



County Council

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,
DT1 1XJ on Thursday, 18 May 2017.

Present:

Hilary Cox (Chairman)

Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Cherry Brooks, Kevin Brookes, Ray Bryan, Steve Butler, Andy Canning, Graham Carr-Jones, Andrew Cattaway, Toni Coombs, Deborah Croney, Keith Day, Lesley Dedman, Janet Dover, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Katharine Garcia, Peter Hall, David Harris, Jill Haynes, Nick Ireland, Susan Jefferies, David Jones, Ros Kayes, Rebecca Knox, Steven Lugg, Jon Orrell, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Margaret Phipps, Byron Quayle, David Shortell, Clare Sutton, William Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller.

Officers Attending: Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager) and Denise Hunt (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the County Council to be held on **Thursday, 20 July 2017.**)

Chairman

22 Cllr Pauline Batstone proposed and Cllr William Trite seconded and it was

Resolved

That Cllr Hilary Cox be elected Chairman for the year 2017/18.

Vice-Chairman

23 Cllr Jill Haynes proposed and Cllr David Shortell seconded and it was

Resolved

That Cllr Andrew Parry be elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2017/18.

Apologies for Absence

24 An apology for absence received from Cllr Colin Jamieson.

Code of Conduct

25 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Tribute to Former County Councillors

26 Cllr Cox, as the Chairman, recognised the need to pay tribute to the service of the previous Councillors who had either stood down or not been re-elected in May 2017. She asked for the Council's consent to write to all former councillors which was wholly supported by members.

Election Return

27 The Chief Executive submitted a return of those elected on 4 May 2017 as County Councillors.

Noted**Minutes**

28 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising**Asset Management Capital Priorities**

Arising from minute 8, Cllr Toni Coombs asked a question about the delay in the timescales for delivery of the new school at Marsh Lane in Christchurch and confirmed that she had not received a briefing following the previous County Council meeting. She asked for information on the reasons for the delay, the costs of transfer of pupils to other schools and an update on the new parent action group.

Cllr Deborah Croney, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, stated that a briefing sent to Christchurch members had not included Cllr Coombs and gave an assurance that she would be included in future briefings.

Public Participation29 **Public Speaking**

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Chairman's Announcements

30 The Chairman reported on the death of Major-General Mark Bond OBE JP DL on 27 March 2017 who served on the County Council between 1973 and 1985, representing the Dorchester Rural No. 1 electoral division. He had also been High Sheriff and would be remembered for his other public and charitable works in Dorset. The County Council then stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman reported that she had attended regular citizen ceremonies since the last Council meeting.

She paid tribute to Cllr Andrew Cattaway in his role as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Council and warmly thanked him for his support in her year as Vice-Chairman.

Leader of the Council and the Cabinet31 **Leader of the Council and the Cabinet**

Members were invited to appoint the Leader of the Council for a four year period from 2017 to 2021. Cllr Peter Wharf proposed Cllr Rebecca Knox which was seconded by Cllr Jill Haynes. On being put to the vote Cllr Rebecca Knox was duly elected as Leader of the Council.

Resolved

- 1 That Cllr Rebecca Knox be appointed Leader of the Council for the period up until the annual meeting of the County Council in 2021, or until the Cabinet resolved to the contrary.
- 2 That the following appointments made by the Leader be noted:-
 - (i) Cllr Peter Wharf as Deputy Leader.
 - (ii) Members of the Cabinet with portfolio areas of responsibility:

Peter Wharf	- Deputy Leader and Safeguarding
Jill Haynes	- Health and Care
Deborah Croney	- Economy, Education, Learning and Skills
Toni Ferrari	- Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	- Natural and Built Environment

(Note - The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council are, ex-officio, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Cabinet.)

Leader's Announcements

Cllr Rebecca Knox, as the Leader of the Council, welcomed both new and returning councillors. She thanked councillors and staff for their commitment to the Council, emphasising the need for a "one team" approach in order to work directly for the benefit of the Dorset communities. During the past 4 years the Council had moved towards an inclusive, outward looking approach in working and communicating more with its partners. She thanked the former Leader, Cllr Robert Gould, for opening up opportunities to reach out to others and it was important that this engagement work continued, sharing more information in order to trust and empower others to assist the Council.

Questions from County Councillors

32 There were no questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 20.

Meeting held on 8 March 2017

33a Arrangements for the delivery of minor highway maintenance services by Town and Parish Councils

A question was asked about arrangements in respect of unparished areas and an assurance that these areas would not be disadvantaged.

Members were informed that discussions had taken place with town and parish councils on the delivery of minor highways repairs and, in the event that parish councils did not want to undertake this work, the statutory power would remain with the County Council. It was not intended to exclude non-parished areas from these arrangements and a more flexible approach could result in the involvement of community groups or residents associations.

Cllr David Jones expressed concern regarding the lack of contact and information at Christchurch Borough Council with regard to Local Government Reorganisation and was advised that further contact would be made following the outcome and response by the Secretary of State.

Resolved

That the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 March 2017 be adopted.

Meeting held on 5 April 2017

33b Temporary Loan Facility for a Cultural Organisation

The terminology used to describe the loan was questioned and it was acknowledged that although the wording could be improved, the Cabinet had agreed to provide a temporary loan to cover a potential shortfall between fundraising income and project expenditure, the details of which would be publicly available in due course.

Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services – 27 February 2017

In relation to minute 53b, members asked whether further funding would be available for a second year and include the £187.5k remaining funding.

