

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 2 September 2013 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton
at 7.00 pm**

Members Present:

Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor K Ball
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor Mrs J Goffey
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor A Leech
Councillor C Letchford
Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor D Weekes

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

Before proceeding with business, prayers were offered by Jeff Jacobson.

- 165. Apologies for Absence** - An apology for absence was presented on behalf of Councillor Mrs M McDonald.
- 166. Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - Mr R Flexman was present who raised concerns about the appearance of the town in certain areas. He appreciated the efforts made by the Mayor and the Primary School in connection with their litter picking campaign. The areas of particular concern which he felt were eyesores and looked unkempt were the advertisement hoardings in East Street, the two building sites in Mill Road, Sustrans path by the Mill Site as there was a broken seat and the area was not maintained, the Mill Site, Bostock's site, Fairplace Gardens and the west side of Westbridge. It was agreed that these items could be placed on the agenda of future Parks Committee meetings and Planning Committee meetings for further discussion and progress.
- 167. West Devon Borough Council** - Councillor Leech advised that West Devon Borough Council was reviewing its ongoing structure and that the east of Okehampton Masterplanning document is being presented to committee next week. Councillor Letchford questioned why the email addresses of Councillors did not appear on the West Devon website, West Devon Councillors agreed to follow this up.
- 168. Devon County Council** - Councillor Ball reported that he had attended meetings in connection with the development of the Opportunity Okehampton site and the railway and that tidying up of the Opportunity Okehampton site was due to happen shortly.
- 169. Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon** -
- 169.1 Policy and Resources Committee** - Councillor T Cummings invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24

June 2013. Councillor T Cummings proposed, Councillor K Ball seconded and there being no questions or amendments the minutes were resolved unanimously.

169.2 Planning Committee - Councillor A Leech invited Members to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 July 2013. Councillor Mrs J Goffey proposed, Councillor P Vachon seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.

169.3 Parks Committee - Councillor Mrs C Marsh invited Council to adopt the minutes of the Parks Committee meetings held on 17 June and 22 July 2013. Proposed by Councillor Mrs C Marsh, seconded by Councillor M Ireland and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved unanimously.

169.4 Property Committee - Councillor Mrs J Goffey invited Members to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Property Committee held on 10 June and 15 July 2013. Councillor A Leech proposed, Councillor C Letchford seconded and there being no questions or amendments, the minutes were resolved.

170. Full Council Meeting Minutes - Members received the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15 July 2013 which were approved, signed and adopted on the proposition of Councillor K Ball and seconded by Councillor T Cummings.

The Acting Clerk suggested that, in future, minutes of meetings should be distributed as soon as possible after completion rather than waiting to just before the next meeting, all Councillors in favour of this action.

171. Matters Arising -

171.1 Town Council Vacancies - The Acting Clerk advised that the statutory notice had been published and no requests for an election had been received and therefore the Council was now able to fill the position by co-option. It was agreed that articles should be placed in the local press, posters etc rather than a specific advert in the newspaper. Mayor and Clerk to progress.

171.2 Charity Commission - The Mayor advised he had been progressing investigations into the Town Hall Charity, Simmons Park Charity, Kempley Meadows Charity and the Simmons Charity. After discussion it was agreed that the possibility of combining the Kempley Meadows and Simmons Park Charity be investigated further. It was also agreed that a further history of the Simmons Charity be obtained including the investment of £70,000 with M & G Investments. Mayor to progress.

171.3 Okehampton Tourist Information Centre - The Mayor advised a meeting was due to take place on 3 September when an update would be available.

171.4 Mayor's Community Breakfast - The Mayor advised the first breakfast has been booked for 25 September at 8.00 am at the White Hart Hotel, cost £6 plus £1 fundraising, with the speaker being Inspector Andy Oliver.

172. Okehampton United Charity - A request has been received for nomination/re-election of a trustee as Mr A Fisher's term of office is due to end on 22 October 2013.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs C Marsh and seconded by Councillor D Weekes that Mr A Fisher be re-elected. All Councillors in favour.

173. **Redemption of 8% Treasury Stock 2013** - It was proposed by Councillor M Davies and seconded by Councillor M Ireland to obtain repayment of the maturing treasury stock and to obtain further advice from Davidson's Financial Services before deciding on potential reinvestments. All Councillors in favour.
174. **Okehampton Town Council - Engaging with the Public** - It was agreed that a Mayor's Newsletter be published on a six-monthly basis to be distributed with the Okehampton Living magazine. Mayor/Clerk to progress.
175. **Destination Okehampton** - Councillor Ireland distributed notes of a meeting held on 20 August 2013, appendix A attached to minutes. These notes were answers to questions raised by a government consultation, Passenger Transport in Isolated Communities. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs C Marsh and seconded by Councillor T Cummings, that responses be submitted in line with the notes and thanks were expressed to Councillor Mrs J Goffey for producing the meeting notes.
176. **Civic Diary Report** - See appendix B attached.

PART TWO

ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUND THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED (if any).

The Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:-

"On the proposition of Councillor Mrs C Marsh, seconded by Councillor M Ireland, it was resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the under mentioned item of business on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in the paragraph given below from Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) to the Act".

Paragraph 1 – Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder, former office holder or applicant to become an office holder under the authority.

177. Staffing

It was resolved to come out of part 2 on the proposition of Councillor A Leech, seconded by Councillor M Ireland, move back into part 1 and ratify all decisions taken in part 2.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm.

Councillor M Davies
Town Mayor