

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Okehampton**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Mayor)  
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs V 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:** Councillor M Davies (WDBC)  
Canon Tim Newcombe  
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe

**134** Expressions of Interest – None

**135** Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Carpenter.

**136** Deferment of Business – None

**137** Members' Questions - Councillor Weekes requested an update regarding the parking of public vehicles in the taxi rank.

**138** West Devon Borough Council – Councillor Davies reported that the new Garden Waste Scheme bags had been distributed to those who had signed up. WDBC and South Hams District Council's proposal to become a single council by 2021 due to anticipated budget shortfalls of 1.1m and 0.8m respectively was advised. Both Councils had agreed in principal and a consultation would be undertaken, with every household being informed.

Councillor Leech reported that the Joint Local Plan had been sent to the Inspectorate and Okehampton Hamlets proposal for two additional Councillor's was going out to consultation.

**139** Devon County Council - Councillor Ball was not in attendance and no report had been received. Councillor Ball to be requested to send a report and apologies for any future meetings he is unable to attend.

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

**140.1** **Parks Committee** meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed, following a query by Councillor Cushing regarding Min Ref 41.3, dog bin at Tramlines path which would be followed up Councillor Marsh.

**Action**

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Marsh

- 140.2 Planning Committee** meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Cushing and agreed, following queries by Councillor Cushing; Min Ref 49, road signs at a zebra crossing, and Min Ref 16, Section 106 funding, both of which were awaiting responses.
- 140.3 Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Tolley and agreed.
- 140.4 Property Committee** meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Holt, seconded Councillor Yelland and agreed.
- 141 Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Weekes.
- 142 Co-option of Councillor** – A by-election was not required and it was resolved on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Ireland that expressions of interest would be requested by 4<sup>th</sup> September for review at the Full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September.
- 143 Town Centre Access Road** – The possibility of bidding for money from the Government being made available to towns and villages suffering traffic congestion for by-passes was discussed. It was agreed that a Working Group consisting of Councillor's Goffey, Yelland and Rush convene to draft documents for approval by the Full Council.
- 144 OkePads – Defibrillator Training** – No Councillors were available to take up a free Defibrillator training session offered by OkePads.
- 145 Pretoria Vaults, Okehampton** - Councillor's Leech, Yelland and Goffey had attended the Licensing Committee meeting, the application for additional opening hours was granted, with conditions.
- Councillor Ireland suggested that the installation CCTV in the vicinity of the premises would be advantageous.
- 146 Civic Diary Report** – No report circulated.
- 147 Reports of Council Working Groups** –
- 147.1 Destination Okehampton** – Councillor Ireland reported that a meeting was due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> August and that notes from the previous meeting would be forwarded by the Clerk.
- 148 Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation** -
- 148.1 OkeRail Forum** – Councillor Ireland reported that a meeting was being held on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The forum was looking at ways in which communication could be improved.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> July a meeting had been held with the Great Western manager regarding the summer Sunday service for 2018, and improvements to connection times with other services, including to London. It was hoped that

Clerk

Cllr's Goffey,  
Yelland &  
Rush

Clerk

three special trains would run in 2018. Feasibility of a bridge over the line was also to be discussed in the future.

A meeting with the Department of Transport had also taken place

- 149** **Questions Arising from Member Reports** – Councillor Rush requested an update from Councillor Ball regarding the business park sale of plots.

Clerk

The WDBC and SHDC joint Council proposal and how members of the public would be able to respond was queried. It was advised that all households affected would be informed. The agreement of all MP's and DCC was required in order for the proposal to go ahead. Weighting given to stakeholders would be greater than that of individuals.

Councillor Vachon requested information regarding the total cost of the amalgamation to which Councillor Yelland reported that year on year there would be a 0.5m saving.

*(A member of the public left the meeting)*

- 150** **Members' Reports and Requests for Agenda Items -**

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – No meeting
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – No meeting
- (iii) Okehampton Health and Wellbeing Alliance – Councillor Cushing reported that the group was no longer known as Okehampton Older People's Network. Two meetings had been held since the last report. The maternity unit had closed in mid-July, for three months, but it was unknown if it would reopen. Report to be circulated. Councillor Cushing is the nominated attendee for future reference.

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On the proposal of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Leech, Standing Orders were suspended.

- 151** **URGENT ITEMS** – Councillor Goffey provided an update and outline of the Sports pitch proposal in Simmons Park and action taken by the Parks Committee. A formal response to correspondence requesting additional information was awaited, the proposers to be reminded that all correspondence should be sent through the Clerk.

Clerk

## **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 Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Ireland.

- 152** **Personnel Committee** – On the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Weekes the employment contract for the new Clerk, Mrs Emma James, as approved by the Policy and Resources Committee was ratified and signed by Mrs James and Councillor Goffey.

Action

The meeting closed on Part Two and ratified decisions taken on the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Goffey. The meeting was closed at 9.02 pm.

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**Councillor Mrs J Goffey**  
**Mayor**