

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present:-

Cllr Mrs T B Coombs – Chairman

Cllr B Goringe – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr C R W Beck, Cllr S J Burns, Cllr D B F Burt,
Cllr S Butler, Cllr R Bryan, Cllr A A J Clarke, Cllr R D Cook,
Cllr Mrs J Dover, Cllr M R Dyer, Cllr S G Flower, Cllr S Gibson,
Cllr P R Harrison, Cllr K D Johnson, Cllr Mrs G Logan,
Cllr Mrs B T Manuel, Cllr D Morgan, Cllr P G Oggelsby,
Cllr D G L Packer, Cllr M Parkes, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J L Robinson,
Cllr G W Russell, Cllr D W Shortell, Cllr A Skeats and Cllr S S Tong

Apologies: Cllr Mrs C Lugg

324. Prayers

Prayers were led by the Reverend Andrew Rowland serving Wimborne Minster and the Northern Villages.

325. Declarations of Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interest submitted on this occasion.

326. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

327. Announcements

The Chairman referred to her list of engagements attended since the last meeting, a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

In opening the Chairman advised that Hilary Chittenden, Chairman of ETAG had hoped to attend this evenings meeting, but that she had unfortunately had to tender her apologise. In relation to this the Chairman advised that Hilary Chittenden had wished to thank Members and Officers for what they have done for East Dorset and for their support and encouragement of EDEP and its predecessor ETAG.

Moving onto engagements, the Chairman reported that she had attended a varied list of engagements since the last meeting, making particular mention to the Community Awards where she expressed her thanks to the sponsors of the event, Marilyn Barber, Remedy Oak, Hobourne Ltd, Nicholas O'Hara Funeral Directors, Mondoricia Ltd, D.R.Smith Properties Ltd and Evans & Traves Architecture and Town Planning. The Chairman

expressed special thanks to Dr Julian Richards of Meet the Ancestors fame for being our celebrity guest on the evening. In relation to this the Chairman praised the winners of the awards these being;

- Adult Volunteer of the Year – Edward and Gilda Newsham
- Most Inspiring Young Person – Olivia Caballero
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Jean Mortimer, Alderholt
- Best Community Project – East Dorset CAP Debt Centre
- Business in the Community – Macmillan Caring Locally
- Chairman’s Special Commendation – Shelley Morris

The Chairman also made particular mention to the recently held East Dorset District Council Service of Thanksgiving, expressing a personal thanks to everyone who made the day possible either in the preparations or in attending this emotional service.

The Chairman then handed over to the Vice Chairman, Councillor B Goringe who in summing up his year as Vice Chairman advised that this time last year he had no thoughts that he would be asked to be Vice Chairman. Councillor Goringe advised that it had been a privilege for him and his wife Margaret to represent East Dorset District Council in it’s final year at so many Civic days and events around Dorset. Councillor Goringe advised that they had both thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many nice people from different walks of life and visiting places in Dorset that we never knew existed.

The Chairman thanked all those Members who had taken the trouble to accompany her on Civic Engagements, and further to this advised that she had tried to involve as many Members as possible in this last year. The Chairman made presentations to Councillor Flower for escorting her on many occasions, to the Vice Chairman Councillor B Goringe and Mrs M Goringe for their wonderful support in sharing the responsibility and to officers Kay Mills and Carl Ramsay for all their support and organising in the background and for ensuring everything has gone smoothly.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their support in raising money for her chosen charities, Macmillan and Mosaic (Dorset’s children’s bereavement support charity). The Chairman made reference to the fundraising events which had been held over the last ten months, including a trip to the Houses of Parliament, a regatta at Dreamboats in Wimborne, 2 Quiz evenings in Horton, a Macmillan coffee morning, a pop up cake sale in the Civic Offices, raffles and a Vintage Themed Gala Dinner and auction. In relation to this the Chairman advised that as a result over £6800 had been raised for her chosen charities and cheque presentations were made to each of the charities.

