



## Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Prior to the start of the meeting, representatives from Network Rail (Matthew Barnes, Kevin Miller and Matthew Thompson) gave a presentation on the re-opening of the Rail Line between Okehampton and Exeter.

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.45 pm.**

### Councillors Present -

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

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

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

1. **Members of the Public** – there were no members of the public present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest made.
3. **Apologies** – apologies were received from Cllr M Davies (WDBC)
4. **Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 2021** 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 **WDBC 0136/21/ARM** –application for 50 dwellings, including 40% affordable, land at SX 603 953 Exeter Road, Okehampton. The draft response from discussions held at the previous meeting and circulated prior to this meeting were agreed. Councillors resolved to object to the application, proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Cooper.
  - 5.2 **WDBC 0699/21/FUL** – extend corner of existing agricultural building over yard, Barton Barn Farm, Chichacott Road, Okehampton. Councillors resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Ewen, seconded by Cllr Webber.
  - 5.3 **WDBC 0635/21/FUL** – conversion and replacement of existing farmhouse outbuildings to two holiday buildings, South Narraton, Narraton Road, Okehampton. **Consultation being made as a neighbouring parish to the site.** Councillors resolved to support the application on the condition that the issues raised by DCC Highways were auctioned and resolved, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Cooper.
  - 5.4 **WDBC 0604/21/FUL** – erection of new 4 bed roomed detached dwelling with detached garage and boat store, land at Higher Hilltown, Okehampton. Councillors resolved to respond with a neutral view, proposed by Cllr J Heard, seconded by Cllr Cooper.
  - 5.5 **WDBC 0960/21/FUL** erection of 3 bay barn (1 of 2 applications) Chichacott Barn, Chichacott Road, Okehampton. Agreed to carry forward until next meeting.

**5.6 WDBC 0961/20/FUL** erection of stable and feed store with tack room (2 of 2 applications) Chichacott Barn, Chichacott Road, Okehampton. Agreed to carry forward to next meeting.

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

Cllr Ball – DCC are committed to the provision of a Parkway Station in Okehampton, it is acknowledged there is a potential problem with traffic in Okehampton particularly Station Road, discussion are ongoing. Covid19 – the Scrutiny meeting were presented with Devon statistics although these are now 2 weeks out of date, Devon is doing well with figures low. He then advised he was not standing for re-election to DCC at the forthcoming elections. The Chairman thanked him for his support in the past as DCC Member.

Cllr Yelland – advised a new Borough wide Public Spaces Order has come into force the key points being dog walkers required to pick up ‘dog poo’ and to keep dogs on leads, full details on WDBC website. National Leisure Recovery Fund – funds received from Government which would be going to Fusion running the 2 Leisure Centres in the area. West Devon are also supporting the provision of a Parkway Station in Okehampton. Cllr Leech – Kellands Lane blockage, no update but he is still chasing for an outcome.

**7. Neighbourhood Planning** – Cllr Wood advised the Group were meeting again later this week. They now have a 50 page draft document which when finalised will go out for Public Consultation. Good progress has been made. He thanked Cllr J Goffey (OTC) and Mrs A Duckers for their contributions to ensure progress recently.

**8. To receive reports from meetings attended by Parish Council representatives including** – no meetings attended except briefing session from DALC attended by Cllr Wood and the Clerk, covered in item 15 below.

**9. Open Spaces.**

**9.1** Meldon Woods lay by and car park – to discuss any recent identified and raised. No new issues raised.

**9.2** 5 yearly Inspection of Meldon Woods and OTPLNR – to receive update on inspection. Report not yet received, Clerk to chase contractor.

**9.3** General discussion re ongoing general management of Meldon Woods and Old Town Park. **As it** has not been possible to hold face-to-face meetings owing to COVID-19 restrictions and in light of recent changes, it was agreed to hold an informal ‘get together’ of a small group of Councillors and Ian Brooker (DNP Ranger) later this week to discuss potential repairs to track and potential future Wood Management Plans. The Clerk reiterated that the previously agreed Working Group had not yet been set up as the inspection report of the Woods had not yet been received (refer back to Minutes 260/9.3 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021). Clerk to draft Terms of Reference for consideration. It was also noted that the DCC bridge over West Okement is in need of repair. It was further noted that the bridge near Meldon Pond had been vandalised and was now shut.

