

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 July 2014 at 6.30 pm

Present:-

Cllr R D Cook – Chairman

Present: Cllr M C Birr, Cllr D B F Burt, Cllr S Butler, Cllr A A J Clarke, Cllr Mrs T B Coombs, Cllr Mrs J Dover, Cllr R C Dudman, Cllr Mrs G S Elliot, Cllr S G Flower, Cllr S Gibson, Cllr Mrs J M Hazel, Cllr Mrs A Holland, Cllr J P Holland, Cllr Mrs P A Hymers, Cllr J E Little, Cllr Mrs B T Manuel, Cllr I J Monks, Cllr D Morgan, Cllr B E Mortimer, Cllr D G L Packer, Cllr G W Russell, Cllr D W Shortell, Cllr A Skeats, Cllr S S Tong, Cllr Mrs A Warman and Cllr J L Wilson

Apologies: Cllr S M Lugg (Vice-Chairman), Cllr P G Bennett, Cllr Mrs S J Burns, Cllr Mrs L J Clark, Cllr M R Dyer, Cllr P J Edwards, Cllr Mrs P A Reynolds and Cllr P W Richardson

61. Prayers

Prayers were led by the Reverend Andrew Rowlands of St Mary's Church, West Moors.

62. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meetings held on 28 April and 12 May 2014 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

63. Declarations of Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

64. Announcements

Chairman of the Council

The Chairman of Council referred to his list of engagements attended since his election as Chairman of the Council which was included within the agenda, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Birr, Lugg and Mrs Clark for attending a number of events during this period.

In addition the Chairman made particular reference to a couple of events in June including the granting of the Freedom of the Town by Bridport to the Rifles, and the Bournemouth University Graduation held at the Bournemouth Pavilion.

Leader of the Council

Councillor I Monks deferred to the Lead Member for the Environment to make an announcement regarding the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor S Tong announced that the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had signed an agreement with the Government for £66.3million of investment in the county. The Dorset LEP Growth Deal included plans to improve access to Bournemouth Airport and Poole Port, and shall provide employment opportunities and other growth and economic benefits to the area.

Chief Executive

There were no announcements by the Chief Executive on this occasion.

65. Questions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 8(2).

66. Petitions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no petitions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 8(3).

67. Deputations by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no deputations had been received under Council Procedure Rule 8(4).

68. Questions by Members of the Council

The Chairman reported that three questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rules 9(2).

Question by Councillor Mrs P A Hymers

Why is there no mention of the new office accommodation programme on this council agenda? With such an important issue seriously slipping from its original timing shouldn't members be kept more publicly informed?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor I Monks responded:

Members have been informed, indeed two briefings have been held, one on 16 December last year and more recently on 11 June 2014. Councillor Mrs Hymers is correct that the current phase of the project is taking longer than originally envisaged. The project is more than just the sale of the current council offices and rebuilding another. If it were, then it is possible we could be further on than we are. This is about delivering services to our residents in collaboration with our partners. It has the potential to provide community facilities that meet modern needs. There has had to be a very detailed car parking study as we must avoid adverse impact on local

businesses. It has also incorporated the development of new ways of working. Let us also not forget that we are dealing with a substantial amount of public money and if it takes time to get it right, then so be it. As regards timescale, as Members were informed on 11 June, the proposed committee phase, a paper will go before Community Committee on 4 November, Resources Committee on 26 November and full Council on 15 December. A report will also be submitted to the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee during this period.

As regards community facilities, I cannot guarantee that replacement facilities will be provided within two years. Let us not lose sight of the fact that the Wimborne and District Community Association continue to have the benefit of a lease over the Allendale Community Centre for another six years, with the Council contractually liable for the external repair of the building.

Question by Councillor Mrs P A Hymers

Why has nothing been done about my suggestion that this council looks at the possibility of bulk buying electricity?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor I Monks responded:

It is not currently a Council objective to promote a collective energy switching scheme and given the scale needed for such an arrangement is unlikely to be considered other than in partnership with other Councils. As Councillor Mrs Hymers is aware, there is a scheme operated and administered by Hampshire County Council in collaboration with two Unitary Authorities and the District Councils. Scale is an important factor. The Hampshire scheme provides a potential customer base for 760,000 households. Having contacted the Portfolio holder at Hampshire County Council, who advised that the switch Hampshire scheme has so far completed two tranches, the last list closing at around 3,000 households registering an interest. I understand a third tranche is planned. I am not aware of any other councils in Dorset considering such a scheme. It is my belief that to do this on our own, it would simply not be viable.