The Leader advised that he didn’t have any announcements on this occasion and that he would be speaking under agenda item 12.

The Chief Executive advised that he didn’t have any announcements on this occasion.

328. Questions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no questions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10 on this occasion.

329. Petitions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no petitions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10 on this occasion.

330. Deputations by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no deputations had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10 on this occasion.

331. Questions by Members of the Council

The Chairman reported that no questions had been received by Members under Council Procedure Rule 9(2) on this occasion.

332. Alderholt Neighbourhood Plan - Designation of Neighbourhood Plan Area

The Portfolio Holder for Planning 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.

Council were asked to approve the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Alderholt Parish, to support future preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED that the Neighbourhood Area of the Parish of Alderholt is formally designated.

Voting: Unanimous

333. Planning Committee, 13 February 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

334. Cabinet Committee (One Year Strategy), 14 February 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Voting: Unanimous

335. Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, 26 February 2019.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019 were submitted.

- RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**
Voting: Unanimous
336. Cabinet, 6 March 2019
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 were submitted.
RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
Voting: Unanimous
337. Planning Committee, 13 March 2019
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were submitted.
RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
Voting: 26:1
338. QE Leisure Centre Consultative Group, 20 March 2019
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were submitted.
RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
Voting: Unanimous
339. Planning Committee, 20 March 2019
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were submitted.
RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
Voting: Nem.Con. (1 Abstention)
340. Joint Audit Committee, 20 March 2019
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were submitted.
RESOLVED that subject to reference to Deloittes being amended to read Deloitte the minutes, as submitted, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
Voting: Unanimous
341. The District Council 1974-2019
- The Chairman invited Members who had indicated their wish to do so to address Council making reference to individual highlights in their term of office and to recount particular achievements and memories of the District Council.

Chairman of Council – Councillor Toni Coombs

Many members have indicated that they wish to speak under this item. I shall take them in the following order:

Leader of Council

Leader of the Opposition

Other Members

Chief Executive

Councillor Spencer Flower (Leader of the Council)

Tonight will be a mixture of nostalgia and expectations as we enter a new era of Local Government in Dorset.

Looking back from when I was first elected in May 1999. [The Class of 99] In other words those of us present tonight who were elected at the same time. Toni Coombs, David Packer, Mike Dyer and myself. There are of course a few colleagues who have been on this Council for much longer. I feel sure they will want to speak for themselves later this evening.

Much has happened in the past 20 years, both for me personally and for the Council as a sovereign body. For example I was a member of the Planning Committee for 16 years [five years as Chairman].

I think my proudest moment was when I was elected as the Leader Council, on two occasions. - From 2008 – 2013 and again from 2016-19.

During my first term as Leader, East Dorset entered into a Partnership with Christchurch Borough Council. Regardless of the various views at the time, as to whether such a partnership was needed or could possibly be a success, it has been a great success since coming into being in January 2011.

By going into partnership creating a shared officer team, but retaining our individual sovereignty, both councils have been able to save well in excess of £1,000,000 per year, by each council, from revenue budgets, which has meant being able to cope with austerity and still able to deliver the highly valued discretionary services valued by our communities.

More recently of course we had challenges associated with the East Dorset Local Plan, which was approved in March 2014. Now five years later going through a review, which will now have to be completed by the Dorset Council, soon as is practical, so we can continue to have control over development in this part of Dorset.

The final point I wanted to highlight was the commitment I set out in my final budget speech in February 2018, that we should ensure during the final year of the council we would strive to achieve a 'golden legacy'. Investment into capital projects in Ferndown in particular: the Heatherlands Community, the Barrington Community Centre, which will include an

extension to the café and long overdue replacement of the public toilets is but two examples. There is of course much more, which I feel sure others will wish to comment.

So in conclusion Chairman. Can I give a huge expression of thanks to all my Councillor colleagues, officers, both past and present for all their support, encouragement and guidance, particularly during my time as Leader of this Council.

