



## Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

### Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

#### Councillors Present -

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

Also present – Cllr L Samuels (DCC) and Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk,

Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman presented a Grant Cheque to Paula Anscombe, Okehampton & District Community Transport Group. She thanked the Council for the award which will help continue providing an essential service to the local community.

The Chairman then asked Members for a moment of reflection on the recent death of former Councillor Dudley Luxton, sympathies were expressed to his family.

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 A Leach (WDBC).
4. **Approval of Minutes of previous meeting** held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Norris, 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 3493/23/VPO** Application for modification of Section 106 agreement on WDBC 2731/15/OPA East of Okehampton development Parcels 3 and 4. Resolved to strongly object to this application, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Norris. Comments to make – delaying provision of a key piece of infrastructure, too much pressure on existing roads, traffic needs to flow more freely, the development should have been planned in order to provide the road as originally agreed.
6. **DCC and WDBC** – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates. Reports previously received and circulated from Cllr Samuels, Cllr Leech and Cllr Dexter. Cllr Samuels stated the lack of a footpath in Crediton Road that the situation was ‘looking promising’ . She has taken on a new cabinet role within DCC SEND, and positive changes were happening.
7. **Neighbourhood Planning**
  - 7.1 to receive an update on joint Okehampton Neighbourhood Plan and agree appointment of independent Examiner. Resolved to agree to the appointment of John Slater as suggested by WDBC, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Goffey.

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

8.1 agree attendees of Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Cllrs Wood, J Heard, P Heard. Agreed a wreath be purchased by donation of £50, proposed by Cllr Littlejohns, seconded by Cllr Norris.

8.2 S106 meeting re funding for Open Spaces – Cllrs J Heard & J Goffey, Approx £120k from S106 funding available, £103k already allocated, local clubs are now being asked to put in ‘bids’ for funding, there is a 10 year period in which the funding can be spent. Suggested OHPC may be able to obtain funding for footpath repairs, Clerk to investigate further. Follow up meeting to be held when ‘bids’ received.

8.3 Devon & Cornwall Speedwatch Conference – Cllr Wood & Clerk, see item 14 below.

## 9. Correspondence

**9.1 DNP** – to consider request to hold Meldon Wildlife Day on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Resolved to agree to request, proposed by Cllr Norris, seconded by Cllr Ewen.

**9.2 WDBC Active Travel** – to review report circulated. Noted, outcome of next stage of consultation awaited.

**9.3 WDBC – Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders**, to consider any response required to public consultation. Councillors to respond individually if they wish, Clerk to submit Council feedback highlighting need for dogs to be kept under control and on leads when around livestock.

## 10. Finance –

### 10.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard wages	£560.27, travel	£20.25	
Expenses	£93.13		£
M Pratt			£ 53.36
GX Accountants			£ 54.00
DALC			£ 54.00
DALC			£ 18.00
WDBC Election charges			£ 1352.65
Ravensquest (Matt Parkin)			£ 300.00
Farmer Luxtons (volunteers refreshments)			£ 73.95
Inkprint			£ 43.38
Hedgerow Printing			£ 153.60

Resolved accounts be paid, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Norris.

**10.2 2024/25 Budget** – to consider initial thoughts for setting budget for coming year. All Councillors to forward their ideas to Clerk to enable a first draft budget to be circulated in advance of the Dec meeting when it will be considered prior to adoption in January.

## 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 issues highlighted.

11.3 DCC Snow Warden Scheme – to agree if additional supplies of salt are required. Agreed to request 2 ton to be stored at Minehouse Farm.

## 12. Open Spaces.

12.1 To receive update from Working Group including quotes for tree surveys on roads within Meldon Woods and Old Town Park and any other work that may be required. Agreed to obtain quotes for surveys.

**12.2 Bird boxes** – these have been made by Men In Sheds, Chairman attended to collect them, surplus wood to be stored at their premises for making future boxes.

**12.3 2443 Air Cadet Squadron** – to consider request to Use Meldon Woods and Old Town Park, details in line with previously agreed requests. Resolved to approve request, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns.

**12.4 Woodland Trust** – to receive report of seed collection event held on 27<sup>th</sup> October in Old Town Park. Report awaited, to be circulated when received.

**12.5 Old Town Park** – to receive update on work undertaken by StOC on 20<sup>th</sup> October and agree work to be undertaken on next visit 24<sup>th</sup> November. Good attendance by volunteers on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct when work on the addit was undertaken, agreed that coppicing in Meldon to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, Matt Parkins to agree site.

**12.6 Old Town Park Local Nature Reserve** information leaflets – to receive update, feedback received on content, now being updated prior to printing.

**13. Updates on Flood Plan** – Cllrs Wood and Ewen to meet to progress.

**14. Speedwatch** – to receive update . Cllr Wood and Clerk attended Speedwatch Conference. Sticklepath PC have volunteers who wish to join Scheme, agreed they could register under OHPC Group and the Group could then expand the area it covers, there are also 2 or 3 volunteers from the meeting held in Okehampton Town Hall. As soon as there is 1 more trained volunteer, the Police will arrange to undertake the onsite training.

**15. D Day Celebrations 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024** – to receive an update and report from first meeting of Group. Cllr Cooper elected as Chair of the Working Group. Many good ideas were discussed at the meeting, subsequently Okehampton Town Council have agreed to pay 50% of estimated costs up to a max of £1940. Agreed to apply for funding support from OUC to pay for hire of marquee, toilets and generator. Follow up meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**16. Economic Development Projects**

**16.1 Okehampton BID** – to receive an update and confirm attendees at next meeting. Revised timing details previously circulated, no further update.

**16.2 Okehampton Regeneration Board** – to receive report from meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> October and agree attendees at next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, Zoom 10 – 12 noon, Cllr Wood to attend, no attendees on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**17. Councillor Training.** To receive an update from Councillors who have attended recent training and confirm training planned. Confirmed all booked training has been completed, updated plan to be circulated by Clerk.

It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Norris that item 18 be moved to Part 2 of the meeting as information to be discussed should remain confidential at the present time.

**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 Norris

**18. Community Governance (re proposed Boundary Changes)** – receive an update from the Working Group and agree next steps. Letters have been circulated to residents. It was agreed that response to second consultation be prepared by the Working Group and could be submitted by the Clerk before 2<sup>nd</sup> December deadline, proposed by Cllr P Heard, seconded by Cllr Norris, 1 abstention, remaining councillors in favour. All Councillors invited to submit to Clerk any ideas they may have on points to include in submission.

**19. To note current WDBC Enforcement cases list and information.** Noted.

**20. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting** - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at The Links Room, Ockment Centre Okehampton

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

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