



## Council

**Date:** Thursday, 15 October 2020  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** Teams Live Event  
**Membership: (Quorum 21)**

The Council membership is listed on the following page.

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**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ (Sat Nav DT1 1EE)

**For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services**  
**[Susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)**

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Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the Council has reviewed its approach to holding council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to view the meeting on line by using the following link to access the Dorset Council meeting.

Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from an i phone, i pad, or android phone will need to down the free Microsoft Team App to sign in as a guest. It is advised to do this at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Please note that public speaking has been suspended however public participation will continue by written submission only. Please see detail set out below.

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A recording of the meeting will be available on the council's website after the event.

## Membership of Dorset Council

Anthony Alford	Stella Jones
Jon Andrews	Andrew Kerby
Rod Adkins	Paul Kimber
Michael Barron	Rebecca Knox
Peter Barrow	Noc Lacey-Clarke
Shane Bartlett	Howard Legg
Pauline Batstone	Robin Legg
Derek Beer	Cathy Lugg
Richard Biggs	Laura Miller
David Bolwell	David Morgan
Alexandra Brenton	Louie O'Leary
Cherry Brooks	Jon Orrell
Piers Brown	Emma Parker
Ray Bryan	Mike Parkes
Andrew Canning	Andrew Parry
Graham Carr-Jones	Mary Penfold
Simon Christopher	Bill Pipe
Kelvin Clayton	Valerie Potheary
Susan Cocking	Byron Quayle
Robin Cook	Molly Rennie
Tim Cook	Belinda Ridout
Toni Coombs	Mark Roberts
Janet Dover	Julie Robinson
Jean Dunseith	Maria Roe
Mike Dyer	David Shortell
Beryl Ezzard	Jane Somper
Tony Ferrari	Andrew Starr
Spencer Flower	Gary Suttle
Les Fry	Clare Sutton
Simon Gibson	Roland Tarr
Barry Goringe	David Taylor
David Gray	Gill Taylor
Matthew Hall	David Tooke
Paul Harrison	William Trite
Jill Haynes	Daryl Turner
Brian Heatley	David Walsh
Ryan Holloway	Peter Wharf
Ryan Hope	Kate Wheller
Robert Hughes	Sarah Williams
Nick Ireland	John Worth
Sherry Jespersen	
Carole Jones	

# **A G E N D A**

**Page No.**

**8 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

5 - 12

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 12 October 2020.

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**Full Council  
15 October 2020  
Councillor Questions**

**Question 1**

**Submitted by Cllr Louie O'Leary**

As someone who was proudly born in a council house under the former Weymouth and Portland housing board I know that housing is one of the most important jobs of local government. I believe that since the decline in social housing stock due to Right to buy a policy I wholeheartedly support and the remainder being taken over by housing associations councils no longer have housing committees and as a result I believe councillors and residents who are social housing tenants feel more and more powerless over the vital service of social housing. Members often find that families with genuine housing needs and local connections are overlooked angering local residents and seeing a massive breakdown in traditional communities such as mine that are strongly based around social housing provision. Will the council commit to creating a housing committee once again where members can hold housing associations and relevant officers to account on this vital issue as well as supporting the creation of resident led tenants associations to give residents a voice? Taxpayer's money built these houses something that should not be forgotten. We must bring accountability to housing and re-build trust between ratepayers, tenants, members and housing associations.

**Question 2 submitted by Cllr Susan Cocking, Cllr Rob Hughes, Cllr John Worth and Cllr Louie O'Leary**

We hear on a regular basis how Weymouth Portland and Chickerell is plagued by economic deprivation, a low skilled economy based around seasonal jobs and also state funded public sector jobs many of us and our families have seen the effects of de-industrialisation the decline of our fishing, engineering and shipping industry. With Portland Port doing so well over the past couple of years, and a potential rebirth of our fishing industry on the cards as well as the need to protect the remaining high skills jobs we have many based on Portland and the Granby Industrial estate will this council actively commit to fight for the Western relief road? This road has the backing of major industry, big business small business, the civic society, and many residents plagued by living in a congested mess on Weymouth's north side and low pay or insecure jobs on North side areas such as Melcombe Regis and Littlemoor. It's time to bring Weymouth Portland and Chickerell forward and complete this vital missing link in the puzzle of economic pro-growth and diversity. This road has other benefits it will take traffic out of residential roads in Rodwell and Wyke, make the school run in those areas safer for thousands of school children, stop the rat run along South Harbourside and Cross road, reduce air pollution on Boothill and return Lanehouse rocks road to a

quieter state. Please commit to fight for this vitally important route we need to show central government that we mean business

### **Question 3 submitted by Cllr Maria Roe**

#### Tree Policy

In January 2019 Dorset Council added a Tree Planting and Climate Emergency paper on its website. It is still there.

