



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Councillors Present -

R Maile
M Cooper
B Wood
P Heard
D Webber
A Ewen
M Littlejohns

WDBC – Cllrs A Leech, Mrs J Yelland and M Davies

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllr J Heard

1. Members of the Public – there were no members of the public present.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wood declared a personal interest in item 10.2 as he is a member of the Support Group, during discussion of that item he spoke about the activities of the Group, then handed over the Chair of the meeting to Cllr Littlejohns and he took no part in the resolution and voting on the item.

3. Apologies –apologies were received from Cllr K Ball (WDBC & DCC)

4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 1st December 2020 the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns, 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 WDBC 4117/20/HHO Householder application for alterations and extension to provide master bedroom above garage, 8 Kellands Lane, Okehampton. It was agreed to defer determining a response to this consultation until the February meeting as advice of this application only just received and members had not had sufficient time to review it.

5.2 WDBC to consider response to South Hams & West Devon Draft Housing Strategy Consultation 2021 - 2026 "Better Homes, Better Lives". Cllr Wood advised he had submitted a personal response to the Consultation and it was agreed all Councillors submit responses individually by 1st February.

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

Cllr Davies reported that WDBC have agreed the Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy, this is now a working document. They are still working on the Business Grants re Covid. The Local Financial Settlement has been agreed. 2.6% core spending increase agreed for WDBC.

Council Tax – there is a 1.9% of £5 increase restricting on District and Borough Councils, no restrictions for Towns and Parishes.

A fifth tranche of Covid funding has been approved £281K which will be received by WD in April.

Cllr Yelland endorsed above points and advised business grants are dependent on rateable value of properties.

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Cllr Leech advised there are 5 different grants re Covid available from WD, details on their website. Staff are working very hard to progress all claims.

Mill Road car park has been a Testing Station since Christmas.

Kellands Lane blockage – still in contact with the developers, representatives meeting on site very shortly. A builders compound has been erected by the blockade, this is in connection with work being undertaken on kerbs etc. Highways and WD are also continuing to investigate the blockage issue.

7. Neighbourhood Planning - to receive an update on joint Okehampton Councils Plan including payment of invoice to Consultant for £3600. Cllr Wood reported the Group had met and considered the draft report received from the Consultant. The document was not of the expected standard and various members of the Group have been working on it and rewritten some sections. The Group now have their own website and FaceBook page active. The revised document will be discussed again by the Group in 2 weeks time. The Group recommend the Consultant's invoice be paid.

8. To receive reports from meetings attended by Parish Council representatives including –

No meetings attended.

9. Open Spaces.

9.1 Inspection and Works in Meldon Woods including potential inclusion of work required to track as raised by Ian Brooker at previous meeting. Emergency works carried out by Oak Valley Tree Services to deal with Ash Die Back and wind damaged trees. Costs £700 Costs to date £1360, work still to be invoiced £4000. Agreed further information required on potential repair to track, Cllr Wood has met with Craig Banbury to agree work required.

9.2 Note 5 yearly Inspection of Meldon Woods and OTPLNR taking place on January 12, 13th and 14th. Chairman attending with Oak Valley Tree Services; all councillors are invited to attend also.

9.3 Meldon Woods lay by and car park – to discuss any recent issues. Large numbers of visitors reported, signs have been vandalised/removed, Clerk to report issues to Police. Agreed more robust signs required.

9.4 General discussion re ongoing general management of Meldon Woods and Old Town Park. Carried forward as Working Group have been unable to meet.

9.5 Notice Board in Romansfield Estate, Clerk to visit Sales Office to progress, delayed due to Covid19 regulations.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Okehampton Town Council – request for funding towards CCTV. The Chair advised to consider this for 2021/22 budget would be in contravention of the Council's Financial Regulations, however could be considered for future years, and a grant application could be an alternative way of funding.

10.2 OCSG – to consider grant request for £300 to help support vulnerable residents through the Covid19. Resolved to support request, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns and seconded by Cllr P Heard. All in favour with abstention by Cllr Wood.

10.3 Sticklepath & Okehampton Conservation Group – to consider grant application for £250 towards costs of replacement tools and contribution towards annual insurance premium. Resolved to support request, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr P Heard, all in favour.

10.4 National Census 2021 – to consider communication received from Census Engagement Manager. Contents of communication noted.

10.5 Network Rail – to consider correspondence received re planned work on Okehampton to Exeter rail line. Agreed to invite representative to future meeting.

11 Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required.

Cllr Ewen and Wood advised 3 bins have now been located – Upcott Hill, Meldon Fields and Brightley and a new stock of salt has been received.

12. Communication – to agree ongoing methods of communication with residents of the Parish including reprinting of Welcome Booklet, potential distribution areas and other methods of communication required. Resolved to update and reprint 500 copies the Welcome Booklet at a cost of £183.50. These to be distributed to new properties in the Parish as they are completed. It was agreed the ongoing best method of communication for all residents was the Council website, agreed content of this to be reviewed and updated and residents 'signposted' to it in the updated publications. Cllr Ewen agreed to review the Flood Plan document.

13. Finance –

13.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard (wages £321.22, Mileage £0,)	£ 321.22
HMRC	262.80
SLCC membership	112.00

Resolved that accounts be paid, proposed by Cllr P Heard, seconded by Cllr Cooper.

13.2 Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Budget – see below.

14. Budget Setting 2021/22

14.1 To agree budget for 2021/22. After review of previously circulated ideas it was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Cooper to set budget at £43,200, all in favour which includes a total reserves figure of £39,950

14.2 To agree annual precept for 2021/22. It was resolved to set a precept at £22,500, resulting in a Band D tax figure of £39.92, a £0.26 per annum or 0.65% increase. Proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns, all in favour.

14.3 To consider response to 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation. Noted.

PART TWO

‘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 Littlejohns, 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 2nd February 2020

The meeting was declared closed at 8.52 pm

Signed Date

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