Question by Councillor J P Holland

I and no doubt other councillors have received numerous complaints about s delays in the processing of planning applications. Indeed in almost thirty years as a parish councillor I cannot recollect having consecutive parish planning meetings cancelled due to the absence of any plans which I understand is due to applications being delayed both being registered and also being processed.

Please could you advise as of today, what is the backlog of applications waiting to be registered and what is the backlog of those waiting to be processed and when the backlogs will be cleared?

Mr James Hassett, Head of Growth and Economic responded:

We do have a delay in the Development Management Service. That delay is across the board in both Christchurch and East Dorset. As Councillor Holland points out this is to a large degree due to the end of the recession and with the Core Strategy emerging we have a large number of strategic

sites coming forward which have absorbed a large quantity of officer time. An improvement plan has been developed and additional resources have been allocated. We have 3 full-time equivalent posts within the East Dorset administration team. It is anticipated that the delays will continue for at least 3 months as applications are processed.

In response to the specific questions asks, there are 43 cases awaiting validation; and 82 cases not registered (for various reasons). It is anticipated that this backlog in administration will be dealt with in 3 weeks. It is acknowledged that this is not a great situation, but the service is working hard to resolve the issues.

69. Planning Committee, 29 April 2014

The minutes of the 29 April 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

70. Resources Committee (Special Meeting), 12 May 2014

The minutes of the 12 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

71. Community Committee (Special Meeting), 12 May 2014

The minutes of the 12 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

72. Planning Committee (Special Meeting), 12 May 2014

The minutes of the 12 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

73. Licensing Committee (Special Meeting), 12 May 2014

The minutes of the 12 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

74. Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee (Special Meeting)

The minutes of the 12 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

75. Community Committee, 20 May 2014

The minutes of the 20 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: 25:0 (1 abstention)

76. Planning Committee, 27 May 2014

The minutes of the 27 May 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

77. Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, 3 June 2014

The minutes of the 3 June 2014 were submitted.

Council was advised that a training session had been scheduled for all members on 28 July 2014 on enhancing the scrutiny role.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: 25:0 (1 abstention)

78. Joint Audit Committee, 19 June 2014

The minutes of the 19 June 2014 were submitted. The Chairman advised that whilst the decisions were recorded correctly, the style and content of the minutes was to be amended. A revised version would be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Audit Committee for adoption.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

79. Planning Committee, 24 June 2014

The minutes of the 24 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes as submitted be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

80. Resources Committee, 25 June 2014

The minutes and the recommendation of Minute No. 55 (Review of the Constitution) of the 25 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes and the recommendation as submitted be adopted.

Voting: 22:0 (3 abstentions)

81. Corporate Plan 2012-2016 Progress Report

The Head of Organisational Development submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report informed Members about the Council's achievements against the 2012-2016 Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) **the progress made against the Christchurch and East Dorset Corporate Plan objectives, be noted;**
- (b) **the Corporate Team be requested to examine any areas of the Corporate Plan where there are concerns over the Council's ability to achieve any of its objectives and report their findings to the relevant committee.**

Voting: Unanimous

82. Appointment of Substitute Representatives on the Leaders' Growth Board

The Chief Executive reported that at the inaugural meeting of the Leaders' Growth Board it was agreed that each Council should appoint a substitute representative to attend meetings in the absence of the Leader.

RESEOLVED that Councillor Simon Tong, Lead Member for Economy, be appointed as the Council's substitute representative on the Leaders' Growth Board.

Voting: Unanimous

83. Representations from Outside Bodies

Councillor Mrs Elliot addressed Council in relation to the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee which had received reports following the expression of concerns regarding the non-emergency patient transport services.

As a consequence of the concerns held by the Committee, the following resolutions were passed:

55.1 that in light of the significant concern expressed by members of the (Dorset Health Scrutiny) Committee about the conduct of the tendering procedure for the provision of non-emergency patient transport services

(NEPTS), the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG) be asked to provide a report for consideration at the next meeting which is to include comprehensive information upon which the DCCG placed reliance in drawing up the tender and about the contingency planning that was put in place as part of the process.

55.2 that in light of the detrimental outcome for Dorset patients and other health organisations in the area, as identified in the documents submitted to the meeting, the report should also include:-

- (i) the NEPTS improvement plan with targets and timescales for achieving those targets; and
- (ii) a commentary on lessons learned and how these would be applied by the DCCG in future tendering and contract arrangements.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

CHAIRMAN