



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4th August 2020.

Councillors Present -

R Maile
M Cooper
A Ewen
M Littlejohns
B Wood
J Heard
P Heard

WDBC – Cllrs A Leach ,

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllr D Webber

- 1. Members of the Public** – there was one member of the public present.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.
- 3. Apologies** – were received from WDB Councillors M Davies, J Yelland and K Ball (also DCC)
- 4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 7th July 2020.** – the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns , seconded by Cllr Cooper, signing of the minutes was deferred until a face to face meeting could take place.
- 5. DCC and WDBC** – to receive any reports/updates from Councillors present.
Cllr Leach reported he had attended a presentation re Connecting Devon and Somerset. A new voucher system is to be introduced with the intention of getting community groups and houses clustering together. The service is primarily to be focussed with Airband using fibre to doors and their own boxes. A rep from Airband is able to attend Parish Council meetings if required. Target date for completion of project December 2021.
He also reported there has been a lack of organisations going for ‘crowd funding’, members are encouraging parishes to try and get more use of the scheme.
- 6. Neighbourhood Planning** - to receive an update on joint Okehampton Councils Plan. A meeting has been held between some Group members, WDBC officers and the Consultant, meeting notes previously distributed. There is a desire to complete the project which could be done using potential available funding from grants and/or funding from Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Wood that this Council fund up to a maximum of £2000, (£1000 already allocated in the budget for Neighbourhood Planning and £1000 from Locality budget line), this was seconded by Cllr Ewen, all in favour.
- 7. To receive reports from meetings attended by Parish Council representatives including** – none.
- 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 1726/20/ARM Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2731/15 for the construction of 220 dwellings, public open space, landscape planting, pedestrian, cycle and vehicular links and associated infrastructure, land to east of Crediton Road. After discussion resolved to object to the application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Maile for the following reasons - play area located too close to Link Road, need for Link Road to be open at start of development, it is needed as a Highway and not an Estate Road in accordance with the Masterplan

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Lack of visitor parking, concerns over layout of parking ie too much parallel parking, boundary hedge to Linden development – large amount of hedge appears to be replaced by fencing and walls, this needs to be a Devon bank with additional trees for screening, refuge strategy appears not to be in line with WDBC strategy, proximity of housing to the existing developments, no mention of need of footpath from bottom of development on new roundabout along Crediton Road towards Broom Park. Support comments made by Highways and Environment Agency. Render colours to be neutral and not white.

8.2 WDBC 1936/20/HHO Householder application for erection of one bedroom annex in garden, The Beeches, Stoney Park Lane, Okehampton. Resolved to support application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Old Town Park Nature Reserve – to discuss recent works carried out recently including Information Board. Oak Valley Tree Services have recently undertaken work to remove a fallen tree. The Information Board has been removed from the site and now awaiting to hear from original manufacturer of sign re costs for repair/replacement.

9.2 Meldon Woods lay by and car park – to discuss recent issues and receive update on signage. Signs obtained and located on site. Councillors stated there has been a lot of overnight camping taking place recently. Agreed Clerk to obtain costings for erection of gate which could be locked and to discuss again at next meeting.

9.3 General discussion re ongoing general management of Meldon Woods and Old Town Park. An initial discussion took place considering if there was a need to have a ‘Warden’, voluntary or paid, on an advisory role to the public stopping fires and littering etc and to help ensure unauthorised camping does not take place. To be discussed again at future meeting.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Model Code of Conduct – to consider draft Code issued by Local Government Authority and to agree any response required. Councillors to forward any comments to Clerk by 14th August after which Clerk and Chairman to formulate response.

10.2 SWWA – to consider response received re location of fire hydrant opposite Betty Cottles, Tavistock Road. SWWA advised they propose taking no action and will not agree to an on site meeting. Agreed the matter to be raised again with Highways and the Police and further photographic evidence of issues to be forwarded to SWWA.

10.3 Discussion re complaints received in connection with parking on double yellow lines and dangerous parking on Exeter Road Industrial Estate. A member of the public explained the issues which are being experienced and these were reinforced by Councillors who have also seen the problems. Agreed to raise with DCC/Police and WDBC.

11. To review and adopt updated policies as listed –

Risk Policy- resolved to adopt policy as distributed, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Cooper.

12. VE Day Celebrations – to receive update from Clerk and agree actions to be taken. No further action at this stage, Clerk to contact Head of School on their return.

13. Finance –

13.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard (wages £306.82,	£ 346.42
Mileage £39.60,)	
Oak Valley Tree Services	£900.00

13.2 Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Budget – see below.
Resolved to pay accounts, proposed by Cllr Ewen, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.

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 Cooper, seconded by Cllr Maile.

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

16. Date and venue of next virtual meeting to be confirmed as 1st September 2020

The meeting was declared closed at 8.35 pm

Signed Date

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