



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes, number 302 of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2024, at 7.30 pm at The Links room, Ockment Centre, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

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

Also present –Mrs J Gillard, Mrs E Young Parish Clerk and Sgt Ironmonger

Cllr Cooper welcomed all to the meeting at 7.30pm.

- 1. Members of the Public** – Sgt Ironmonger came to talk about a scheduled explosives exercise planned for Meldon quarry sometime in late July 2024. He explained that the quarry is an ideal venue for them to carry out a controlled explosives training as the quarry contains some concrete columns that create a realistic target. The charges used are all electronic and it's all time controlled. The maximum fragmentation distance is 100m. He is liaising with Mark Stephenson and the Cllrs asked that he lets the YHA know. Sgt Ironmonger will contact Cllr Littlejohn closer to the planned event who will update others.

Sgt Littlejohn left the meeting.

- 3. Declarations of Interest** – there were no Declarations of Interest made.
- 4. Apologies** – Received and accepted from Cllr A Ewen, apologies were also received from Cllr Vachon (WDBC).
- 5. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting** held on 7th May 2024 and the Annual Parish meeting held on 16th April 2024. **The minutes of both of these meetings were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Norris, agreed by all.**
- 6. Planning** – no applications received.
- 7. DCC and WDBC** – Cllr Jan Goffey reported Cllr George Dexter met with Drew Powell (strategy and governance) but there were no further updates. Kellands Lane continues to remain blocked which has been for around 10 years. A meeting will be set up.

Cllr Cooper read out Cllr Leech's report as follows, Links Road discussions with highways. The back road down past Mole Avon is poor and has been brought to the attention of the planners. There are some TPO concerns which have been reported to the Tree officer. The footpath requirement along Crediton Road is progressing. There is no new report from Forthglade. Two mirrors have appeared on Exeter Road, (Persimmons site) which have been reported to enforcement, along with the play equipment that hasn't been installed at the Persimmons site. The St James Primary school playing field issues continue.

The Clerk also mentioned receiving an email from a resident about the need for a safe crossing on the Crediton Road by St James Primary school.

Cllr Wood said the Meldon Fields to the roundabout footpath is still outstanding.

It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Goffey for the Clerk to follow up with DCC Samuels about highways and the WDBC Ward Cllrs about the outstanding footpath concerns. Request for an update by September.

8. Neighbourhood Planning

8.1 The people involved are currently waiting for the Chair to call a meeting following the Examiners report. Clerk to circulate report to all Cllrs.

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

Cllr Goffey – Update on the hospital; they are proposing for the two empty wards to be handed back. The pre and post natal wards will go to the main hospital and maternity to ICB (Integrated Care Board).

10. Correspondence

10.1 To consider invitation to join the Rural Village Services Group (details previously circulated) – It was proposed by Cllr Wood to not join and continue to receive the emails. Seconded by Cllr Norris. Agreed by all.

10.2 Okehampton Town Council – invitation to presentation at Town Hall, 20th June, 10am, from GWR re new Okehampton Station – Cllr Wood has accepted the invitation. Cllr Goffey would like to go and Cllr Cooper will confirm to the Clerk.

10.3 Dartmoor National Park – to consider grant request for £500 towards costs of Meldon Wildlife Day, 20th August 2024 and to consider if Council wish to have a ‘stall’. Cllr Wood proposed the grant request for £500.00 is supported along with having a stall. Seconded by Cllr Goffey. Agreed by all. Cllrs Norris and Wood to run the stall in August.

11. Finance –

11.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs J Gillard wages £594.80, travel £25.65,	
Exp £54.00	£ 674.45
Mrs E Young wages	£ 239.20
Ockment Centre	£ 79.49
Mole Avon (repair materials)	£ 89.10
Ravenquest	£ 350.00
P Russell (internal audit)	£ 150.00

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

11.2 Internal Audit – to note final report and agree any actions required. Noted comments made to have healthy reserves and to have a plan for loss of key personnel.

11.3 Insurance – to note renewal terms agreed and premium paid – Noted. Changed to Zurich insurance on a 3 year agreement, making a saving of £401.01.

11.4 Bank reconciliations – to appoint Councillor to undertake quarterly checks – It was proposed by Cllr Wood that Cllr Littlejohns undertakes this quarterly check, seconded by Cllr Norris. Agreed by all.

12. Review of Council Documentation

12.1 To review Grant Terms and Conditions – The Cllrs decided to make no change.

13. Environmental issues

13.1 Mud on highways, Crediton Road and Exeter Road Industrial Estate, to note any new issues – Still mud present on the Crediton Road which is believed to be caused by construction traffic. Clerk asked to raise an enforcement.

13.2 Odours East of Okehampton – to receive an update – No new reports.

14. Open Spaces.

14.1 To receive update from Working Group – **A meeting to be arranged by Cllr Cooper to talk about hedges in Meldon woods, STOC work on 2nd August.**

14.2 To receive an update on work to be carried out by StOC – **as above.**

14.3 DCC Free Tree Schemes – to consider offer of trees (details previously circulated) – **Noted.**

15. Updates on Flood Plan – awaiting Cllrs Wood and Ewen to progress. **Cllr Wood said they will also look at other aspects and combine it all into an emergency plan.**

16. Clerks Report – to note contents and raise any questions arising – **Speedwatch – no volunteers have come forward to accept the training. Clerk asked to feedback to organisers. Dartmoor marshalls – Cllrs P Heard, M Littlejohns and J Heard have offered to meet with the marshalls. Cullaford Steps was raised as another concerned area when the weather is fine. Clerk to inform DNP Officer.**

17. D Day Celebrations 6th June 2024 – to receive an update and report from Working Group – **Gates to be open from 4.30pm, 5pm first fly past, then 6pm and then around 8pm. Shuttle bus starts at 5.30pm. Cllrs agreed items to be brought to site to help with work. From 8am on Friday the clear up operation ideally needs to commence. Lord Lieutenant Richard Stephens will be making the proclamation.**

18. Economic Development Projects

18.1 Okehampton Regeneration Board– to receive an update – **Cllr Cooper received an email about Okehampton BID; those involved have been asked to vote for the BID between June 21 and July 18th. Cllr Goffey is happy to keep a watching brief.**

19. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting – Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at Meldon Village Hall at 7.30pm. **Noted.**

PART TWO – Proposed by Cllr Littlejohns, Seconded by Cllr Goffey, agreed by all.

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.’

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

21. Clerk Recruitment – to receive an update on future administration arrangements including post/ mobile telephone (agreement of costs)/ publication of agendas etc – **Proposed by Cllr Littlejohns for the Clerk to arrange a mobile phone and SIM up to the value of £140.00, seconded by Cllr Wood, agreed by all.**

Agendas on to noticeboards:

Cllr P Heard will do Meldon

Cllr J Heard will do Southcott (Cllr P Heard to get a key copied for Cllr J Heard)

Cllr A Ewen will do Brightley (Clerk to allocate a key)

Cllr J Goffey will do both Romansfield and Meldon Fields (Clerk to allocate a key)

Cllr P Heard to talk to Cllr A Ewen about using the Mole Avon noticeboard (now decommissioned) at Meldon (which is old and needs replacing).

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed Date

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