It states that Dorset Council is investigating in-house tree planting on land owned by Dorset Council and a group has been established to make recommendations by April 2020. It also states that moving forward and in order to contribute effectively to the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency we will determine a realistic number of trees to be planted annually on Dorset Council land and identify a budget or alternative funding streams to carry out this work. Given that many councils have added doubling the amount of trees on their land to their climate emergency plans this is a positive statement. However, I cannot see anything in the action plan that gives us an indication of a budget or a number of trees to be planted. The policy document states that within the current policies, there is an onus on us to replace every tree that we must remove for safety reasons on the highway verge. However, there is no specific budget allocation to replace these trees and this cost must be found from within the existing maintenance budget or from income that we have generated. This can mean that tree planting to replace the trees along the highway is not guaranteed.

I should like to know when we can expect a Dorset Council tree policy which includes the number of trees that it will plant on its own land with a timeline for this to be achieved.

### **Question 4 submitted by Cllr Cathy Lugg**

I have had a number of complaints recently, from residents, about dog fouling in Ferndown.

One of these was about a dog waste bin which had been removed from a local nature reserve, Slop Bog, and the pile of dog waste bags that were now building up at the site.

Thinking it easy to resolve, I contacted DWP to find out when a replacement would be installed. Oh, that it was only that simple. I am told that when our waste service transferred to DWP in 2012, dog and litter waste bins were not formally part of the contract. Dog waste bins, DWP have, informally, continued to replace bins with black wheelie bins. These are better because they can be used for litter and dog waste, emptied during normal bin deliveries and can go to normal depots to be emptied. However these bins need new stands and concrete fixings

to stop them disappearing, and there is no budget for this. Various means have been used. Where there is a Countryside and Greenspace Ranger, and the site is vulnerable to dog waste, there might be money in their budget. Towns and Parish Councils might be willing to fund, especially if they would prefer dedicated dog waste bins, but there is no consistency. With less and less money available this gets trickier and some bins are not being replaced, leaving unacceptable dog fouling. I have had several reports from residents that dog walkers are putting their waste in accessible household bins, including garden waste bins. Not very fair if you don't have a dog. In an ideal world responsible dog owners would take their waste home to dispose, however we all know this doesn't always happen. What are we doing about this as a council? If we are considering asking Towns and Parish Councils to pay for replacements, can we please have those conversations now before budgets are set for next year? As a matter of urgency, can I please ask the Cabinet member concerned to look into this matter, before Ferndown disappears under a tide of dog waste?

### **Questions 5 & 6 submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland**

A planning decision last week concerning the village of Loders in West Dorset highlighted the fact that many Neighbourhood Plans which have been adopted or 'made' are now essentially worthless and carry no weight. In simple terms, if they are more than two years old and the vestigial planning area that they 'belong' to i.e. North Dorset, West Dorset etc. doesn't have a demonstrable five-year housing supply, then the Neighbour Plan goes in the bin. I know full well how much time, effort and financial cost is involved in taking a Neighbourhood Plan from birth to adoption and our local communities have been actively encouraged to pursue the process.

The current government webpage on NPs states ...

*"Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs"*

... and so it is galling for our local communities to find out the fruits of their hard work and hopes for increased local democracy have a shelf-life of two years through no fault of their own.

There are approximately 20 adopted local plans in our council area, some of which are now regarded via the current situation as 'out of date' and many more

about to be similarly 'shredded' next year. Another 10 or so are in various states of progress (including some in the final referendum stage, postponed until at least May 2021).

It seems that the lack of a five-year housing supply will likely get worse, at least for several years, rather than improve, and hence there is no prospect of this form of local democracy being returned to the towns and parishes of Dorset. There is also the possibility of NPs being essentially extinguished at the stroke of a Minister's pen if the planning White Paper proceeds to legislation.

My two questions are thus:

What cunning scheme does the portfolio holder have to restore the Neighbourhood Plan back to its proper place in the planning decision process?

What advice does he give to those still in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan when indications are that it may well all be for nought?

#### **Question 7 submitted by Cllr Robin Legg**

The Government's online guidance note about the Rule of Six restriction which is set out in Covid-19 (safer public places) says in section 2.7 that those running events following Covid-19 secure guidelines should take additional steps to ensure the safety of the public and prevent large gatherings or mass events from taking place.

With Remembrance Sunday approaching many will be left wondering whether this important event can be marked in the traditional way.

