

Minutes of the meeting of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th April 2026, 7.30pm in Meldon Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Cooper (Chair); Cllr. Norris; Cllr. P. Heard; Cllr. J. Heard; Cllr. Goffey; Cllr. Littlejohn; County Cllr. Grainger; Penny Clapham (Locum clerk); 1 member of the public. Two representatives from the Army.

1A) Co-option to Council – to agree to co-opt to Council. Rachel Luxton proposed by Cllr. Cooper. Rachel Luxton agreed and signed the acceptance form.

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.

Major Tim Gilbert to update Council on the annual Ten Tors weekend reference traffic disruption. Major Ben Wall is responsible for traffic management. Slides were shown regarding long delays particularly on the Sunday. There has been a 40% increase in vehicles since 2022. Now have a professional management company with number plate recognition to count who has paid and assist with parking. Tickets will have to be bought in advance. Camp gates will be closed to military traffic. Improved messaging to get this out to all concerned. Requested the possibility of using Meldon quarry for parking and then walk to the camp. Cllr. Littlejohn considers the use of the quarry would be too dangerous. Advance signage is recommended. Thanked for coming to talk to Council.

2) Ten Tors weekend – for discussion and to agree actions. Discussed by Council regarding the parking at the Quarry and the walk up to the camp. Cllr. Cooper proposed that Council are not in favour of use of the quarry as a car park, seconded by Cllr. Littlejohn, all agreed by show of hands.

3) Apologies For Absence: None received.

4) 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. None declared.

5) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information only) Speed of lorries in Meldon Woods. Cllr. Littlejohn has spoken to the quarries; an official letter clerk to action. Also a letter regarding the fence. Email the letter to Cllr. Littlejohn. Council have been requested to look at street names for the Barratt Homes development.

6) District and County Councillor Reports – District Cllr. Goffey's report circulated 23rd April. Cllr. Leech's report circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Dexter's report circulated prior to this meeting. County Cllr. Grainger reported buses have changed since 5th April. Attempting the removal of road signs that have been abandoned. Let him know if any are found.

7) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

8) Farmers Market for Okehampton – this is a proposal and Council’s views are being sought. Cllr. Goffey stated that there is already a market in town – keep the Saturday market going and increase the number of stalls. Considers there is no need for a secondary market in the town.

9) PLANNING

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

- i. 0729/26/FUL Change of use from residential care home (Class C2) to dwellinghouse (Class C3), no external works, Fairways Lodge, Thorndon Cross

SUPPORTED

Planning Decisions

10) FINANCE

Expenditure	Cllr. Cooper – expenses	£110.00
	Locum Clerk expenses – March	£392.15
	Meldon Hall hire- April	£50.00
	GX Payroll – payroll services	£63.00
	Ockment Centre – room hire	£9.00
	W. Devon – dog bin empties	£190.94
	DALC – subscription	£767.64
	Okehampton Foundation – allotments	£993.56

Income

Bank Reconciliation and Statement, for information

Council resolved to accept the accounts as listed above. Proposed by Cllr. Norris 5 in favour 2 abstentions.

11) Grant Application – Friends of Okehampton Library requesting a grant of £354.00. Additional information as requested has now been supplied and circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Norris proposed to not apply this grant, 6 in favour 1 abstention. Motion agreed. Clerk to notify the applicant

12) Community Asset Transfer – to consider this policy and whether Council have any assets they wish to request. Not required.

13) Open Spaces –

- i. The barrier and the seat into New Road require repairs – to agree actions and associated expenditure. To arrange removal of the seat. Cllr. Grainger will deal with the barrier through highways. Old Town Park boardwalk needs repair; this is on the footpath. Cllr. Grainger will also take this on.
- ii. To consider a commemorative tree in memory of Brian Wood. To consider renaming a section of this wood ‘Brian’s Wood’. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. Norris will contact Matt about the type of trees suitable for the location and arrange for the planting.
- iii. Litter picking – to discuss whether Council wish this activity done by Nicky Johns is to continue. Agreed.

14) Fencing Quotes –

- i. Quote received £3,222.00. May agenda.

15) Okehampton Community and Recreation Association – to agree a representative on this board. Cllr. Luxton will act as representative. Clerk to notify them.

16) Clerk's report-

- a) Thank you received from Community Transport for the grant of £500.
- b) Audit documents received from PKF Littlejohn. Council's audit has been booked for 14th April.
- c) To consider advertising the vacancy left by the sad death of Brian Wood. Agreed.

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

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on 12th May 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Email Circulation

DALC LGR Bulletin 2 (sent 16/03)

DALC LGR Bulletin 3 (sent 20/03)

DALC Bulletin 17 (sent 03/04)

18) PART II

Council are excluding members of the public and the press to progress a matter of a confidential nature.

Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960.

Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102. John and martin proposed and seconded.

19) Employment of a replacement clerk – to be discussed and actions agreed. An interview has been carried out.