

Minutes of the meeting of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Cooper (Chair); Cllr. Littlejohn; Cllr. Goffey; Cllr. J. Heard; Cllr. P. Heard; District Cllr. Dexter; Penny Clapham (Locum Clerk).

1) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f).

Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Wood. Cllr. Norris. Apologies accepted for the reasons given.

3) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at West Devon Borough Council within 28 days of the change. Cllr. P. Heard agenda item 12(a).

4) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information) None raised.

5) Borough and County Councillor Reports – Cllr. Leach and Cllr. Dexter sent in reports circulated prior to this meeting. Borough Cllr. Dexter repeated information about Lidl's.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

7) Budget – to discuss and resolve to agree a budget for the year 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, all in favour by show hands.

8) Precept – to resolve to set the precept for the year 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. Resolved. Proposed a precept of £49,000 by Cllr. Cooper, all in favour by show of hands.

9) Parkway Station – Cllr. Cooper updated on the car park – to be operated by GWR. A traffic regulation order will be in place to prevent parking on the roads and the industrial estate. To request a free 15/20 minute drop-off as is in place at the other station. Will this be on the station side or the car park side or both. Council consider this must be available on both sides. Clerk to action.

10) Environmental Issues – to receive any updates. Cllr. J. Heard mentioned salting and gritting. Pothole issues also discussed. The gully on the Okehampton bypass, westbound, at the bottom of the hill, is choked solid. Highways England to be informed. Footpath into the woods, the gate entry requires repair. Cllr. P. Heard will action.

11) Open spaces – some trees down, not serious. Old Town Park the boardwalk requires repair.

12) PLANNING

Planning Applications – West Devon Borough Council has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

- a) 3599/25/FUL Extension to sawmill, Land at SX 568 947 (Okehampton Saw Mill) Cllr. P. Heard left the room.
- SUPPORTED.** Proposed by Cllr. J. Heard, seconded by Cllr. Goffey, all in favour by show of hands.
- b) 1039/25/ARM READVERTISEMENT (revised plans and details) Application for approval of reserved matters (relating to appearance, landscaping, layout & scale) following outline approval reference 2731/15/OPA for construction of 91 dwellings, public open space, landscape planting, pedestrian, cycle and vehicular links and associated infrastructure, land at Parcel 4B, East of Crediton Road, Okehampton.

NO COMMENT

- c) 2354/25/FUL READVERTISMENT (additional supporting information provided). Construction of food store (Class E A) with associated parking, landscaping, drainage and servicing, Land at SX 612 953 Stockley.

OBJECTION

Concerns about drainage.

Concerns about highways regarding the junction and safety plus quantity of traffic.

Insufficient car parking provision.

3 HGV movements per day in car park will restrict car park even more.

Colour of the building is inappropriate for a rural setting.

The build is classified as E3 (urban) when we believe it is E2 (rural).

Better tree screening is needed to hide building from Dartmoor.

No consideration for mobility scooters.

Walking to store is not ideal for most as uphill all the way from town. Buses are infrequent.

NOTE

There is no material difference between these plans regarding the entrance splay.

There are other sites more suitable for a supermarket.

Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Goffey, all in favour by show of hands.

Planning Decisions

a)

13) FINANCE

Expenditure		
	GX Accountancy – payroll services	£73.50
	Westernweb Ltd – renewal of webspace	£96.00
	M. Cooper – pasties for volunteers	£72.70 + £85.40 + £
	Locum clerk – expenses	£703.39
	Raven Quest – activities	£225.00

Income

Bank Reconciliation and Statement, for information – not available at present

Council resolved to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Goffey, seconded by Cllr. J. Heard, all in favour by show of hands.

14) Community Governance – to discuss the wording and costs of the proposed leaflet to go into council tax invoices. This will be an A5 sheet which will come out with the council tax bills. Cllr. Goffey read out the proposed leaflet. Some alterations were agreed – Cllr. Goffey to action.

15) Grant funding –

- i. Citizens Advice application for a grant. Resolved to grant £300 proposed by Cllr. Littlejohn.
- ii. Okehampton Pickleball Club – request for £350. Cllr. Goffey proposed £200, 3 in favour 2 abstentions.

Both motions agreed by show of hands.

16) Banking – to consider changing from Lloyds Bank to Unity Trust Bank (information circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting.) Resolved to agree, proposed by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour by show of hands. Clerk to action.

17) Policies – to resolve to agree the following policies

- i. Asset Register Policy (currently based on current value; recommended to be based on purchase value) February agenda for further discussion.
- ii. IT Policy – new and required for assertion 10 at the end of this financial year. Accepted.
- iii. Co-option Policy. Accepted.

18) Clerk's report -

Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only)

Cllr. Goffey attended a health and well-being meeting. Attempting to get an NHS dentist into Okehampton Hospital.

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on 3rd February 2026 in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.28pm

Email Circulation

DALC Bulletin 54 (sent 18/12)	Lidl update (sent 06/01)
DALC Bulletin 01 (sent 09/01)	