



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

R Maile
B Wood
A Ewen
J Heard

Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllrs D Webber and P Heard

- 1. Members of the Public** – there were 3 members of the public present, they raised no questions.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest made.
- 3. Apologies** - were received and accepted from Cllrs M Cooper and M Littlejohns. Apologies were also received from WDBC Cllr A Leech, J Yelland and M Davies.
- 4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th October 2021 and 19th October 2021** the minutes of the meetings were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Maile, seconded by Cllr Ewen.
- 5. Planning** – to consider and agree response to applications listed below together with any others received up to date of this meeting.
 - 5.1 Men in Sheds** – update on application. No further information received.
 - 5.2 Devon County Council** (B3215, Okehampton) (40mph Speed Limit) Order ENV 5866 LAB/B18484 – to consider speed limit request and agree any comments to be submitted. Resolved that the speed limit in the area identified should be reduced to 30mph as opposed to the proposed 40 mph, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Maile.
 - 5.3 WDBC 3224/21/HHO** householder application for gable extension to provide ensuite bedroom Brightley Farm Cottage, Okehampton Resolved to support application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen.
- 6. DCC and WDBC** – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates.

Written report from Cllr Leech previously circulated and published on website, no questions arising.
Report received from Cllr Yelland today - WDBC worked with DCC to submit a bid of £11.2m to the Levelling Up Fund to deliver the West Devon Transport Hub which would incorporate the Parkway Station in Okehampton. Unfortunately that bid has been unsuccessful. The two councils will be approaching the relevant parties to understand why our bid wasn't successful and learn how it may be improved in the future.

WDBC remains firmly committed to seeing the Transport Hub delivered and there has been a conversation with DCC to discuss progressing the next stage of design, which should provide far greater certainty on the project's deliverability and costs. I understand that surveys will begin during November and design work will continue over the winter so the project will not be stalling.
WDBC will continue to battle on and lobby rigorously for government funding for West Devon as we

look toward the second tranche opportunity for the Levelling Up Fund and the potential of the Shared Prosperity Fund which are both anticipated to open up for bids during 2022. The Placemaking team at WDBC will work closely with DCC to champion our projects with the aim of leveraging further investment.

DCC has been granted approval for funding of a feasibility study to explore the reopening of the Tavistock to Bere Alston railway line from the Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund.

Councillors expressed disappointment with this news and will consider a response at the next meeting.

Cllr Davies reports - To remind members that each WDBC member has a Locality Fund budget of £500 to support local projects.

Community Grant Projects – funds available to purchase equipment or fund buildings related costs – maximum £5k grant

Seamoor Lottery – this supports local charities and community groups. If local charities help sell tickets then they obtain a payment in return

Bridestowe & Sourton Neighbour Plan (plan formerly accepted on 28th September. Encouraging to see a Plan going through.

Waste Collection – shortage of drivers which is part of a national problem. Black bags, food waste, and yellow bags a priority if lorries are full. There is also a shortage of new containers being obtained by WDBC to deliver to those requesting them. Advice to residents is to put out bins on usual day and if not collected leave out for a day or so.

7. Neighbourhood Planning

7.1 to receive an update on joint Okehampton Plan , Productive meeting held in November, next meeting due 11th November.

7.2 Terms of Reference – to review and confirm adoption of final version (previously agreed 7 Sept 2021) draft agreed by OTC 28/9/21. Resolved to adopt Terms as previously circulated, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

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

OkeRail attended by Cllr Wood – full minutes to be circulated when received. The group require a Minutes Secretary. 150 years celebrations funded by the Group but due to be refunded by Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership. DRA/GWR making improvements to the Station. The buildings will not be available for public use until March. Car Parking will cost £2 per day at the Station, there are 75 spaces. Presentations made by a Group pressing for the opening of Sampford Courtenay Station and another presentation from Connect Bude.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Okehampton Town Council – to consider grant request for £1000 towards replacement Zip Wire in Simmons Park. Resolved to support and award the sum of £1000, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

9.2 Everything Okehampton – to consider grant request for £1000 towards replacement Christmas Lights for Okehampton. Councillors expressed their wish to support the Christmas Lights, it was resolved to defer this application to the next meeting pending clarification on how the funds were to be used as it has been published in the press that all the required funds have already been raised.