It was agreed ‘art work’ in Old Town Park by the meadow, should be removed by returning the stones to the river, Cllr Wood has volunteers who will do this. The works by the oak tree would remain.

**9.4** Hedgetrimming along bridleway – Cllr P Heard advised that the hedge alongside the bridleway and dual carriageway had been trimmed by contractors recently at his request. It was agreed by Councillors that these costs of £99 be paid by the Council on production of an invoice addressed to the Council, acknowledging that the work request should **not** have been given by a Councillor.

**9.5** Coffee trailer – to consider request for council land to be used for siting of trailer. After discussion resolved by Councillors that land owned by this Council was not suitable for this purpose.

**9.6** Letter of complaint re Meldon Woods – to consider actions and response required. Cllr Wood advised he has spoken to the complainant and no other specific action was required.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1** Great British Tidy Up – to discuss national initiative and to consider and agree any local actions to be taken. Local CRAP Group (Community Roadside Action Party) doing lots of good work litter picking. Councillors agreed to support the Group appropriately if requested. It was also noted that ORIG (Okement Rivers Improvement Group) had carried out some litter picking and tidying actions as well.

10.2 Devon County Council – Draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy Consultation , to consider any response required. Agreed that Councillors to submit individual responses.

**11 Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required.** No update.

**12. Welcome Booklet** – reprinted booklets have now been received, Clerk to visit Romansfield Sales Office to discuss distribution to new residents. Cllr Wood volunteered to deliver to residents all ready living in the Development.

**13. Finance –**

**13.1 Accounts for payment –**

Mrs J Gillard (wages £321.22),	£ 321.22
HMRC	£ 241.00
Parish Magazine Printing	£ 170.50

Resolved to settle accounts, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns

13.2 Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Budget – noted

**14. Environmental issues**

14.1 To discuss recent issues with odours and emissions in East Okehampton/Stockley and agree any actions to be taken. Recent issues discussed, Cllr Leech advised WDBC Environmental Health were involved and monitoring the situation. Cllr Wood advised on also informing the Environment Agency.

21.03 – Cllrs P Heard and J Heard left the meeting.

14.2 Devon Climate Emergency – to note and discuss the Devon email. Noted. Cllr Wood advised that he was attending a DCT virtual meeting the next day.

**15. Future Meeting dates** – to agree dates and locations of meetings to be held from June 2021 dependant on current Government guidelines. Cllr Wood and Clerk have attended recent a virtual briefing by DALC in connection with re introduction of face-to-face meetings. Legislation allowing Virtual meetings by Councils expires on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May is the Annual Council Meeting. There is a requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting before the end of May and it was therefore agreed to hold this virtually at 7pm for 30 minutes on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the meeting to consist of a Chairman’s Report on Council activities over the last 12/24 months. The desire to hold a face-to-face meeting with Parishioners in the autumn remains a desire depending on COVID-19 regulations. The decision on holding a face-to-face monthly meeting in June or delaying until July and responses to planning applications to be discussed at next meeting. All the above is according to current legislation however there is the potential for more changes as the current legislation is being challenged in Court.

**16. Clerks Report March 2021** – Clerk to answer any questions raised by Councillors. No questions raised.

## **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.’

**17. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information.** Carried forward as Clerk unable to share document on screen due to lack of broadband facility.

**18. Noticeboards** – to receive update from Clerk on work required and costs involved and to agree way forward ie repair or replacement. Quotations reviewed, resolved to request Gary Friend to undertake work required to 3 noticeboards.

**19. Date and venue of next virtual meeting** to be confirmed as Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The meeting was declared closed at 9.25 pm

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

**Minutes 262/4**