Thank you Chairman

Councillor Shane Bartlett (Leader of the Opposition)

It is with regret I think for us all that we are here tonight witnessing the last ever full Council meeting of East Dorset District Council. We will all have memories that we will take away with us and cherish in the years to come. While some members have many years of service on this Council, I personally have only been here for the last four years which seem to have flown by.

One of my memories of what has occurred during that time was the evening that Cllr Flower and myself were made Leaders of our respective political groups within this chamber. It went on to bring about a journey of understanding between us built on friendship, trust and mutual respect and I would like to thank the leader Cllr Spencer Flower for having the insight to allow that to happen. This relationship has I believe fostered a situation where by this Council Chamber and the meetings and business conducted within it has been within an atmosphere of respect between the Lead Political Group and the Opposition Group making for a civilised arena which I think can be held up as a model for others to live up to and follow. I would like to thank all members of this chamber for allowing that to happen and for being a part of that.

I have served under several Chairmen, and would like to thank Cllr Shortell for his good humour, patience and banter that took place between us while as the Leader of the Opposition I would invariably push the limits of what I could get away with in the Chamber.

My memories also drift back to the late Cllr Steve Lugg and his Chairmanship of the Council, like Cllr Shortell who was Steve's deputy, the three of us shared the civic year 2015/16 as I was Mayor of Wimborne. We had a wonderful year together on civic duties and within this Chamber I well remember Steve's cheeky grin from the Chairman's chair as I would again push things to the limit and ask my questions that the leader would refer to as "a curved ball coming out of the left field". I continue to miss Steve immensely, as a hard working Councillor he had so much to offer going into the future but sadly he was taken from us long before he should have been.

I would like to add Madam Chairman how much I enjoyed being your escort for a civic engagement to Sherborne last year.

We are, Madam Chairman, on the eve of creating a new Council while seeing the demise of this one on which we serve and this brings mixed emotions for both us as members and for the officers. I have during my time on East Dorset District Council received so much help from the officers, far too many to name here sadly, their professionalism and dedication to duty has always impressed me and they must be congratulated in that dedication and professionalism that has continued unabated as they and we bring the life of this Council to a close.

Madam Chairman I wish to thank the officers for all they have done for me personally and for the Council and to take this opportunity to wish them well going into the future in whatever endeavours they may follow and explore.

Finally Madam Chairman, it was never going to be an easy task for any outgoing Chairman to oversee the ending of their Authority, however may I say how impressed I have been with your approach and the dignity that you have brought to the role as Chairman during this difficult period, and in that, you should be warmly congratulated.

Councillor Andy Skeats

I often ask myself how did you get here Skeatsie?

Well the true reason is because Dianna Maddock asked me on a chance meeting on the doorstep!

Then again later playing for a different team over many years. Until tonight!

I guess ultimately Community wins over Politics for me, if you want to make a difference, you must be in the game. Sadly, it is almost impossible to work full time and represent the new Dorset Council, this is a sad day for me, as this is very much the last Council meeting.

Representing the good people of West Moors started for me in 1995, winning the seat was a great surprise! An event many here would have thought improbable. I have had experience in control of the council, but none in opposition, rare in this chamber! Along the journey I have had the privilege to be Chairman or vice chairman of three of the Youth clubs locally, Rifts in Ferndown, Leonives in St Leonards and West Moors Youth and Community Club, in some ways I consider myself to Champion Youth in East Dorset and looking around I'm not alone in that. It's what Cllrs did back in the day.

Representation is less about my own achievements and more about what we have all delivered serving the community. Our team in West Moors have delivered effectively for our local community and East Dorset. We have experienced times in which we had the financial freedom to deliver across the Community, in Skateparks, Community halls, leisure facilities, Moors Valley, Sangs, Trailways, Youth facilities, to name a few.

I have been lucky enough to be involved with the Youth forum, Youth Clubs, working with young people whom I have watched grow in our

community and repay that effort time after time after time. West Moors Youth club has continued without a gap, despite the lack of vision, funding, at a higher level.

