



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

R Maile
M Cooper
M Littlejohns
B Wood
A Ewen

Also present – Cllr J Yelland (WDBC), Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk

Absent – Cllr J Heard

- 1. Members of the Public** – a presentation was received from Rebecca Chamberlain, Community Speedwatch – a 3 stage educational warning system, manned by volunteers in approved locations. Letters sent where vehicle speed exceeds by 10% + 2mph of the limit, 3rd letter hand delivered by Police Officer. Volunteers receive training and are supplied with all equipment together with roadside training.
The Chairman thanked Rebecca for attending, to be discussed further at future meeting.
Cllr Yelland distributed copies of a Cost of Living brochure from WDBC detailing useful information for residents. Copies to be placed in Council noticeboards and copies left for the Public in Meldon Village Hall.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wood declared a personal interest in item 9.7 as he is a Trustee of the Community Group.

3. Apologies – - apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Heard and D Webber. Apologies were also received from WDBC Cllr A Leech. It was proposed by Cllr Wood that Cllr Webber be granted an extended leave of absence for up to 6 months from today's meeting date due to his health condition, seconded by Cllr Ewen, all in favour. (Sect 85(1) Local Government Act 1972)

4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting held on 9th August 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. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mrs M Pratt for acting as Locum Clerk for the meeting.

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 discuss and receive update on Exeter Road development issues, no new issues reported.

5.2 WDBC My Place My Views – to consider consultation and agree any responses required. Agreed Clerk to circulate information again to all Councillors, Councillors to feedback their comments to Clerk by 28th Sept, Clerk and Cllr Cooper to submit views of Council after that date.

6. DCC and WDBC – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates. Cllr Wood thanked Cllrs Yelland and Leech for their written reports which were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising from these reports. Cllr Samuels (DCC) requested Councillors to view DCC Updates prior to her circulating a report within the next few weeks.

7. Neighbourhood Planning

7.1 to receive an update on joint Okehampton Plan , draft plan circulated to both Councils and awaiting approval.

7.2 to discuss and pass the following resolution if agreed – This Council approves Version 7 of the Draft Okehampton & Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan and agree it should now go forward for Regulation 14 consultation. Councillors resolved to pass the above resolution subject to inclusion of a missing map, version number amendment on front page and checking of page breaks, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Ewen, all in favour.

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

Cllr Wood reported he attended recent Twinning Association events, all were very successful.

9. Correspondence

9.1 DALC AGM 5th Oct 2022 – to appoint a proxy for the meeting, agree response to all motions on agenda as per information circulated. Agreed Cllr Wood attend on behalf of the Council and that he be authorised to use his judgement on voting on AGM resolutions.

9.2 Dream A Way – to agree response and any actions required to communications received. Councillors agreed they would consider formal grant application providing it met the criteria of the Councils Grant Terms & Conditions.

9.3 Northern Links Meetings – to confirm attendee for meeting on 13th Sept, 6.30pm virtually. Cllr Cooper to attend.

9.4 Okehampton Community Voices – to consider grant request. The Clerk advised that the Group were not yet set up formally to enable any request to be considered at this stage. The organiser was in the process of doing this and would contact the Council again.

9.5 TavyRail – to consider request for letter of support for Tavistock-Plymouth rail line. Agreed letter of support be sent, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Cooper.

9.6 Forestry England – to consider any response to Stakeholder Consultation – Forestry Management. Noted.

9.7 Okehampton & District Community Transport Group – to consider grant application for £1000 towards provision of their services. Cllr Wood updated Councillors on the up to date situation of the Group and then took no further part in the discussions. Resolved to award the sum of £1000, it was acknowledged that this amount is above the usual maximum amount of any Grant awarded as per the Council's Grant Terms & Conditions, however it was felt that the amount was justified considering the benefit the Group gave to the community together with the current high costs in fuel, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ewen, 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

10. Finance –

10.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard wages £564.07	£
Western Web	£ 90.00
PKF Littlejohn	£240.00
M Pratt	£ 36.48

10.2 To note the External Auditors Report raising no concerns and to note the Notice of conclusion of Audit will be published on 6th September 2022 and to agree length of time that it is published for – suggested end date 30th September 2022 . Report noted, and dates of publication agreed.

10.3 Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements – to resolve to continue within the Central Scheme for 2022/3 – 20226/7 period and not to opt out. Agreed to opt out of scheme, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.

11. Environmental issues

11.1 Mud on highways, Crediton Road and Exeter Road Industrial Estate, no new issues reported.

11.2 Odours in East of Okehampton, - to receive an update. It was reported there have been a significant increase in the occurrences of odours recently, all advised dates and times need to be recorded for full investigations to take place. Clerk to contact Forthglade for update. Consideration to

be given at next meeting for advising Environmental Health and the Environment Agency together with contacting local businesses in the area for further data.

11.3 Exeter Road Industrial Estate – Cllr Ewen advised of issues in Exeter Road Industrial Park and the Business Park. Clerk to investigate and raise issue with appropriate authorities.

12. Open Spaces.

12.1 To confirm date for Working Group meeting – agreed to retain date of 13th September

12.2 StOC – to identify work that the Group could undertake for the Council during the autumn/early winter in response to their offer of support. Agreed to accept the offer of help, details to be agreed by Working Group when they meet.

12.3 Repairs to track at Aplite Quarry – a meeting has taken place between DNP, Aggregate Industries and representatives from the Council. Stone to be donated by Aggregate Industries has kindly been spread on the track by Cllr Littlejohns enabling safe access for the event recently held. It was agreed this was a temporary solution, the situation be monitored and no further action required at this stage.

12.4 DNP – to consider grant request for £500 towards Meldon Wildlife Day. Resolved to award grant in the sum of £500, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns, seconded by Cllr Wood.

13. Updates on Flood Plan and Snow Plan and actions required. Agreed Grit bins all needed emptying and contents replaced together with the installation of 1 additional bin in Meldon Fields. Date to undertake these actions to be agreed at next meeting.

14. Clerks Report August 2022 – Clerk to answer any questions raised by Councillors, items below covered in report.

14.1 To confirm and formally document Clerks appointment. Resolved to confirm appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from December 2008, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

14.2 To agree and confirm locations of future Council meetings. As per Minute ref 277/17 dated 3/5/2022 the Clerk reported that both alternative locations to be considered at that time were not available for evening meetings. It was agreed the Okement Centre was a possible location for alternate meetings, Clerk to investigate further.

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, seconded by Cllr Maile

15. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information. Noted.

16. Community Governance – to receive an update on current position and agree further actions. It was noted that a petition from Okehampton Town Council was due to be presented to WDBC on 27th September. Agreed further actions to be agreed at October meeting.

17. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting Tuesday 4th October 2022 at Meldon Village Hall

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed Date