



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Meldon Village Hall, Okehampton.

Councillors Present -

R Maile
M Cooper
A Ewen
M Littlejohns – Meeting chairman
J Heard
D Webber

Also Present – Cllr J Yelland (WDBC)
Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

- 1. Members of the Public** – there were no members of the public present.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs Cooper, Ewen and Webber declared a pecuniary interest in item 10.2 as they are Trustees of the Charity concerned, they took no part in the discussions on that item. Cllr J Heard declared a personal interest in item 8.2 due to a family connection.
- 3. Apologies** - were received and accepted from Cllr B Wood. Apologies were also received from Cllr A Leech (WDBC) and Cllr M Davies (WDBC)
- 4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 4th December 2018** these were agreed as a true record and signed by the Cllr Littlejohns. Proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr Ewen
- 5. DCC and WDBC** – to receive any reports/updates from Councillors present.
Cllr Yelland reported WD are looking at making changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which, if voted through at Full Council in February, will come into effect from 1st Apr 2019. The proposed changes will apply to those of working age only. The current scheme is means tested and means that every time an applicant has a change of circumstances, their benefit needs to be re-calculated and a new letter issued. This is confusing for applicants - especially those whose hours vary from week to week. The new scheme is intended to simplify the whole process.
In future, applicants will fall into 4 bands. As long as their income remains within a band, they will not need to report the change in circumstances. A minimum income floor will be introduced for those who are self employed which will come into affect after 12 months of trading. This will make the assumption that an individual is earning minimum wage and is brings the scheme in line with general means tested benefit rules. Savings of less than £6,000 will be disregarded and income will be calculated after the deduction of income tax, national insurance and pension contributions. Those on the lowest income will benefit the most. Measures are in place in the form of a discretionary Exceptional Hardship Fund for those in need
- 6. Neighbourhood Planning** - to receive an update on joint Okehampton Councils Plan
Cllr Webber attended the meeting held on 5th December, this was also attended by a representative from DNP, their input was helpful. Next meeting date not yet agreed.
- 7. Reports from Councillors including meetings attended** –
Superlinks Meeting attended by Cllrs Ewen and Maile. John Hart (DCC) was the speaker, he advised of additional funds received for pot hole repair, further cutbacks also discussed. Criticism over the changes to the TAP fund principles were also raised.

8. Planning – to consider and agree response to applications listed below together with any others received up to date of this meeting.

8.1 WDBC 3683/18/ARM Application for approval of reserved matters on part of the site (Plot D) following outline approval 00868/2014, Cladco Profiles Ltd, Plot D, land west of Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton East Business Park, Okehampton. Councillors resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr Webber.

8.2 WDBC 3910/18/OPA outline application with all matters reserved for construction of Farm Managers Dwelling, Yelland Farm, Okehampton. Councillors resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

8.3 DNP 18/0081 Tree preservation order West Okement Valley, trees at Okehampton Castle. Councillors resolved to support the application but to request new trees were planted to replace those felled, proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Maile.

8.4 DNP to note granting of consent application 18/0071, works to a tree at Meldon Village Hall. Noted.

8.5 DNP to note granting of consent, application 18/0041. Felling a tree at Okehampton Golf club. Noted.

8.6 WDBC to consider email received advising paper copies of planning applications would no longer be supplied to Parish Councils. Noted and agreed to request that paper layout plans be available for large scale applications as these would not easily be seen on line.

8.7 DNP to receive update from Cllr Littlejohns on meeting attended re Local Plan and agree any comments to be submitted. Agreed to submit comments stating the new Plan needed to be positive and that the authority needed to work together with local communities in particular farming and not be purely rules based.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Bridge across railway line, Exeter Road, to receive update and agree way forward with graffiti and mural and DCC Locality Grant. Agreed to request £500 from Cllr Ball Locality Fund and that this council could cover costs of paint up to £100. Proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

9.2 Footpath at Fatherford – to receive update on repairs. Cllr Littlejohns to visit site within the next few days.

10. Correspondence – to consider responses to items listed below together with any others received up to date of this meeting.

10.1 Defibrilators – to consider further information received and agree next steps. Clerk advised Meldon Hall Committee are in favour of a defibrillator being installed at the Hall. Councillors agreed a meeting should be arranged with SW Ambulance (preferred supplier) to discuss further, Hall rep to be included and a request made to them to fund the work required for installation and ongoing electricity costs, OHPC to fund rental for 4 year contract period.

10.2 Okehampton United Charity – to consider details received re costs of allotment provision and to agree contribution towards these costs. Agreed to fund one seventh of the total costs in the sum of £182 as previously agreed in principle. Proposed by Cllr J Heard and seconded by Cllr Maile. Councillors Webber, Ewen and Cooper took no part in these discussions as they are Trustees of Okehampton United Charity.

10.3 Forthglade Ltd – to agree date of site visit. Agreed to hold visit on 30th January 10.30am.

11. Council Policies

11.1 IT policy – to receive an update- Social Media policy now published on website.

12. General Data Protection Regulations – to receive an update on tasks required to meet requirements. Instructions forwarded to Councillors enabling them to set up their Council specific email address, all Councillors to complete this action by end of January.

14. Accounts

Current Account at	31/12/18	£	2328.06
Deposit Account at	26/11/18	£	9390.27
Nat West			<u>41387.36</u>
Total		£	53105.69

Less 'Restricted' Funds
Links Administration - 131.76

Total 'Unrestricted' Funds **£ 53237.45**

Less Unpresented chqs

SLCC	000024	£106.00
Devon Young Carers	000025	500.00
Tor Support Services	000026	300.00
		<u>906.00</u>

Total Available Funds **£ 52331.45**

Funds received – Aggregate Industries £491.25

Accounts for payment –

J Gillard (wages £291.56) ,	
Expenses £3.31, mileage £ 8.55	£ 303.42
Mole Avon	£112.48
DALC	£ 20.94
B Wood CPRE attendance	£ 5.00
B Wood (mileage)	£ 51.30
HMRC	£218.40
GX Accountancy	£ 25.00
Western Web	£ 96.00

Resolved to settle accounts, proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr Webber.

14.1 To receive update on transfer of accounts to Lloyds. The Clerk and Cllr Cooper advised the transfer from Nat West was still not complete despite many attempts being made to ensure the transfer is made. The transfer should now be completed within the next week.

PART TWO

Items which may be taken in the absence of the press and public.

The Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:-

‘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 items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information.’ Proposed by Cllr Maile and seconded by Cllr Webber.

15. Old Town Park – to receive update on transfer from WDBC. Completed documentation returned to solicitor, awaiting further update from them.

16. Shed Rent Aplite Quarry – to review and agree rent for 2020/21. Resolved to increase rent to £450, proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr J Heard.

17. Budget 2019/20 – to review and agree revised draft and agree setting of 2019/20 Precept. Agreed to adopt budget totalling the sum of £36,100 resulting in a precept requirement of £21,720 resulting in a 9.88% increase in Band D payment to £39.45, an increase of £3.55 per annum. Proposed by Cllr J Heard and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

18. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information. Noted.

19. Date and venue of next meeting to be confirmed as Tuesday 5th February 2019 at Okehampton Town Hall

The meeting was declared closed at 9.00 pm

Signed Date