

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 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 Mrs J Carpenter  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor D Weekes  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** Councillor K Ball (DCC)  
Canon Tim Newcombe  
Two members of the public  
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

Before business, prayers were offered by Canon Tim Newcombe

- |            |   |               |
|------------|---|---------------|
|            |   | <b>Action</b> |
| <b>189</b> | <b><u>Expressions of Interest</u></b> – None  |               |
| <b>190</b> | <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor's R Rush, P Vachon, T Cummings and M Davies (WDBC).   |               |
| <b>191</b> | <b><u>Deferment of Business</u></b> – Sally Shipton, Okehampton Times, thanked the Council for their co-operation and introduced her replacement, Sarah Pitts.  |               |
| <b>192</b> | <b><u>Members' Questions</u></b> - Councillor Cushing posed questions on behalf of Councillor Rush – to be forwarded by email to Councillor Ball.   | Clerk         |
| <b>193</b> | <b><u>West Devon Borough Council</u></b> – Councillor Leech reported on the One Council consultation that was held in Okehampton last week, no feedback with regard to the number of attendees had been received. A meeting to discuss Community Housing was due to be held – an item to be added to the next Planning Committee agenda.  |               |
| <b>194</b> | <b><u>Devon County Council</u></b> - Councillor Ball advised that his apologies for the previous meeting had been missed from the minutes. A full report had previously been circulated, some points of which were reiterated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Park – one company had pulled out, another window for expressions of interest would open shortly.</li> <li>• Parkway Station – plans for a Dartmoor Rail shuttle are untrue. GWR will decide the timetable and where the train stops; ie the Parkway or the existing station.</li> <li>• A meeting with Hazel Fox had taken place regarding parking at the rear of the primary school. The issue had been exacerbated by the work at the Rugby Club; the carpark had now been restored. Plans were in place to add double yellow lines to the road to aid traffic enforcement.</li> <li>• Otter Project – Otters are being returned, auction results will be feedback in due course, the costs of the project had already been covered.</li> </ul> |               |

Councillor Ireland advised that there was an error on page 5 of the report;

DRSA should have been Dartmoor Railway Association. DRSA heritage service only wished to run trains from Okehampton to Meldon as at present.

Councillor Leech requested sight of the new station plans in due course.

(Councillor Ball left the meeting)

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

**195.1 Planning Committee** meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Cushing and agreed.

**195.2 Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Tolley, seconded Councillor Marsh and agreed.

**195.3 Property Committee** meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - adoption proposed by Councillor Yelland, seconded Councillor Leech and agreed.

**196 Full Council Meeting** - The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were received, signed and approved on the proposition of Councillor Tolley, seconded by Councillor Holt.

**197 Co-option of Councillor** – A vote on the applications received was taken and Sarah (Sally) Parkins was co-opted as Councillor.

Clerk

**198 Jubilee Bridge – TAP Fund Application** – An application submitted for a grant towards repair work to the bridge following recent flooding was noted by the Council.

**199 One Council Consultation** –Councillors Yelland and Leech declared an interest being WDBC members.

Councillor Leech reported on a consultation event held at Waitrose, a limited telephone consultation was also being held, along with paper and electronic surveys – closing date 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Clerk to formulate a response on receipt of emailed thoughts from Councillors.

Councillors/  
Clerk

**200 Taxi Licensing Consultation** – Councillor Weekes declared an interest. On the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded by Councillor Yelland, it was resolved to agree to the proposals.

Clerk

**201 School Sponsorship Consultation** – Following consideration of the proposals and on the proposition of Councillor Yelland, seconded by Councillor Leech, (vote; 4 in favour, 2 against, 4 abstentions) it was resolved to support the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's application.

Clerk

**202 Okehampton United Charities** – Councillors Ireland and Goffey declared an interest.

Due to the expiration of Mr Allenton Fisher's term of office as a nominated Trustee to the Charity in October 2017 the appointment of a trustee was discussed. On the proposition of Councillor Leech, seconded by Councillor

- Marsh, Mr Allenton Fisher was appointed for a further term of office. Clerk
- 203 **Okehampton Hospital** – A letter from Mel Stride MP was read out by Councillor Goffey who also reported that there were 45 clinics currently being held by at the hospital and other services that were still being offered. Councillor Leech requested that an agenda item to consider nominating the building an Asset of Community Interest be included on the next agenda of the Full Council. Clerk
- 204 **George Street/Fore Street Roadworks** – Councillor Leech reported that the road was now partially open to traffic going out onto Fore Street and that he had been advised that the area, WDBC land, where spoil etc had been placed would be thoroughly cleaned on completion of the work.
- 205 **Invitations** – A reminder of invitations for upcoming training sessions and events was made:
- Appraisal Training – 18<sup>th</sup> October
  - Planning Training – 28<sup>th</sup> September
  - Car Parking Strategy Group Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> November (Councillor's Leech and Marsh)
  - Ashbury Hotel Sports Facilities – attended by Councillors on 6<sup>th</sup> September
  - Civic Service – 17<sup>th</sup> September
- 206 **Civic Service Report** – The Mayor reported on events attended during August, as previously circulated.
- 207 **Reports of Council Working Groups** –
- 207.1 **Destination Okehampton** – Councillor Ireland reported a meeting had been held on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The promotion of the town and Sunday trains had been helped by the Sunday Market that ran throughout the summer. Cllr Ireland had attended a heritage day in Bude and suggested that Councillors could visit to see how they promoted their town. Both Tavistock and Hatherleigh Town Council's had supported the Sunday trains by arranging busses to bring parishioners to the town. A full report to be circulated by Councillor Ireland.
- 208 **Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation -**
- 208.1 **OkeRail Forum** – Councillor Ireland reported that the next meeting was on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 10am to 12 noon in the Business Centre. Councillor Ireland further reported on other events including meetings with GWR who were investigating the installation of a communications mast
- The last train was on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, this year there had been 6138 passenger journeys compared to 7563 in 2016. The numbers were down due to timetable changes because of works at St David's station and lack of correct certification for trains to run at speeds in excess of 25mph.
- A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Councillor Leech, seconded Councillor Ireland and agreed.
- 209 **Questions Arising from Member Reports** – Councillor Yelland to follow up a previously requested answer to the cost of the One Council proposal by

Councillor Vachon.

Cllr Yelland

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

- (i) Dartmoor National Park Forum – No report
- (ii) Northern Parishes Link Committee – Meeting due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September
- (iii) Okehampton Health and Wellbeing Alliance – Meeting due to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

(Members of the public left the meeting)

**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 Ireland, seconded by Councillor Leech.

**211 Town Centre Access Road** – On the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded by Councillor Weekes a letter to be sent by Councillor Goffey.

**Action**

Cllr Goffey

**212 Community Governance Review** – A response to be sent to Mr Jordan by Councillor Goffey and the Clerk

Cllr Goffey/  
Clerk

The meeting closed on Part Two and ratified decisions taken on the proposition of Councillor Marsh, seconded Councillor Leech.

The meeting was closed at 9pm

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