



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Minutes, number 304 of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024, at 7.30 pm at Meldon village hall, Meldon, Okehampton

Councillors Present -

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

Also present –Mrs E Young Parish Clerk and two members of the public

Cllr Cooper welcomed all to the meeting at 7.30pm.

- 1. Members of the Public** – One member of the public had come along to raise his ongoing concerns with school children regularly crossing the road outside St James primary school. This follows on from the July meeting where DCC and WDBC Cllrs were provided with information. He would like to have an update and ideally councillors to come to site themselves. The Parish Council said they will chase Highways and DCC again.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

- 2. Declarations of Interest** – there were no Declarations of Interest made.
- 3. Apologies** – Received and accepted from Cllr A Ewen and Cllr P Heard.
- 4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting** held on 2nd July 2024. **The minutes were approved as being an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Norris, agreed by all.**
- 5. Planning** – to consider and agree response to applications listed below together with any others received up to date of this meeting:

5.1.2396/24/PAS Prior Approval Statutory Undertakers

Applicant Name: Network Rail Officer: **Adrian Noon**

Grid Reference: (260683, 95590) Comments to be received by: **11 Sep 2024**

Site Address: Land at SX 606 955 - Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton

Description: Application to determine if prior approval is required for the construction of a railway station and associated works under Class A, Part 18 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Goffey and agreed by all. The Cllrs would like to see toilets being provided and ideally a shelter.

5.2 2744/24/PDM

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No dwellinghouse (Class C3) & associated development (Class Q (a+b))

Location: Land at SX 603 965 Chichacott – **for information purposes only.**

Cllr Littlejohns left the meeting.

5.3 Appeal W/24/3347114

Refusal of planning permission for variation of condition 2 of approved planning ref: 0362/23, retrospective application to convert three redundant barns to three holiday units to retain UPVC windows, doors and roof lights on Eastern Barn and installation of UPVC windows, doors and rooflights on Western Barn at Estrayer Park Farm, Tavistock Road, Okehampton – The Councillors feel the proposal is complimentary to other buildings in the area, it is making use of 2 redundant buildings, will provide some employment, allowing the farm some diversification and its conserving historical buildings in a sensitive matter – proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Goffey, agreed by all.

Cllr Littlejohns returned to the meeting.

5.1.2 Planning decisions

5.1.2.1 2078/24/TPO Works to a TPO Tree

Grid Reference: (258665, 94304) **Site Address:** 15 Tors Road, Okehampton, EX20 1EF

Decision: Tree Works Allowed

Description: T1: Ash - fell to ground level, hollow trunk due to fungal decay, risk of failure.

Decision Date: 14 August 2024

Noted

5.1.2.2 DNPA Decision Notice 24/0040 Location: Jane's Meadow, Okehampton, EX20 1JA

Proposal: Tree 1 Oak - Reduce by 2-2.5 metres

Tree 2 Oak - Reduce by 2-2.5 metres

Conservation Area: Okehampton

Application Number: 24/0040

Date: 21 August 2024 - I would confirm that the Authority does not object to this proposal. If, for whatever reason, the specified works have not been implemented by 21-08-2026 a further notice will need to be served on the Authority.

Noted

6. DCC and WDBC – Cllr Leech's August report:

Parcel 3 Link Road, footpaths, and Kellands Lane blockage.

A meeting has been held between the WD Ward Members for the North of Okehampton with the lead planner to discuss why we have not had any movement to find ways to rectify the present situation we find ourselves in. There is and has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes, but unfortunately nothing that can be made public yet. Another meeting is scheduled for a months' time, when we hope that we will finally be able to have some positive news to tell you.

Parcel 4a footpath / Crediton Road concerns:

From an email from the Hamlets Clerk, it seems that a young lad was trapped in a hedge due to trying to walk down the Crediton Road when two large lorries were trying to pass each other, somewhere near the bridge that spans the Brightleigh Brook. This incident, as well as others like the dangers of school children crossing the Crediton Road to and from St James School, has been passed to the local DCC Member, who has passed it on to a DCC Highways Manager.

The footpath steps that have been installed as a footpath exit from Parcel 4a have now been closed off, so anyone wanting to walk into town, will now have even further to walk down the road as the footpath on parcel 4b is still not completed.

Exeter Road Persimmons site:

The entrance to the new development is still an issue that seems to be more like ping pong as both Highways and Planners say it is the responsibility of the other authority. It is now back with Highways.

Persimmons Crediton Road site:

I have again reminded our S106 officer of the missing piece of play equipment and again I am waiting for a response.

St James Primary School playing field:

Work has at last now been started on lowering the area for the new playing pitch.

Cybercrime awareness training:

WD provided an awareness training session for all members last week. For me, as a low-level IT user, it was somewhat over my head, but it did show me that the WD technicians have a great many anti-virus / cybercrime systems in their

armory, and it is up to us all to be vigilant when operating any of our computers. I would recommend that OTC do something similar.

Links meetings:

The first meeting, which includes the Links meeting, was held in Tavistock the week before last. I have not seen any minutes of this meeting or had any feedback from anyone yet.

