



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at Okehampton Town Hall

Councillors Present -

D Webber
R Maile
P Heard
M Cooper
A Ewen
M Littlejohns
D Luxton

Also Present – Cllr A Leach (WDBC), Cllr Mrs J Yelland (WDBC), Cllr K Ball (DCC & WDBC)

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

1. **Members of the Public** – there was one member of the public present who wished to address the meeting in connection with item 9.1 on the agenda. He handed over copies of letters he had sent to WDBC in connection with the East of Okehampton developments. He stated he was supportive of the developments however had concerns over the capacity of the infrastructure particularly the need for the Link road from Crediton Road to Exeter Road. He was also keen to ensure the S106 funds were not put in danger of being received.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest made.
3. **Apologies** – were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr J Heard.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January 2016** were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr Cooper.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - 5.1 Abbeyford Wood sewage leak – it was reported the pipe had been leaking again recently, video pictures to be sent to Environment Agency.
 - 5.2 Fatherford bridleway bridge – to receive an update on work being undertaken by DCC and discussion with Patrick Carney, Jacobs Engineer. No progress as DCC waiting for Environment Agency feedback.
 - 5.3 Digital Skills Workshop – consider possibility of holding event. Carried forward to next meeting.
 - 5.4 Queen Elizabeth II 90th birthday celebrations – to receive update from Cllrs Maile and Webber and to discuss possibility of lighting a Beacon in The Hamlets. Both attended a meeting organised by Okehampton Town Council, it was agreed that a Beacon be lit in The Hamlets in the area of Okehampton Camp, this will be on 21st April. Cllr Ewen offered use of a Fire Basket. There will be further celebrations in the town on 12 June. Clerk to register the event, organise insurance cover and obtain the necessary permissions.

6. DCC and WDBC – to receive any reports/updates from Councillors present.

Cllr K Ball advised that DCC budget was being reduced by £28million with another £22m the following year. There will be a council tax increase from DCC of 1.99% plus an additional levy of 2% for Older People services which has been allowed by Central Government. Provision of the Sunday Rover service has been included in the budget. Okehampton Business Park – appears all plots will be taken, negotiations ongoing.

Cllr A Leech advised WDBC would be increasing council tax by 1.9%, there are still some issues with the IT system.

Cllr J Yelland has escalated the problems raised with traffic visiting the Polar Express, the Safety Advisory group will review plans for this years event well in advance to ensure a repeat of the issues is not seen.

7. Neighbourhood Planning - to receive an update on joint Okehampton Councils Plan. A further meeting of the Group had taken place with another meeting planned for 4th Feb when it is planned that the questionnaire to be issued to residents will be finalised and agreed.

8. Okehampton Energy Working Group – to receive update from Working Party. The chairman reported a meeting had taken place last month, a draft Feasibility Study received from DARE but due to additional information being required for it to be finalised, an extension to the completion deadline has been requested for March and the Working Group will meet again 18th Feb. The aim is for the completed report to be presented at the Councils next monthly meeting.

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

9.1 WDBC 2731/15 Outline application, with some matters reserved (access to be considered) for residential development of up to 400 dwellings, parcels 3 and 4 east of Okehampton, Crediton Road. Councillors raised concerns over the increased volume of traffic, the distance to the centre of Okehampton, the number of car parking spaces available in the town, the capacity of the sewage and drainage systems. It was also raised that development of the different parcels of land must take place in sequential order in order for S106 payments to be made in timely fashion and that the order of the development of the parcels impacted on each other. It was also agreed that an application with reserved matters in connection with access was not something not could be supported as access is a major issue particularly on Parcel 4. It also appeared that land outside the Core Strategy was now included in these parcels. Councillors resolved to object to the application and that Cllr Webber and The Clerk prepare a response for WDBC, proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr P Heard.

9.2 DNP 0006/16 Change of use of flat of existing workshop to create staff accommodation at Bracken Tor, Okehampton. After discussion resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns and seconded by Cllr Luxton.

9.3 DNP 0007/16 Extension to shed to provide catering/dining facility at Bracken Tor, Okehampton. After discussion resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns and seconded by Cllr Luxton.

10. Meldon Woods & other property issues.

10.1 To receive report from Working Group of Councillors and agree any actions required. No report, carried forward to next meeting.

15. To re-consider draft budget for 2016/17 and to agree precept for 2016/17 in light of changes made by WDBC to correct errors with tax base. Tax base originally advised as 315.84 but now amended to 433.10. Due to the complexity of the issues involved, the Borough Council are currently taking legal advice on how they are to proceed and are also in dialogue with their auditors. The Borough Council will keep us fully informed on these areas and will let us know when they have a clear way forward on the issues involved.

After review of budget and implications of changes on Band D equivalent, resolved to increase precept to £15,000 (not including CTSG) making Band D equiv approx £34.90 compared to £37.76 for 2015/16. Precise equiv fig to be confirmed but thought to be £34.63. Proposed by Cllr Ewen and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

16. Date and venue of next meeting to be confirmed as 7.30pm, Tuesday 1st March 2016 at Meldon Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20 pm

Signed Date

Minutes 197/4