However, there is a confusing gap between the online advice and the law as set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2020. It would appear that many large gatherings are lawful if the event is one which can pass the "excepted gathering" test. It seems to me that if acts of remembrance are to take place then we may be called upon to decide if highways are premises operated by a public body, if a public outdoor space is the same thing as a public outdoor place (which includes a highway) and whether a parade is a relevant outdoor activity. Unlike the advice the regulations are far from simple.

Is the Leader similarly confused by this mixed message from the Government and will appropriately organised and risk assessed acts of remembrance be possible next month?

**Question 8 submitted by Cllr Robin Legg**

I note with astonishment and concern that at the meeting of the cabinet earlier this month members were faced with an agenda and associated reports running to 812 pages. In less than three months cabinet members have comfortably read more pages than are contained in Tolstoy's epic "War and Peace". Does this feat cause the Leader to reflect with pride on their achievement or raise a doubt in his mind about how the effective management of the authority can be properly conducted through a cabinet governance structure.

**Question 9 submitted by Cllr Brian Heatley**

The Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy issued on 15 July 2020 sets out on page 21 a proposed trajectory for Dorset's emissions from now down to zero by 2050 and claims that this trajectory produces total emissions from now up until 2050 that fit within the budget of 21mt required from 2017 to contain global temperature rise by no more than 1.5 deg C.

This trajectory has the following levels of emissions at certain intermediate dates

2025	1.396mt
2030	0.872 mt
2040	0.349 mt
2050	0 mt

I have sought to reproduce the underlying figures in the attached table, assuming about .07 mt reduction per year for the years 2017-2020 by looking at the dots on the graph on page 21.

My \*table below shows that this trajectory exceeds the budget in 2034, and will break the budget by nearly 4mt by 2050.

Since it is this trajectory which justifies the proposal that the Council adopts a target as late as 2050 rather than the earlier targets proposed in motions to Council from Cllrs Turner and Clayton, perhaps the Portfolio holder would like to comment on my arithmetic?

***\*Table attached at end of document.***

### **Question 10 submitted by Cllr Mark Roberts**

The Prime Minister's announcement a few weeks ago that Dorset County Hospital will see a new community hospital, emergency department and intensive care unit is great news for my residents, as well as all the residents of Dorset who use, or might need to use, the hospital's extraordinarily good services.

What does this new investment mean for the integrated care system in Dorset - particularly with regard to our partnerships with our acute hospitals?

### **Question 11 submitted by Cllr Clare Sutton**

In light of acting CEO John Sellgren's comment that "we [Dorset Council] do not tolerate disrespectful behaviour and take racism very seriously" it is important that the public can have full confidence that we adhere to this. In this context, are there occasions when group leaders should take steps, in addition to applying The Code of Conduct, in order to uphold values which we all share? "

### **Questions 12, 13 & 14 submitted by Cllr Kate Wheller (Urgent question in 3 parts accepted by the Chairman of Council)**

On Monday I was startled to read on the front page of the Dorset Echo that Dorset **"has a 75% chance of being among the UK's worst hotspots by October 25<sup>th</sup>.** "

This was based on predictions from Imperial College, but when I looked at their data I found that they didn't say any such thing. Rather, they predicted that by the end of this month we would be seeing more than 50 new cases per 100,000 population in the Dorset Council area. That is the threshold for a 'hotspot' as defined by Imperial College, so we are expected to become a hotspot on that definition.

But even then we would fall far short of being among the UK's worst hotspots as the Echo claimed.

Nottingham	800+ new cases per 100K population
Liverpool	~600
Newcastle	~500

By Tuesday, the Echo had swung the other way, and as well as stating that the latest weekly figure for Dorset is 37 per 100K, they pointed out that the cumulative rate in Dorset is far lower than the England average.

Obviously we mustn't be either alarmist or complacent. So what steps are we taking –

- 1. To monitor local infection rates against ongoing projections from Imperial College?**

- 2. To provide accurate and timely information to local media?**
- 3. To ensure that adequate track and tracing is being carried out within the Dorset Council area?**

## Question 9 submitted by Cllr Brian Heatley

### Appendix

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050
Total emitted that year	1.75	1.68	1.61	1.54	1.51	1.48	1.45	1.42	1.40	1.29	1.19	1.08	0.98	0.87	0.82	0.77	0.72	0.66	0.61	0.56	0.51	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.31	0.28	0.24	0.21	0.17	0.14	0.10	0.07	0.03	0.00
Budget left year end	21.00	19.33	17.72	16.19	14.68	13.20	11.75	10.32	8.93	7.64	6.45	5.37	4.39	3.52	2.70	1.93	1.21	0.55	-0.06	-0.62	-1.12	-1.58	-1.98	-2.33	-2.64	-2.92	-3.17	-3.38	-3.55	-3.69	-3.79	-3.86	-3.90	-3.90