

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Annual General Meeting/Mayor Choosing held on  
Wednesday 10 May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Fore Street, Okehampton at 12 noon**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mrs J Goffey  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor T Cummings  
Councillor Mrs V Cushing  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor A Leech  
Councillor Mrs C Marsh  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** Mr P R Snell (Town Clerk)  
Mace Bearers

Before proceeding with business, a welcome was offered by Cllr Goffey and prayers were offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd Canon Tim Newcombe.

1. **Election of Town Mayor** - It was proposed that Cllr Goffey serve as Mayor for the coming year by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Carpenter. All Councillors were in favour. Cllr Goffey then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor.
2. **Election of Deputy Town Mayor** - Cllr Goffey proposed that Cllr Ireland serve as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Cummings. All Councillors were in favour. Cllr Ireland read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Town Mayor. The Deputy Town Mayor responded with a short speech.
3. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Cllrs Rush and Stephens.
4. **Town Mayor** - Cllr Goffey firstly thanked the Town Clerk and Office Staff for their support to the Council throughout, what rapidly became, a very busy year. Thanks were also extended to Committee Chairs, Deputy Mayor, Mace bearers and, not least, her Consort. She highlighted the ongoing campaign to maintain hospital services and the peninsula Rail Report as particularly influential aspects of the year.

Cllr Goffey thanked the Mayor's Cadet, Cpl Hayleigh Shaw for fulfilment of her duties in the last part of the year and was pleased to present the brassard to Cadet Charlie Thompson, as Mayor's Cadet for the coming mayoral year. Councillor Goffey presented Mayor's Award Certificates to Mr Richard Proctor for contributions and research concerning passenger use of the Sunday Rover rail service and other

assistance to OkeRail in support of the reinstatement of a Northern Rail Option; to Ms Alison Duckers for her role in chairing the Okehampton & Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan Group and wider communications within the community; to Okehampton Carnival committee (certificate received Mr Stephen Bolt and Mrs Karen Penna on behalf of the committee) for managing a successful local carnival in the town; and to Mrs Jackie and Miss Kirsty Reynolds for co-ordinating Christmas Day meals for the isolated or lonely during the last 3 years.

5. **Expenses of the Office of Mayor** - To endorse the payment of an allowance of £2,500 to defray the expenses attached to the office of Mayor in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Leech. All Councillors were in favour.

6. **Standing Committees of the Council** -

- 6.1 It was agreed to appoint Councillors to the following Committees for the ensuing year: Parks, Planning, Policy and Resources, Property, Emergencies (Mayor and Committee Chairs) as set out in the schedule at Annex A to these minutes, proposed *en bloc* by Cllr Cummings, seconded by Cllr Cushing.

- 6.2 It was agreed to elect Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the Standing Committees as follows:

Parks - Chairman Cllr Marsh, proposed by Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Ireland.  
Vice-Chairman of Parks - Cllr Holt, proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Weekes.

Planning - Chairman Cllr Leech, proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Cummings.  
Vice Chairman - Cllr Rush, proposed by Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Cummings.

Policy and Resources - Chairman Cllr Yelland, proposed by Cllr Cummings, seconded by Cllr Marsh. Vice Chairman - Cllr Cummings, proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Yelland.

Property - Chairman Cllr Weekes, proposed by Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Leech.  
Vice Chairman - Cllr Carpenter, proposed by Cllr Holt, seconded by Cllr Yelland.

7. **Working Groups** - There is currently one working group reporting directly to the full Council:

- Destination Okehampton

The representation to this working group was noted in accordance with the schedule set out at Annex B to these minutes.

8. **Representatives on Other Bodies** - It was agreed to appoint Councillors as representatives of this authority to other bodies in accordance with the schedule set out at Annex C to these minutes on the proposition of Cllr Holt, seconded by Cllr Ireland.

9. **Council and Committee Schedule of Meetings 2017-18** - It was resolved to adopt the schedule of meetings for the ensuing year as set out at Annex D to these minutes on the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Marsh.

The Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 12.25 pm and welcomed all to a buffet lunch in the Charter Hall.

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**Councillor J Goffey**  
**Town Mayor**