I am reminded of the teacher who told me I was full of lovely promises that rarely come to fruit, I have spent the whole of my time proving her wrong, guess we had good teachers, (Mrs Smith Burgate, Fordingbridge 1976).

As I had stood as a paper candidate, who could foresee that I would still be involved in 2019, and be Portfolio Holder for Community, certainly not me. Thinking back, I am proud of being Chairman of Audit, and improving its teeth, Chairman of Scrutiny, First Chairman of Joint Audit and First Chairman of Joint Scrutiny in the partnership.

Most of all I believe WE have made a difference, Members and some of the finest Officers in the County, delivering more for less. Delivering best value, challenging, comparing, consulting, competing, and working effectively in partnership.

Finally, I would like to thank my Family for letting me miss the odd birthday and anniversary, supporting me in good times and bad, but Vitally allowing me to do what I believed in.

Doing Best for the Community and making a difference!

Councillor Alex Clarke

Completing 25 years on the council this year, I reflected on what have been some of the highlights for me. Really, it's all about making a difference – or about outcomes, using the jargon. With possibly 28 other speakers, I'll just mention a few.

First must be the enhancement of the centre of West Moors which transformed a rather tired, unattractive village centre into a pleasant, thriving, busy place, including 2 supermarkets, 2 cafes and shops. This project required hard work and tenacity as it needed a large number of landowners (of pavement areas) and leaseholders to agree.

A quite different project was the acquisition and management of the Woolslope Farm area and riverside walk through Heathland Mitigation funds – a credit to the officers who fought for priority funding. It is now laid out as an attractive walking area – it has drawn complimentary feedback from visitors from home and abroad.

Our local weekly health walks, which I know well as a Volunteer Leader, were set up over 10 years ago under the oversight of the team at Moors Valley – still a great contribution to fitness, health and social well-being, with regularly 25 – 40 walkers.

To finish – three wider issues.

In my role on the Council at the time, I was heavily involved in the setting up of the DWP with its reduction in costs, improvement in service in waste

collection and disposal. This council, including the lead officers, played a dynamic part in this – sometimes in the face of reluctance of some partners.

And also, the creation of the CBC/EDDC partnership which transformed efficiency through joined up delivery of services.

Lastly, I think the council has done well in agreeing with several Parish and Town councils to transfer certain assets, including small parcels of land, toilets and car parks for local safekeeping.

Councillor Mrs Janet Dover

I first became a District Councillor for East Dorset in 1988 and have been re-elected at every election since then.

When the Liberal Democrats had control of EDDC in the nineties I was Chairman of the Committee that started the recycling of household waste and was proud to bring this service back 'in house', after a period when a private contractor was delivering the service, and to expand the service to include garden waste.

As you will know I have Chaired the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for several years and have been pleased with this committee's efficient working.

I was also the ONLY Councillor to vote against the sale of the Furzehill offices and still believe the decision to sell it was wrong and will, with time, prove to be the case.

I am the longest serving councillor at EDDC who has never been made Chairman of the authority. No glory or chains of office for me but the satisfaction of that comes from the pure hard work of representing my residents in Colehill and that has been its own, and best, reward

Best wishes to you all for the future.

Councillor George Russell

The creation of the East Dorset Housing Association and its subsequent successors.

The Conservative government in the mid-1980s encouraged local authorities to transfer their Council Housing Stock to dedicated 'not for profit' Housing Associations.

The advantages of this move were for a dedicated Housing Organisation to manage and maintain the homes of tenants for the advantage of the residents rather than the political influences prevalent at that time.

The Government encouraged the National body for Housing Associations to organise conferences for Local Authority representatives to attend to get the information and ways of establishing the Associations.

