



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present –

B. Wood
M. Cooper
A. Ewen
M. Littlejohns
P. Heard
S. Norris
J. Goffey

Also present – Jane Gillard, Clerk and Marion Pratt, Locum Clerk + 1 member of the public

Chair Cllr B Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that while Clerk Jane Gillard was recovering from her broken wrist injuries, she will only be performing light duties, hence Locum Clerk M. Pratt would be taking the Minutes for the meeting.

1. Members of the Public – One

2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr M Cooper with regard to Item 9.3 (retiring Trustee), and Cllr J Goffey and Cllr Wood with regard to Item 9.2 (volunteers for the organisation)

3. **Apologies** – Cllr John Heard.

4. **Approval of Minutes** of previous meeting held on 5th September 2023 Proposed Cllr M Littlejohns Seconded Cllr S Norris – Approved unanimously.

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 2074/23/FUL** Construction of building for warehouse use (class B8) together with parking area, land at SX 608 563 known as Plot A Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton Business Park,

Proposal to Support – Cllr J Goffey, Seconded Cllr S Norris – Approved unanimously.

5.2 **WDBC 2699/23/FUL** Erection of replacement dwelling, garage and outbuilding for ancillary use including demolition of existing buildings (resubmission of 1308/23/FUL & 1972/22/FUL), Nethercott Farm, Southcott, consultation as neighbouring parish only.

Proposal of No Comments – Cllr B Wood, Seconded Cllr P Heard – Approved unanimously.

6. **DCC and WDBC** – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates. Reports from Cllrs T. Leech, G Dexter and L Samuel had been circulated to councillors.

Proposal that the Clerk should write to WDBC asking for a full report/response regarding the issue of failure to provide safe footpath from new housing developments on Crediton Road towards Okehampton.

Proposed Cllr S Norris, Seconded Cllr A Ewing. Approved unanimously.

7. Neighbourhood Planning

7.1 to receive an update on joint **Okehampton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr B Wood reported that RICS will appoint a specialist examiner to look at the plan and make a report.

Parishioners still have the opportunity to give feed back via the Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan Website <https://okehamptonneighbourhoodplan.com/>

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

- [Police & Crime Commissioner](#) Conference on violent crime – Cllr Wood – reassured the meeting that West Devon is still a low crime area. More details can be found on the link above.
- Official opening of [Promise School](#) – Cllr Wood attended the opening of the school and was pleased to meet the head teacher who seemed very enthusiastic.
- [Launch of Dartmoor Search & rescue new vehicle](#) including cheque presentation – Cllr Wood attended this launch and Okehampton Hamlets will receive a certificate in recognition of their donation to this worthy charity.
- DALC Conference – Cllr Wood attended this conference and will circulate the slide presentation to all other councillors.
- Visit to **Forthglade** factory – seven Councillors attended a meeting with at Forthglade to discuss the ongoing issue of odours emitted from the site. It was a very positive meeting and the company is putting in place various mechanisms to try and eliminate the problem.
They do wish to work with the public and Parish Council and encourage people to report any issues to them on **01837 83322** or info@forthglade.com

Clerk to update Cllr Leech on outcome of this meeting.

9. Correspondence

9.1 **Tom Williams Memorial Day** – to consider grant request. It was agreed that this request does not meet the criteria for grant donations. However, individual councillors are free to make private donations.

9.2 [Okehampton & District Community Transport Group](#) – to consider grant request for £1000 towards costs of provisions of services.

Councillors were reminded that Okehampton Hamlets Terms & Conditions for making grants have returned to the pre COVID status of a maximum of £500.

Proposal to grant £500 Cllr S. Norris, Seconded Cllr A Ewing – Approved (Abstentions from Cllrs B Wood and J Goffey because of their personal interests)

Cllr Goffey informed the meeting of the new manager of the ODCTG – Paula Anscombe.

9.3 **Okehampton United Charity** – to consider appointment of nominated Trustee following end of term off office of Cllr Cooper on 21st October 2023. Proposed Cllr Cooper be nominated, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns seconded by Cllr Ewen

9.4 **Dartmoor National Park** – to note resignation of Ranger Rob Taylor. Noted.

9.5 **Okebookfest** – to note feedback and agree any further action to support. It was agreed that no further grant would be made for this event.

9.6 **Everything Okehampton** – to consider invitation to fundraising dinner on 17th November – Cllr Wood asked members to let him know if they are able to make up a table for this event.

9.7 **Highways matters** – to note correspondence concerning footpaths on Crediton Road and Barratts development – as per Item 6 above – the Clerk will follow this up with WDBC.

9.8 **Anti social behaviour and criminal damage** – to note correspondence received and consider any actions – Cllr Norris gave a report on the nuisance and criminal damage currently being experienced by residents in the Hillside area. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has limited powers but he has discussed the issue with Okehampton Town Council, WDBC and the Police in the view to putting in place a Neighbourhood policy.

