



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2022, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

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

Also present - Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllr J Heard

- 1. Members of the Public** – there were 2 members of the public present. One member of the public raised their personal views and their disappointment over the wording of the resolution previously passed referred to in item 11 on the agenda. They felt the wording was negative, new residents wanted to feel involved in the whole community and that everyone needed to work together for the benefit of the community.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Ewen declared a personal interest in item 5.1 as he is a Trustee of the Trust involved.
- 3. Apologies** – were received from WDBC Councillors Davies and Leech and DCC Councillor Samuels.
- 4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 1st March 2022** the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.
- 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 0395/22/FUL extension of first floor industrial units over approved car parking area, Okehampton Skills and Sports Trust, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton. Resolved to support application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Cooper, all in favour, Cllr Ewen abstaining.
 - 5.2 WDBC – Planning for the Climate Emergency – to consider response to consultation. Agreed that response should request more emphasis should be made on traditional Devon hedging and that they should be replicated when existing ones removed.
 - 5.3 WDBC 0584/22/FUL Extension to equine area, Chichacott Barn, Chichacott Road, Okehampton. Resolved to support application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.
 - 5.4 WDBC 4102/21/FUL Readvertisement (Revised plans received and amended development description) Hybrid application comprising the following: Detailed application for the change of use of existing dwelling to extension of residential home and Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of a dwelling. Lakeside Residential Home, Maddaford, Okehampton. Resolved to support application, proposed by Cllr Ewen, seconded by Cllr Cooper.
 - 5.5 WDBC 4117/20/HHO 8 Kellands Lane, to note appeal lodged. Noted.
- 6. DCC and WDBC** – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates. WDBC Reports previously distributed, DCC report to be circulated. No questions raised during meeting, any future questions arising to be forwarded to Clerk.

7. Neighbourhood Planning

7.1 to receive an update on joint Okehampton Plan . Cllr Wood advised a further meeting had taken place, further progress made and another meeting planned for 11th April.

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

Dynamic Dartmoor NHLF Bid – see Clerks report, agreed in principle to support and work together. Needs of the community agreed as being connectivity, employment opportunities and tourism.

Placemaking, WDBC – see Clerks report, agreed in principle to support and work together, await formal invitation to Strategy Group meeting.

Forthglade visit – report of visit previously circulated. Ongoing monitoring to continue.

Living Rivers – Zoom meeting attended by Cllr Wood. Group are making Lottery funding bid for the Okement River catchment area, intention is to tell local stories from the source of river to sea. Group may attend future Council meeting to give presentation.

Councillor Advocate Police & Crime Commissioner – attended by Cllr Wood, key message was the fighting of drug related issues also an emphasis to advise people to use Crimestoppers to report issues if there were concerns about going to the Police.

Community Fridge – attended by Cllr Wood, advised he was on the rota for collecting food to take to the new fridge.

Okehampton Matters – attended by Cllr Maile and Wood, Mike Warriner has been appointed to replace Mark Sloman, communication between the Street Pastors and Police appears to be an issue. Agreed next agenda to include vandalism issues.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Devon Wildlife Community of the Year awards – to consider making a nomination, agreed to nominate ORIG and Matt Parkin

9.2 Friends of St James Church of England Primary School – to consider grant application for £300 for materials for Willow arch area and vegetable growing plots. Resolved to award £300 proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Webber.

9.3 TLG Make Lunch Club – to consider grant application for £500 to help fund items for new holiday club including crockery. Cllr Cooper updated the Council with more information about the Group, resolved to award £300 towards cost of crockery, proposed by Cllr P Heard, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.

9.4 Romansfield Jubilee Party – to consider grant application for £240 for purchase of vouchers for prizes for competitions. Resolved to award £240 for purchase of gift vouchers as prizes, proposed by Cllr Ewen, seconded by Cllr Cooper.

9.5 Okehampton Friendship Group – to consider grant application for £250 towards costs of outings. Resolved to award £250, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Maile.

9.6 Great British Springclean – to consider involvement and actions. Clerk still waiting to hear from WDBC, Cllr Yelland agreed to chase on Council's behalf.

9.7 Okehampton Skills & Sports Trust – invitation to official opening Tuesday 12th April. Cllrs Wood, Ewen, Cooper, Maile, Littlejohns and Webber to attend.

9.8 Okehampton Men In Sheds Fun Day – to note event. Noted.

9.9 ORIG – invitation to AGM, 27th April, 7pm at the Okement Centre. Cllrs Wood and Maile to attend.

10. Finance –

10.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard (wages £487.03, mileage £16.65	£503.88
HMRC	£ 365.20
DALC (subscription)	£369.66
WDBC (dog bin emptying)	£ 286.41
DALC (training course)	£ 18.00
Glasdon (replacement dog bin)	£ 304.53
GX Accountants	£ 22.50

Accounts approved and signed.

10.2 NALC Payscales – to note revised terms wef 1/4/21 and agree payment of backdated rise to

Clerk. Currently SCP 22, £14.05 per hour, now revised to £14.30 per hour. Resolved to award Clerk back dated pay rise as per NALC agreement to £14.30 ph, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

10.3 To agree what contribution, if any, should be offered to Cllr Webber to attend the Royal Garden Party. Cllr Webber advised he did not wish to claim for any of his expenses.

10.4 Devon Association of Local Councils – to confirm renewal of membership at cost of £369.66 not payable at this point. Previous year sub £347.80. Agreed and invoice for payment now received.

11. Community Governance – review of resolution passed 7/11/2017 – see Clerks report for full details. Councillors agreed to give further consideration to this and to bear in mind comments made in Item 1 on the agenda. Carried forward.

12. Environmental issues

12.1 Mud on highways, Crediton Road and Exeter Road Industrial Estate, to note any new issues. Reported issues have now increased again. Clerk to raise with Police, Highways and Developers.

13. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – to receive update from Clerk and Cllr Cooper on arrangements. At Working Group meeting it was suggested that a ‘mini’ beacon be lit in Okehampton Showfield, after discussions, councillors agreed to move the original beacon from Black Down to the Showfield and to have just one Beacon. This was mainly due to H&S concerns and to enable the activities to be concentrated in one area. It was agreed to have a choir to sing the Jubilee Song, to arrange a catering van and bar plus potentially a band.

14. Open Spaces.

13.1 To agree date for Working Group meeting – carried forward in the absence of Cllr J Heard. Cllr Ewen will arrange to put up signs in Meldon again asking public to keep to paths and not walk on the bluebells.

15. Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required. Upcott Hill bin replacement to wait until the autumn as no further ice expected.

16. Clerks Report March 2022 – Clerk to answer any questions raised by Councillors. Okehampton & Hamlets Combined Archive – following meeting at Devon Archives, Councillors agreed in principle that depositing archive material with them was the most appropriate way forward. Formal resolution with specific details to be considered later. Committee on Standards in Public Life – left to Clerk to forward letter as a Clerk is she wished to do so. No other updates or questions.

17. Annual Parish Meeting – to confirm arrangements for 19th April 2022. Speakers confirmed as OUC, OCRA, Okehampton Community Transport Group and Ian Brooker. Cllr Cooper and Clerk to organise refreshments. Agreed invitations to be extended to the Council’s WDBC and DCC Councillors and Mr P Davies

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 Littlejohns, seconded by Cllr Ewen

18. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information. Noted. Clerk to contact WDBC again re removal of hedge on Fatherford View development – replacement not a Devon hedgebank and the disturbance to wildlife that has resulted.

19. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting (Annual General Meeting)- Tuesday 3rd May 2022 and Annual Parish meeting on 19th April

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed Date **Minutes 275/3**