As I was the Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee at that time the Environmental Health and Housing Officer John Earley suggested we should attend a Conference in Worcester to enable us to decide if the option was of benefit to the tenants of East Dorset. The two-day meeting gave us all the information we needed and in a conversation on the way home agreed this was the only way forward for East Dorset.

The Council gave us their blessing to pursue a consultation process with the tenants of East Dorset and John Earley and his assistant Paul Butcher set about the task of setting up a consultation Document and procedure.

They initiated a programme that would cover all the Towns and Parishes in the District Council Area with several visits in both daytime and evenings. Both Paul and John attended most of the meetings but as I was in full time employment I could only attend the evening meetings, the Vice Chairman Mrs Shelia Halton attended in the daytime.

All Tenants also received a presentation pack in the post.

The programme commenced with presentation by either John or Paul, followed by a video also explaining the reasons for the proposal and then a question and answer session. It was strange to realise that tenants were more impressed by the Video Presentation than the officer's comments even though they were in the same room.

The consultation process was followed by a referendum conducted by the Electoral Reform Society which resulted in over an 80% turnout and approximately 83% in favour of the change.

The East Dorset Housing Association was inaugurated in 1990 with most of the officers continuing their employment either with the Association or the Council as they wished.

Although I am of the firm opinion that the Housing Association was in the best interests of the tenants I sometimes wonder if the current organisation is more geared to the advantage of the management of Aster rather than the tenants they are appointed to serve.

Councillor Sarah Burns

When I was first elected in 2011, I had just discovered that I was pregnant with my gorgeous boy Mikey, I was a member of the audit and scrutiny committee. On one occasion as we were about to wade into some in-depth scrutiny of the council's budget, a member asked whether I could go into labour so that the meeting could finish early, I didn't oblige and the meeting continued uninterrupted, unlike one of my very first briefings.... I was a new councillor and felt very nervous asking myself how had an ordinary pregnant housewife like myself managed to be elected with all these distinguished and knowledgeable councillors and was desperate to learn as much as I could and work as hard as I could to represent my community... half way through a very important speech my ringtone went off full blast with the dulcet tones of Master of Puppets by a heavy rock band called

Metallica! Only it wasn't a soft tune it was a fast death metal tune that seemed to go on and on as the room was silent and all eyes were on the new girl.

During our lunch break I was invited to join Toni Coombs and Spencer Flower at their table and they reassured me, and told me that I wasn't the only councillor to like a bit of rock! Needless to say I learnt to turn my mobile off for all future meetings...

I have had the privilege of working with some amazing councillors and officers over the past eight years and every single one of you has worked so hard to make this community an amazing place to live and I hope that the friendships formed will carry on well into the future.

Councillor Robin Cook

Thank you Chairman for allowing me to say a few words on this special evening.

My connection with East Dorset District Council spans over 40 years, being introduced to various aspects of it by the late Cllr Bill Tapper shortly after joining him in his business in 1978. I clearly remember being invited to join him on occasions for morning coffee, usually held in the company of the then Chief Executive Bill Press and Cllr Derek Burt, in 'Trotters' restaurant in Park Lane, Wimborne.

It was probably partly due to being a 'fly on the wall' at these sessions that sparked my interest in local politics.

Following various connections in and around the Wimborne community, my contact with EDDC continued as Secretary, and subsequently, Chairman of Wimborne Minster Chamber of Trade and I had regular contact with many of the officers here and the then Chief Executive, Alan Breakwell, and enjoyed a good working relationship with them. This relationship continued when I served as Chairman/Mayor of Wimborne Minster Town Council on three occasions.

My link with the authority was further strengthened when my wife joined the establishment in 2001 until her retirement in 2015, as a revenue assistant collecting Council Tax which made her a popular person!

Although serving as a town and Dorset County Councillor previously, I did not get elected to the district until 2011, following earlier failed attempts. During my time here I have been privileged to serve as your Chairman in 2014/15, and since May 2017 have held the position of Portfolio holder for Planning.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all in our planning and development management department for their help and guidance, and indeed, extreme courtesy, in all my dealings with them, and finally a big thank you also to all other members of staff throughout the organisation for their support over many years on a range of matters.

