

**Minutes of a meeting of Okehampton Town Council held on
Monday 29th July 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton**

Members Present: Councillor A Fisher (Mayor)
Councillor R Colman (Chairman, Property Committee)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning Committee)
Councillor B Tolley (Chairman, Parks Committee)
Councillor J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources Committee)
Councillor T Cummings
Councillor C Holt
Councillor M Ireland
Councillor C Marsh
Councillor M Richards
Councillor L Rogers
Councillor S Weekes

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Clerk)
4 members of the public

Action

- 190 Apologies for Absence** – Apologies tendered from Cllrs Dexter and Vachon (WDBC) and Cllr Samuel (DCC) were noted.
- On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Colman, it was **RESOLVED** to approve apologies tendered by Cllr Bird (personal).
- Cllr Hart was absent.
- 191 Declarations of Interest** – None
- 192 Public Participation** – Two members of the public addressed the Council on behalf of Transition Town Okehampton, a community-based organisation, and provided an overview of the work of the group. Following the presentation questions and comments were posed by Councillors.
- A member of the public provided further information in relation to the Foodbank.
- 193 Members Questions** – None
- 194 West Devon Borough Council** – A report from Cllr Leech was previously circulated.
- (2 members of the public left the meeting).
- 195 Devon County Council** – A report from Cllr Samuel had previously been circulated.
- 196 Questions Arising from Members Reports** – None
- 197 Adoption of Minutes of Committees and to Receive Questions from Members Thereon**
- 197.1** On the proposition of Cllr Tolley, seconded Cllr Weekes, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the **Parks Committee** meeting held on 13th May 2024.
- 197.2** On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Ireland, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the **Planning Committee** meetings held on 4th and 18th March, 13th May, 3rd and 17th June 2024.

- 197.3 On the proposition of Cllr Colman, seconded Cllr Rogers, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the **Property Committee** meeting held on 3rd June 2024.
- 198 **Full Council Meeting Minutes** – The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24th June 2024 were **approved** on the proposition of Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Weekes, to be signed by Cllr Fisher.
- 199 **Charter Hall Roofing Project** – Ventilation and ducting work was in progress. A list of individuals, groups and organisations who had generously donated towards the sponsor a slate initiative would be published on completion of the project.
- 200 **Okehampton Projects and Consultations**
- 200.1 **Business Improvement District (BID)** – The outcome of the ballot had been successful. It was anticipated the BID would commence on 1st October 2024.
- 200.2 **DCC Urban Renewal Project** – The Regeneration Scheme was progressing with projects such as a farmers market, supporting recruitment and growth for small businesses and an employment fair. The next meeting was in September.
- DCC had some funding available for ‘Quick Wins’ that supported the Regeneration Scheme. It was suggested an application be submitted for match funding towards the Councils Town Centre Business Grant Initiative.
- 200.3 **DCC Children’s Centre/Family Hub Consultation** – A response to the consultation comments and questions submitted by the council had been received and was noted.
- 200.4 **Okehampton Community Hospital** – Cllr Yelland declared a personal interest in relation to Health Watch which had been commented upon. It was noted there was a strong desire in the area for the reintroduction of beds in the Community Hospital which were vital to Okehampton and the surrounding area.
- On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Rogers, it was **RESOLVED** to write to the following persons to lobby for the reinstatement of the beds and highlight the value of local hospital convalescent beds which benefit the wellbeing of those who need to use them and their families. Invitations to visit the town to be included:
- King Charles, who opened the Community Hospital
 - Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer MP, who had taken part in Ten Tors
 - Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP
 - Mel Stride MP for Central Devon
- 201 **Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan** – A meeting of the group was taking place on 1st August.
- 202 **Noticeboard** – On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a noticeboard to be sited at Donalds in Fore Street.
- 203 **Foodbank** – Cllrs Fisher and Colman had met with parties involved and were hopeful a way forward would be agreed.
- (Cllr Marsh and a member of the public left the meeting)
- 204 **Planning Applications**
[2078/24/TPO](#) T1: Ash - fell to ground level, hollow trunk due to fungal decay, risk of failure. 15 Tors Road, Okehampton, EX20 1EF

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Weekes (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment stating that the photographs referred to in the application form were not available to view on the portal and therefore it was felt there was not sufficient information provided.

Clerk

[APP/Q/1153/W/23/3327985](#) Land off Radford Way, Okehampton EX20 1UP. To consider a response to the consultation which closed on 5th August 2024. Appeal related to planning application [4440/22/OPA](#) to which the Council's Planning Committee had previously submitted an objection.

On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Cummings, it was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT on the following grounds:

- Allocation is for 43 properties; the outline application is for 60. This equates to almost 50% more than the allocation.
- It is essential that the road connection issues at Kellands Lane are resolved to include vehicular and passenger access at the developer's expense. This must be in a timely fashion and should be made a condition if the Inspector is minded to uphold the appeal.
- Schedule 1 of the Unilateral Undertaking dated 03/04/2024 – 1.1 refers to affordable housing of 10% (unless the Inspector over-rides it). This should be in line with the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan of 30% and challenges the statement regarding viability if the allocation is increased.

Clerk

(A member of the public arrived)

205 **Payments** – UPS courier collection costs totalling £116.64 referred to the BID ballot process. This amount had been invoiced to WDBC who had agreed to cover the cost. On the proposition of Cllr Rogers, seconded Cllr Colman, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

206 **Freedom of Information Request** – The council noted a request for information relating to IT equipment used by the Council had been answered on the day of receipt.

207 **Mayors Civic Diary Report** – Cllr Fisher had attended a variety of events including a Read Easy presentation, Plait, School Music Concert, Methodist/BHF and Hedgehog Coffee Mornings, North Devon Search and Rescue at Rowtor, Friendly Circle and Friendship Group AGMs, School Arts presentation, Church Auction of Promises, Museum and All Saints grant cheque presentations, Sampford Courtenay Flower Club, Pretty Maid event in Holsworthy, Lostwithiel Mayor Choosing, St James' Fundraiser, Inspiration Church Official opening, Methodist concert, RAF Cadets evening, Lego Show, meetings about the Foodbank.

208 **Council Representatives to External Bodies** – On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Colman, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Richards as representative to the Okehampton & Area Health and Wellbeing Alliance (CVS) following the resignation of Cllr Colman from this role.

Clerk

209 **Reports of Council working/Task & Finish Groups:**

209.1 **Climate Change** – Cllr Leech reported he had attended a meeting of Okehampton Town Youth Council (OTYC).

OTYC had suggested a number of climate related actions including a coffee morning, litter picks, bake sale and were keen on planting trees and wildlife areas. They were provided with information relating to climate action that the council had been doing since 2019, noting that it needed to be updated.

Ass.
Clerk

(Cllrs Cummings and Holt left the meeting)

209.2 Charter Hall Roof Replacement – No further report.

210 Reports on Current Activities by Community Groups with Town Council Representation

210.1 Neighbourhood Plan Group – No further report.

211 Members' Reports and Items for Agendas

211.1 Business Improvement District – No further report.

211.2 Okehampton Community Hospital – No further report.

211.3 Rural Market Town Group – Cllr Leech advised a related report had been circulated earlier in the day. The next meeting was the autumn.

211.4 Transition Town Okehampton – Cllr Cummings

212 Urgent Items - Cllr Fisher reminded Cllrs to respond to emails from the Clerk and Officers to enable them to undertake work in a timely manner, including Okehampton Show.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Councillor Fisher, Mayor