 10 May at 7 pm.

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

623.1 Neighbourhood Planning Forum - Cllr Yelland reported that the Housing Needs Assessment had been circulated and a policies paper was awaited from the consultant. The Forum was due to meet on 9 May.

623.2 OkeRail Forum - Cllr Ireland reported on the meeting which took place on 22 March:

- minutes will be forwarded for circulation
- meeting with Exeter City Futures Group focusing on reducing congestion
- success of the Royal Oke event and a discussion on a future event in the autumn
- planning a time-line for the reintroduction of passenger rail services from Okehampton
- Cllr Ireland to attend a meeting of the Travel Watch South West
- leaflets funded by GWR now published as 'Summer Trains from Okehampton' and 'Summer Trains to Okehampton' for circulation in time for the start of services on 21 May 2017
- next meeting of OkeRail on 11 May.

624. Questions Arising from Member Reports - It was requested that Cllr Ball, as the County Member, press the new Cabinet Member for Business and Economy on the projected development timetable for the new Parkway station.

Clerk

625. Museum of Dartmoor Life - The Museum had notified a change in its constitution whereby it has now become a charitable incorporated organisation. The Museum trustees have asked the Council for a Council nominated trustee (who need not be a member of the Council) to serve for a term of three years. Cllr Goffey, having volunteered, was nominated on the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Yelland.

626. Section 106 Communities Facilities Fund - Cllrs Leech and Yelland declared personal interests as Ward Members.

The meeting noted a request to West Devon Borough Council from Okehampton Rugby Club for the remaining £16,000 in the section 106 Communities Facilities Fund to support the balance of stage two of a phased three stage refurbishment of the rugby club facilities. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Weekes, it was agreed to support the request.

627. Members' Reports and Items for Agendas -

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum - No meeting.

- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee - Next meeting scheduled for 29 June.
- (iii) Okehampton Matters (Cllr Goffey) - Minutes had been circulated this day and amongst subjects discussed were CCTV systems in the park and the town.
- (iv) Okehampton Older People's Network (Cllr Yelland) - Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 11 May.
- (v) Okehampton Remembers (Cllr Marsh) - A new, more affordable design was being considered.

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 Ireland, seconded Cllr Leech.

Action

628. Personnel Committee

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was agreed to return to Part One and to ratify decisions made in Part Two.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.51 pm.

Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Mayor