



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024, at 7.30 pm at Meldon Village Hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

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

Also present – Mrs J Gillard, Parish Clerk,

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman Cllr M Littlejohns

- 1. Members of the Public** – there were no members of the public present.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Cooper expressed a personal interest in item 9.1 as she is a Trustee of Okehampton United Charity, Cllr Ewen expressed a personal interest in item 5.2 as a member of the Golf Club
- 3. Apologies** – were received and accepted from Cllr Wood, apologies were also received from Cllr Leech (WDBC)
- 4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting** held on 30th January 2024 the minutes of the meeting were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Vice Chairman, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Norris
- 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 4167/23/HHO** Householder application for loft conversion and front and rear dormers, Barton Tor House, Stockley. Resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ewen.
 - 5.2 DNP 0076/24** Creation of new terrace (patio) and replacement of existing window with a new set of bifold doors Okehampton Golf Club, Tors Road, Okehampton. Resolved to support the application, proposed by Cllr P Heard, seconded by Cllr Norris.
- 6. DCC and WDBC** – to consider the Councillors written reports/updates. Reports from Cllr Leech and Cllr Dexter previously circulated, no questions arising from them.
- 7. Neighbourhood Planning**
 - 7.1 to receive an update on joint Okehampton Neighbourhood Plan. The Examiner has advised he wishes to hold a Hearing as part of the Examination process, this has now been provisionally arranged for 10/11 April.
- 8. To receive reports from meetings and events attended by Parish Council representatives including –**
 - Wild About Devon – Cllr Goffey, meeting notes circulated prior to meeting.
 - Friends of St James School, Official opening of adventure playground attended by Cllrs Norris and Goffey.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Okehampton United Charity – to consider grant request for £973.44 towards running costs of the Allotments. Councillors expressed disappointment over the high increase in amount requested particularly as there has been no previous advice that the costs have increased. It was felt the allotments should be self funding and that the Council cannot commit to ongoing support. It was proposed to contribute £500 (approx 9% increase on the amount contributed last year), proposed by Cllr Littlejohns, seconded by Cllr Ewen. It was also agreed the request could be reviewed at the end of the financial year to ascertain if any funds from other areas of the budget could be available.

9.2 WDBC Mayoral Awards – to consider and agree any nominations to be made. Agreed to nominate Geoff Penna in the Over 18 category and Matt Parkin in the Green award.

9.3 Devon Communities Together- to consider renewal of membership at cost of £50. Resolved to renew membership, proposed by Cllr Norris, seconded by Cllr P Heard.

9.4 WDBC Civic Dinner – to consider invitation to event on 23rd March. Noted.

9.5 Okehampton Hockey Club – to consider grant request for £500 towards costs of replacement lighting for pitches. Agreed to delay considering the request until the outcome of all other funding requests were known and final costings agreed. Also agreed to question why this application is from one sports club only and what fund raising have the sports clubs who will benefit have undertaken.

10. Finance –

10.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard wages £ 595.00, travel £16.20	£ 611.20
Dartmoor National Park	£2000.00
Ockement Centre	£ 38.04
Parish Noticeboard Co	£ 20.40

Resolved accounts be paid, proposed by Cllr 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. Nothing to report.

11.2 Odours East of Okehampton – to receive an update. Cllr Cooper and Clerk identified issue on Thurs 22nd Feb at 1pm which has been reported to Forthglade.

12. Open Spaces.

12.1 To receive update from Working Group. Members of the Group met at Old Town Park in preparation for the StOC visits on 29th March and 5th April, agreed work should start on the footpath in the lower meadow running alongside the river, materials required – 12 feet of 8inch diameter perforated twin wall pipe, geotextile teram fibre 1 m wide, 1 roll, 2 dumpy bags of 803 stone to be delivered late Thursday 28th March, Cllr P Heard to lift them across river with telehandler, wood on site to be used for path edges, pasty's to be purchased for volunteers attending, funding from Chairs Allowance.

12.2 Old Town Park Local Nature Reserve information leaflets – being printed, available soon.

12.3 Grass cutting 2024 – to agree requirements and issue of tenders, agreed Clerk to approach existing contractors with same requirements as last year and providing costs in line to reappoint them.

13. Updates on Flood Plan – awaiting return of Cllr Wood

14. Speedwatch – to receive update, meeting with Police for final training being arranged.

15. D Day Celebrations 6th June 2024 – to receive an update. Working Group due to meet 2nd April. OUC grant application has been successful, ODCTG are able to supply transport from the Town to the Showfield, details being finalised.

16. Economic Development Projects

16.1 Okehampton BID – to receive an update. First meeting of steering group has taken place attended by Cllr Ewen and Clerk. Proposals being developed with further meetings.

17. Community Governance (re proposed Boundary Changes) – to note decision taken by WDBC. Actions to be discussed in Part 2 due to discussion of sensitive information relating to existing contracts. Cllrs Cooper and Littlejohns attended WDBC meeting where decision to change the boundaries was made. Councillors expressed extreme disappointment that no communication from WDBC has been received since that meeting took place.

18. Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 16th April, to agree format and speakers to be invited. Format to be as previous years with refreshments provided. Agreed to invite Meldon Viaduct Company (delayed from last year), Forthglade and representative from WDBC to answer questions on the Community Governance Review with an alternative being a representative from DMAT

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

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

20. Community Governance Review – to consider financial impacts, agree any actions required including potential steps for considering Judicial Review. There were considerable discussions on the financial impacts of the decision but as no communications have been received from WDBC it was not possible to make significant plans for the future at this stage.

Cllr Goffey expressed her views and then left the meeting room, not returning.

It was agreed to accept Cllr Vachon’s offer to meet with the Working Group and this was to be arranged.

It was resolved not to progress challenging the WDBC decision by way of a Judicial Review, proposed by Cllr P Heard, seconded by Cllr Ewen, all in favour with one abstention. It was agreed that a Press Release is prepared, circulated to all Councillors and then submitted to the press early next week. Authority delegated to the Clerk to submit final version after circulation.

21. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting - Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at The Links Room, Ockment Centre, Okehampton

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed Date

Minutes 299/3