9.3 Meldon Viaduct Company Ltd – to consider grant request for £500 towards ongoing maintenance costs. Resolved to award the sum of £500, proposed by Cllr Ewen, seconded by Cllr J Heard.

9.4 Remembrance Day – Cllrs Wood, Littlejohns and Maile to attend, Clerk to confirm arrangements for collection of wreath.

9.5 Devon Communities Together – to consider invitation to AGM and agree representation /proxy voting. Agreed no representative to attend meeting and that authority to complete proxy voting form to be delegated to Clerk and Chair, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

9.6 Barratt development – to discuss complaints received from resident of Meldon Fields re activities by developers on new site. Following a recent meeting with Barratt Homes, steps have now taken place to address the issues, situation to be monitored.

9.7 DCC Highways – Parish & Town Councils Virtual Conference, 24/25 November, agree attendees. Agreed Clerk to attend any sessions she may feel to be of benefit.

9.8 WDBC Superlinks Meeting, 7th Dec 2021, 6 – 7 pm, agree attendees and any agenda items for discussion. Agreed that all Councillors could attend meeting is screened virtually prior to the start of the Council meeting as due to take place the same evening. If this is not possible, Cllr Ewen to attend from his home.

10. Finance –

10.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard (wages £487.03, mileage £28.80, Exp £45.43),	£ 561.26
Broadbury Landcare	£ 145.00
Tindle Newspapers	£ 12.48
Meldon Village Hall	£ 130.00
DALC AGM Attendance	£ 40.00
B K Safetywear	£320.40
Dartmoor National Park (Marshalls)	£1548.00
Gary Friend (Noticeboard repair)	£ 575.45
Ellis Bakery	£ 29.34

10.2 Annual budget – initial discussion on budget and any potential new items for inclusion 2022/23
Potential items for inclusion included Dartmoor Marshalls, Interpretation boards, fencing and signage in Open spaces areas, reduction in grants budget. Agreed to hold a workshop for more detailed ideas forming Tuesday 9th Nov, 7.30pm via Zoom. It was reinforced that no decisions would be taken at that time, all decisions on the budget would take place in open formal Council meetings.

11. Environmental issues

11.1 Odours in East Okehampton area – to discuss recent issues and agree actions to be taken. Cllr Ewen advised of one recent issue, monitoring to continue.

11.2 Exeter Road ‘Blue bridge’ – to discuss new graffiti on bridge and agree action to be taken. Resolved to report to DCC with request that whole bridge is repainted in an effort to stop repeat instances.

12. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – to receive update from Clerk and Cllr Cooper on arrangements. No further meetings held.

13. Open Spaces.

13.1 Open Spaces Working Group – to receive update. All trees that require work both in Meldon Woods and Old Town Park Local Nature Reserve have been identified and marked. Clerk to request tenders from contractors.

13.2 Meldon road signage, bridleway signage – to discuss and agree any signs required. Agreed 15mph speed limit signs required together with narrow road and ‘bends’ signs, Clerk authorised to spend max of £500 on signs and erection with priority on speed signs, Clerk to progress.

13.3 Meldon Quarry – to receive a report on meeting held with representatives from Aggregate Industries. Positive meeting held, attended by Clerk, Cllrs Littlejohns & J Heard, leat to be unblocked together with clearance of drains on road and verge to be cut.

14. Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required. – agreed additional grit bin already held by Council could be placed in Meldon, Cllrs Wood and Ewen to check stock of salt

15. Clerks Report August 2021 – Clerk to answer any questions raised by Councillors to include discussion on Okehampton & Hamlets Community Archive project. Councillors agreed the Archive project was a good idea and were in favour of the Council being involved. It was appreciated it would be a long term project requiring considerable grant funding.

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 J Heard, seconded by Cllr Maile.

16. Code of Conduct – Councillors individual communication with outside parties. Councillors were reminded that when communicating with others in any format that it must be made clear in what capacity they are doing so i.e. as a Councillor or a member of the Community.

17. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information. Current list noted.

18. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting – Tuesday 7th December, 7.30pm Meldon Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed Date

Minutes 270/4