

Minutes of the meeting of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September 2026, 7.30pm in Meldon Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Cooper (Chair); Cllr. Norris; Cllr. Littlejohn; Cllr. J. Heard; Cllr. P. Heard; Cllr. Goffey; Cllr. Luxton; 1 member of the public; District Cllr. Mott; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1A) Co-option to Council to fill a vacancy. Cllr. Cooper proposed Andrew Ewen, Cllr. J. Heard seconded. All in favour – Andrew Ewen co-opted to Council and signed the declaration.

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: District Cllr. Dexter.

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. None declared.

4) Matters raised by the Chairman (for information) Mentioned the new railway station and the early morning trains which are now over full. Another coach is required. Excellent that the stations are being used. To consider writing to Great Western. Still considering the idea of a banking hub in Okehampton.

5) District and County Councillor Reports – Cllr. Goffey's report circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Dexter's report circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Leech's report circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Goffey mentioned her report; reduce flooding by 'slowing the flow'. Cllr. Cooper mentioned a fish survey done on the East Ockment river end of July. Numerous fish were counted by the Environment Agency – the numbers of fish have improved.

6) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

7) Scoping Consultation South Hams & west Devon Joint Local Plan – for discussion. Call for sites. Noted.

8) Meldon Water Hydrants – email received regarding these hydrants. For discussion. Cllr. Cooper read out the email/blocking traffic/use 24 hours/the issue is the lorry parking. Letter to SW Water regarding this issue and include the email. Clerk to action.

9) Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier – changes to woodland, Meldon. For discussion. Noted.

10) PLANNING

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

- i. 1812/26/FUL Proposed extension to form annexe for multi-generation living (ancillary to main dwelling), Lower Maddaford, Southcott.
SUPPORTED – *emailed 30/07*
- ii. 1785/26/VAR Variation of condition 6 of planning permission F/3/23/2246/1997/4421/013 to allow the sale of food for human consumption and a café within the existing store from a total area not exceeding 250sqm, Mole Avon, Stockley.
SUPPORTED – *emailed 30/07*
- iii. 1694/26/FUL Part change of use of land to domestic garden associated with 'Alwin' and erection of pottery studio & associated works (part retrospective), Alwin, Thorndon Cross.
SUPPORTED – *emailed 30/07*
- iv. 1888/26/FUL Erection of agricultural barn, Meldon House, Tavistock Road, Okehampton.
No objection. In keeping with the surroundings.
- v. 2212/26/FUL The erection of temporary school buildings and canopy over the MUGA for a period of 5 years, The Promise School, Dartmoor View, Okehampton.
Supported. These buildings are necessary.

Planning Decisions

- a) 1678/26/AGR Erection of agricultural storage building, land at land at SX56508 94788, Okehampton.
Prior approval required and refused.
- b) 17230/25ARC Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (surface water drainage scheme) of planning consent 2396/24/PAS, land at Higher Stockley Mead.
Approved
- c) 1446/26/TPO Works to an oak tree, Watts Drive, Okehampton
Allowed

11) FINANCE

Expenditure	August	Westcountry Grounds Maintenance – Knotweed treatment	£60.00
		Westcountry Grounds Maintenance – grass cuts Old Town Park	£84.42
		Meldon Village Hall – hire July	£20.00
		Westernweb Ltd. – renewal cloud email account to 1/9/27	£92.40
		Broadbury Landcare – grass cuts	£170.00
		PKF Littlejohn – external audit fee	£378.00
		D.J.Heard Fencing – agreed fence requirements	£5067.00
		<i>All paid 6th August 2026</i>	
September -		Employment August	£355.20
		DALC – conference fee x 3 attendants	£180.00
		Meldon Village Hall – Sept booking	£20.00
		Westcountry Grounds Maintenance	£84.42

Income	Meldon Aggregates	£736.46
	Second half precept	£24,500.00

Bank Reconciliation and Statement, for information; circulated with this agenda.

Council resolved to accept the accounts as listed above. Proposed by Cllr. Littlejohn, seconded by Cllr. Goffey, all agreed by show of hands.

12) Finance and Savings Accounts – to consider an additional account for Council monies in order to maximise interest. For discussion and action. Unity Trust additional accounts and CCLA circulated prior to this meeting. Clerk to source CCLA information – October agenda.

13) Finance Committee – to agree a date for this committee to meet to discuss budgets for 2027/2028, prior to being submitted to full Council for approval. November 6.30pm for finance prior to the council meeting. Clerk to submit information prior to this meeting.

14) Grant Applications –

- i. Meldon Wildlife Festival for £500.00 to cover costs. Granted in advance of the festival by email agreement by councillors and paid on 30th July 2026.
- ii. Okehampton Fairtrade Group for £50.00 for the speaker's fee for the Fairtrade Community Feast. £50 proposed by Cllr. Littlejohn, seconded by Cllr. Luxton, all agreed by show of hands.
- iii. Museum of Dartmoor Life for £500.00 towards the purchase of the medieval hoard found in Okehampton Hamlets. The monies needed have now been raised; the grant application was turned down.

NB The grants budget to April 2027 has very little left.

15) Quote for sign – quote from Pidsignz for £34.06 + VAT accepted for the sign 'private road'. To be noted. Order the sign and deliver to Cllr. Littlejohn.

16) Clerk's report

- i. Thanks received for the grant to Wren Music, also from Meldon Wildlife Festival.
- ii. I have registered with the new portal for external audit from 2027.
- iii. Clerk on annual leave W/c 9th October; back to work on Monday 19th October.
- iv. Agreed national salary increase of 3.3% backdated to April 2026. Payable in September.

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

Keep on open spaces – woods, old town park,

Cllr. P. Heard will send photos of fencing + measurements: DJ Heard for a quote.

Cllr. P. Heard will sort the hedging.

Cllr. Norris to set up a new facebook account for the parish council.

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7pm in Meldon Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email Circulation

DALC Bulletin 34 (sent 03/08)

DALC Bulletin 38 (sent 01/09)

Devon Climate Emergency Bulletin (sent 08/09)