Waste collections and batteries:

I was asked recently about whether batteries should be put in the recycling blue box. I have had discussions with the Officer who is responsible for waste and with the Health and Safety Officer about this. The first one said that we should be putting batteries in a plastic bag within the cardboard blue box, and the latter said we should not be putting batteries in the recycling at all. Confusion persists!! I have asked both parties to come up with a definitive answer and get Coms to put out a proper response to the public.

Neighbourhood Plan :

I understand that the Oke / Hamlet plan has now been discussed at the WD Hub, and the decision was made that the plan should not be accepted, and it has now come back to the two Councils to decide how best to proceed.

7. Neighbourhood Planning

The clerk was asked to email OTC to say Okehampton Hamlets will support but do not want to be directly involved moving forward.

8. Boundary review

The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Cllr Vachon, OTC and Cllrs Cooper, Littlejohns and Wood.

9. Salt bin by Darcy's yard

Cllr P Heard said it was driven over by a lorry but he's straightened it up, could be replaced if there was a spare (free) one available. Cllrs wondered if Cllr Ewen had a spare bin?

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

Cllr Goffey attended the Links meeting in Tavistock and the Health & Wellbeing meeting where reassurance was given that Okehampton hospital is safe.

Cllr Wood said 2026 is the year the new station at Higher Stockley Mead is due to open.

Cllr Norris said the feedback from Meldon wildlife day was very good.

11. Correspondence

11.1 – 10th September defibrillator training Meldon village hall 7pm – Open to all. Free.

12. Finance –

12.1 Accounts for payment –

Mrs E Young wages for July (paid)	£647.83
Mrs E Young wages for August £647.83, travel £15.30, Exp £0.00	£663.13
Meldon hall hire 2 nd Sept 2024	£25.00
Meldon hall hire Jan, Feb and April 2024	£75.00
M.Cooper South West fixings	£116.59+
WesternWeb Inv 24530 – renewal of cloud email acc	£72.00+
Whitewood Management Invoice #: WWMINV-0893	£785.00+
Ellis Bakery (annual meeting delights)	£77.54
Mole Avon – Phil Heard gate work	£21.79+
Broadbury Landcare strimming Meldon Woods 25 July 24	£160.00
Stuart Norris – pasties for wildlife day	£88.00

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

12.2 RFO report/Bank reconciliation – Cllr Littlejohns – Two bank reconciliations provided, one for the period ending 28 June and the other 2 August 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Wood to approve the two bank reconciliations, seconded by Cllr J Heard, agreed by all. Cllr Littlejohns signed and dated both documents.

12.3 Purchasing of SSD hard drive – Proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Norris for the Clerk to order a SSD hard drive for less than £100. Agreed by all.

12.4 Purchase of anti virus – Cllr Norris said the free anti virus from AVAST is absolutely fine. Clerk to arrange with Cllr Norris for this to be added.

12.5 Grant application

12.5.1 Meldon Viaduct Company £500 – It was proposed by Cllr Wood to grant £300.00 due to cuts being made to OHPC budgets. Seconded by Cllr Norris. 5 voted for, 1 against. The Clerk was asked to mention Sourton PC.

12.5.2 STOC – donation request of £350.00 for loppers, bow saws and protective gloves It was proposed by Cllr Wood to support, seconded by Cllr Norris, agreed by all. Clerk asked to mention may not be able to support so much next year.

13. Review of Council Documentation

13.1 To review Financial Regulations – Clerk previously sent highlighted changes. Cllr Littlejohns proposed an increase in the emergency amount (Item 8e) to £1000.00, Cllr Wood seconded, agreed by all.

Cllr Goffey proposed the adoption of the new financial regulations, seconded by Cllr J Heard, agreed by all.

14. Environmental issues

14.1 Granulite quarry – Gate needing repair. Cllr Littlejohns had made a new suggestion. Clerk to ask Cllr P Heard to follow up with Darcy.

14.2 Granite way – The date has been changed (to November) for closing the viaduct for resurfacing.

14.3 Odours East of Okehampton – Cllr Cooper confirmed that this morning the odours were terrible. It was reported there was a blockage. Cllr Cooper did speak to the company, who said they will keep monitoring.

15. Open Spaces.

15.1 To receive update from Working Group – Cllrs P Heard, J Heard, M Cooper, S Norris and B Wood
Cllr J Heard said the fencing by the A30 needs attention. Clerk to ask Highways to contact Cllr Littlejohns, who will show them.

Cllr Norris to design some new Meldon woods signs and circulate to all.

STOC worked in Old Town Park last Friday and the Cllrs agreed they've done a great job.

16. Highways

16.1 St James School crossing + footpaths – Clerk asked to chase up WDBC and DCC Cllrs following on from last emails, copying OTC.

17. Mayor of Okehampton Civic Service – Cllrs Cooper and Littlejohns to attend on 22nd September.

18. Economic Development Projects

18.1 Okehampton Regeneration Board (BID)– to receive an update – The BID has gone through. No further news.

19. To confirm Date and venue of next meeting – Tuesday 1st October 2024 at Meldon village hall

PART TWO – Proposed by Cllr Norris, seconded by Cllr Littlejohns, 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.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed Date

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