



## Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

### Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

#### Councillors Present -

R Maile (joined meeting during item 6)

M Cooper

B Wood

J Heard

P Heard (joined meeting during item 6)

D Webber

WDBC – Cllrs A Leech, Mrs J Yelland and K Ball (also DCC)

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllr A Ewen

Also present Mr Ian Brooker DNPA

1. **Members of the Public** – there were no member of the public present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest made.
3. **Apologies** – apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Littlejohns, apologies were also received from Cllr M Davies.
4. **Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020** the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Webber, signing of the minutes was deferred until a face to face meeting could take place.
5. **Planning** – to consider and agree response to applications listed below together with any others received up to date of this meeting.
  - 5.1 To consider any applications needing a response before the next meeting that have been circulated prior to this meeting.  
No planning applications have been received for consultation.
6. **DCC and WDBC** – to receive any reports/updates from Councillors present.

Cllr Ball reported that a recent Government announced confirmed the re-instatement of a regular rail service between Okehampton and Exeter, no specific details yet known although work has started on the line. He is asking for a commitment from DCC towards funding of the cost of a new Parkway Station.

Okehampton Traffic Consultation – approx 200 responses with the majority being negative about the proposals put forward but agreeing some changes were required. DCC would not progress plans if they were unpopular with the local community.

Cllr Leech reported a community group in the South of West Devon had got together to obtain a grant to enable improved Broadband connectivity to cover 128 households in that area. West Devon are involved and if successful may be a way forward for other small communities.

Unauthorised 'door knocking' has been occurring in Hatherleigh by a person 'offering free insulation' with the impression given they worked for WDBC, this is not the case, report instances to the Police. Kellands Lane – the 2 developers liaising regularly with a view to the 'removal' of the blockage. Covid – Environmental Health at WD now have more powers should businesses not be adhering to Government Guidelines they also have 2 additional staff to encourage compliance. Gatherings of people are a Police responsibility.

**7. Neighbourhood Planning** - to receive an update on joint Okehampton Councils Plan . No meetings held. The Consultant has advised the Group need a website and that the Town Council have agreed to add a new page to their website for this purpose.

**8. To receive reports from meetings attended by Parish Council representatives including –**  
WDBC Covid Support – attended by Cllr Wood, useful meeting, other funding opportunities identified.  
Devon Communities Together – attended by Cllr Wood, mainly Covid related as above  
Road Safety – attended by Cllr Wood, organised by Tavistock DCC Member, participation from Alison Hernandez, D&C Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent for area.

**9. Open Spaces.**

**9.1** Old Town Park Nature Reserve. It was reported that a seat has been vandalised recently with paint, it remains useable for the time being.

**9.2** Emergency Inspection and Works in Meldon Woods, majority of work has been carried out, Chairman will liaise with contractor to agree remaining work required and arrange date for tree inspection.

**9.3** Meldon Woods lay by and car park – to discuss any recent issues. No recent issues reported.

**Ian Brooker updated on wildlife within the woods**

**9.4** General discussion re ongoing general management of Meldon Woods and Old Town Park. Outstanding, Working Group to meet in New Year.

**9.5** Notice Board in Linden Homes Estate. Now erected, letter of appreciation received from Residents Group.

**9.6** Notice Board in Romansfield Estate – Clerk to liaise with Sales Office re location, site contractors will erect the sign.

**9.7** Charlotte's Bridge Plaque – it was reported the sign has recently been vandalised, the marks have now been removed, issue reported to Police.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1** Arnold Baker Local Council Administration 12<sup>th</sup> Edition – to consider if updated book should be purchased. Resolved to purchase updated publication, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Maile.

**10.2** To agree amount of donation to Royal British Legion Poppy appeal towards cost of wreath. Resolved to donate £75, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr J Heard.

**11 Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required.** Salt ordered, siting of bins outstanding, Chair and Cllr Ewen to progress.

**12. Welcome Booklet** – to agree content of an updated booklet and number to be printed. Agreed to carry forward discussions to next meeting with intention of holding wider discussion on Communications in general within the Parish.

**13. VE Day Celebrations** – to receive update from Clerk. The Clerk advised that the Chairman had taken the Presentation Mugs to St James Primary School and that the Head of the School has now presented these to the pupils. Awaiting photographs which hopefully can be placed on the Council website and an item submitted to the Okehampton Times.

**14. Finance –**

**13.1 Accounts for payment –**

Mrs J Gillard (wages £321.42,	£ 321.42
Mileage £0,)	
Westcountry Grounds Maintenance	£ 432.00

13.2 Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Budget – see below.

Resolved to settle accounts and accept bank reconciliation, proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Cooper.

**15. Budget Setting 2021/22** – to hold initial discussion on budget for 2021/22 including notice from WDBC in connection with reduction in Council Tax base figures. Discussion on potential items for inclusion in next budget including seats for Old Town Park and also improved signage, additional tree works kiv Ash Die Back implications.

**PART TWO**

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

The Council 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 and seconded by Cllr P Heard.

**16. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information.** Updated list not yet received from WDBC.

**17. Date and venue of next virtual meeting** to be confirmed as 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30 pm

Signed ..... Date .....

**Minutes 257/3**