It was proposed that PC Hawke be invited to speak at the next Okehampton Hamlets meeting.

10. Finance –

10.1 Accounts for payment –

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|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs J Gillard wages | £560.27, |
| DALC (training) | £ 235.20 and £18 |
| WDBC (dog bin emptying) | £ 571.63 |
| Broadbury Landcare (grass cutting) | £160.00 |

Payments as listed approved.

10.2 **To confirm that the Chairman may claim travel expenses** whilst covering Clerks duties in her temporary absence and not being able to drive + authorisation to employ Locum Clerk as required during this period.

Approved. Proposed by Cooper Seconded by Cllr Ewen

11. Environmental issues

11.1 **Mud on highways**, Crediton Road and Exeter Road Industrial Estate, to note any new issues - None

11.2 **Odours East of Okehampton** – to receive an update – no significant reports

12. Open Spaces.

12.1 To receive update from Working Group – No meetings to report on.

12.2 Bird boxes – to receive update – Men In Sheds have used the wood delivered by Cllr P Heard to construct several Bird boxes. It was suggested that they should only make enough boxes for the immediate need and that the wood should be stored to make additional boxes at a later date.

12.3 Dartmoor Marshalls – contract completed, report not yet received, invoice awaited.

12.4 Woodland Trust – to consider request to hold seed collection event in Old Town Park on 6th October.

Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Norris – Approved unanimously.

12.5 Old Town Park – to note that StOC will be working on addit repairs 20th October and 24th November and agree materials to be purchased ie pipe and stone

It was agreed that a pipe be purchased at cost of approx £50 and that appropriate stone for the top surface be purchased. Cllr Cooper and Ewing to liaise on purchase and transportation to the site for 20th Oct.

12.6 Old Town Park Local Nature Reserve information leaflets – to consider printing of new leaflets, agreed to print previously circulated draft leaflet, 500 copies, using same printer at cost of approx £150 as used for Meldon leaflets (full alternative quotations recently obtained)

Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Goffey – Approved unanimously.

13. **Updates on Flood Plan** – None – Cllr Ewen to progress

14. **Speedwatch** – to receive update of meeting held in Oke Town Hall (Cllr Norris) and to consider invitation to attend Community Speedwatch Conference, 30th October, 10 – 2 pm, Westpoint

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Cllr Norris reported that it had been a positive meeting and suggested that additional police approved sites be requested at Upcott Hill, Brighthley and Hatherleigh Road.

Cllr Wood and the Clerk volunteered to attend the Conference on 30th October.

15. **D Day Celebrations 6th June 2024** – to receive an update, confirm attendance at initial meeting 5th Oct (Cllrs Wood, Ewen & Cooper)

Date of the meeting to be changed hopefully to 18th October. Cllr Cooper and Clerk will attend.

16. **Economic Development Projects**

16.1 Okehampton BID – to receive an update and confirm attendees at next meeting. It was agreed in principle at last meeting to grant money to this. There is to be a consultation next June/July.

16.2 Okehampton Regeneration Board – to confirm date of next meeting, 10th Oct 2 – 4pm via Teams, attendees Cllrs Cooper.

16.3 Open Space Sports & Recreation Okehampton – to confirm next meeting 10th Oct, 10.30am Cllrs J Heard & Goffey.

17. **Councillor Training.** Training completed recently –

Cllrs Wood & Norris – Being A Good Councillor (full day)

Cllr Goffey & Clerk – Standards In Public Life (On line)

Cllrs Ewen, Littlejohns, - Responding to Planning Applications

Cllrs Wood, Norris, Ewen and Littlejohns – Code of Conduct

Cllr Goffey – Being a Good Councillor Part 1

Booked for 27th Nov – Cllrs Wood, Cooper & Littlejohns – Responding to Planning Applications.

To be booked – Cllrs Cooper, P Heard & J Heard – Standards in Public Life

18. **Community Governance** (re proposed Boundary Changes) – to note WDBC discussions re proposals taking place 3rd October. Cllr Wood reported that the 2 proposals that were being discussed by WDBC were:-

- a) Adopt the proposal put forward by Okehampton Town Council
- b) Maintain the Status Quo.

Cllr Wood proposed that Okehampton Hamlets should agree with Option b. Seconded Cllr Cooper (Cllr Goffey abstained). This proposal was carried. It was agreed that a meeting of the Working Group take place to discuss this further, and decide on any actions by Okehampton Hamlets

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 Cllr Goffey Seconded Cllr P Heard – Approved unanimously.

18 (b) Community Governance – It was resolved to approve expenditure to a maximum of £500 for any communication material the Working Group may decide appropriate. Proposed by Cllr Wood seconded by Cllr Ewen

19. **To note current WDBC Enforcement cases** list and information – current enforcement cases were viewed.

20. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting - **Tuesday 7th November 2023 at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed Date