It was further highlighted that £12.5k had been awarded for 7 grants, only 1 of which

included a youth centre, leading some members to request that the criteria and process was changed in light of the difficulties experienced in accessing the fund.

Members described the difficulties and the restrictive nature of bidding for new discrete activities rather than the day to day running of existing youth facilities where the funding was needed.

It was confirmed that a fund of £220k had been secured in 2017/18, including the £187.5k funding that had been carried forward from 2016/17 and that the Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services would convene at the earliest opportunity. Concerns had been expressed by the Panel that few organisations had made an application to the fund due to the tight restrictions and the need to be more creative and to promote the fund.

Cllr Deborah Croney, the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, invited those members having involvement with local youth centres to join the Panel in order to bring their knowledge and experience in this area.

Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) – Proposed Turning Movement Bans at South Gate Junction, Dorchester

In relation to minutes 56a, attention was drawn to the original reason for the junction improvement works to reduce pollution levels and whether monitoring would continue to assess whether these levels had improved. It was noted that the No 6 electric buses had been replaced with diesel buses, a decision that would add to pollution levels in the town.

Members were informed that continuous monitoring was taking place and would provide data before and after the junction improvement works in order to assess whether these had been effective in reducing pollution levels.

Resolved

That the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 April 2017 be adopted.

Appointments to Committees

34 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointments to committees of the County Council, Joint Committees, the Dorset Fire Authority and Member Champions for 2017/18. A supplementary paper had been published prior to the meeting which provided details of the nominations by Group Leaders.

Cllr Rebecca Knox stated that the Member Champions had been reviewed 3 years ago and it would be appropriate to review these roles every year to reflect the changing needs of the community and she welcomed suggestions by members outside of the meeting.

Resolved

- 1 That seats and appointments on committees of the County Council, joint committees and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority be allocated for 2017/18, as nominated by Group Leaders and as set out in the Annexure to these minutes.
- 2 That the Leader be asked to confirm appointments to the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, Public Health Joint Board and the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the Annexure to these minutes.
- 3 That members be appointed to serve on other organisations for the year 2017/18 as nominated by Group Leaders.
- 4 That delegated authority be granted to the Leader of the Council, after consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments to Member Champions for the remainder of this electoral cycle.

Reason for Decisions

To comply with the County Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders).

Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

35 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for the year 2017/18.

Resolved

That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees of the County Council for the year 2017/18 be appointed as follows, to reflect the nominations of the Group Leaders:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>
Audit and Governance	David Harris	Clare Sutton
Children's and Adult Services Appeals	Lesley Dedman	Steven Lugg
Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny	Steve Butler	Cherry Brooks
People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny	David Walsh	Mary Penfold
Regulatory	David Jones	Byron Quayle
Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny	Pauline Batstone	Kathy Garcia
Staffing	Rebecca Knox	Hilary Cox

Reason for Decision

To comply with the County Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders).

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 27 March 2017

36 The report of the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2017 was presented.

Policy Development Panel on HGV Management – Outcomes and Recommendations

Members questioned whether HGV sized farm vehicles and equipment had been included in the freight action plan and whether it could be used to monitor and regulate this type of activity.

Cllr Daryl Turner, the Cabinet Member for the Natural and Built Environment confirmed that farm vehicles were restricted and regulated and that pilots would be undertaken in some parish councils in the future.

Cllr Janet Dover, as local member for Colehill East and Stapehill, stated that she was pleased with the progress that had been made, including the special focus on Ferndown. However, she remained concerned regarding the lack of reference to Colehill where many developments had outline planning consent. She asked for reassurance that her previous representations had been taken into account by the Policy Development Panel (PDP) and a contact in respect of her future enquiries.

Cllr Pauline Batstone, as Chairman of the PDP, stated that the Panel had been made fully aware of the issues in the Colehill area. This was an outstanding piece of work that had not yet been completed due to the recent elections and would be progressed in due course.

Resolved

That the report be adopted.

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 15 March 2017

37 The report of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 March 2017 was presented.

Resolved

That the report be adopted.

People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 20 March 2017

38 The report of the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 March 2017 was presented.

Cllr David Walsh, as Chairman of the Committee, gave a detailed account of its work and highlighted the cross cutting nature of the scrutiny reviews. He therefore hoped that members who had not been nominated to sit on the committee might be able assist with some of its work.

Further to a question in relation to prioritisation of the Special Educational Needs budget, it was confirmed that this would be referred to the committee and it was anticipated that Cllr Steve Butler would continue to lead in this area, although no longer a member of the Committee.

Resolved

That the report be adopted.

Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 9 March 2017

39 The report of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 9 March 2017 was presented by Cllr Ros Kayes. She highlighted the lack of consultation with Dorset County Hospital regarding changes to the provision of vascular services and emphasised the role of the committee in the accountability of health services in Dorset.

She paid tribute to Cllr Ronald Coatsworth who had previously chaired the committee for many years.

Resolved

That the report be adopted.

Recommendation - Review of the Staff Code of Conduct

40 Members considered a recommendation by the Audit and Governance Committee held on 13 March 2017 which was presented by Cllr David Harris.

Resolved

That the County Council agree to:-

- 1 Approve the Staff Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's report;
- 2 Publish the Staff Code of Conduct on Sharepoint and not within the Constitution; and
- 3 Grant delegated authority to make significant changes to the Staff Code of Conduct to the Staffing Committee within its Terms of Reference.

Reason for Decisions

The Staffing Committee monitored matters relating to staff terms and conditions and people management policies.