Good luck and best wishes to all of you.

Councillor Barbara Manuel

I have been a Member of East Dorset District Council for 32 years.

I have served on most committees over that time and have found it both enjoyable and fulfilling but also frustrating at times.

I have too many memories to list tonight but one that I will always remember because of its lasting impact, is the opening of Moors Valley Country Park in 1988. My children then, were 12 and 10 and the park was their 'go to place' for many years. Now my 5 Grandchildren are getting the same enjoyment as their parents did.

My thanks go to the Officers who have supported me through the years and have been so tolerant of my ignorance and yet always made me feel empowered. I spoke to an Officer recently and ask if they received training on how to deal with Members – no he said but it just comes with experience!

Thank you also to fellow members for their support and friendship and I wish those who are going on to the Dorset Council the very best of luck.

Councillor David Morgan

Shortly after I joined the District Council in 2003 there was controversy over Golf Links Road in Ferndown as to whether there should be speed humps to slow the traffic. Residents were divided on this issue and so I was asked to chair a Task and Finish Group to sort it out. This led to us organising a public meeting at the Barrington Theatre which I had to Chair –nervously!

The night came, the speakers for and against were assembled and the Task and Finish group took their seats on the stage with me in the middle with Boyd Mortimer on my right. A brilliant light shone upon us to which Boyd said who is shining that B----- light. I turned to Boyd and said gently that the microphones were on and his comment had been heard all through the hall!

I then rose majestically eyed the assembly and waited for the silence.

Councillor Mike Dyer

As Chairman of the Planning Committee and Portfolio Holder for the Economy, I would like to thank Dave Barnes and the Economic Development Team, Jane Lynch and the Planning Staff, and their support staff for their superb work and dedication during my period of office.

Councillor Ray Bryan

Tonight, is both sad and exciting.

Sad because this is the last chance I will be able to sit with colleagues who I feel have done an extremely good job in running this council as members elected by the residents of this great area of East Dorset.

Sad because many of my friends who have worked so hard to keep this ship not only afloat but riding on a crest of a wave. This ship is a happy ship and that's down to the captain of the ship David McIntosh and his officers. But most of all it's down to the crew (The Staff).

We have faced some tough decisions over the years.

When I joined we were already working in partnership with Christchurch Borough Council. The plan to move all the staff to CBC was already made by the previous council.

When we moved to Wimborne it was a decision that I had a say in and I feel the right decision was made to spend money on the future of the Allendale Centre and utilise that facility for our meetings.

Members I now feel that we lost our identity when we moved from Furzehill and in some ways I agree. But as a responsible Council we knew that with the government reducing funding to our council, actions had to be taken otherwise we had to make changes that would affect the levels of service we give to our residents.

Money is what it's all about, providing services that our residents deserve costs money. We made the right decision in spending money on service not on pomp and ceremony.

As Portfolio Holder for performance I had the pleasure of working with some great people and I can't mention everyone, but I must name a few. Ian Milner, Dan Povey, Liz Walker what a team. I rarely had to question their reports before signing them off. That's a sign of teamwork. I am also proud to have played my part in chairing the Stour Valley & Poole Partnership this last twelve months. What a team they are, producing above target results year on year.

Two other people I must mention are Carl Ramsay and Matt Reeks they are an asset for any council going forward.

Lastly my thanks to all in democratic services for always keeping us safe and legal.

I sat on the joint committee of Dorset Waste Partnership another success for East Dorset.

This council has worked as team, all of us, despite political differences. Our leader has always involved the opposition in the decision-making process.

As we step into the unknown of the new unitary I still have my reservations about how we got to this stage and, but it could be exciting only time will tell. My last word is for the staff. I do hope you find what you are looking for and I send my best wishes to everyone and wish them a long and

successful future. I for one will miss this Council. My thanks to those that helped me be part of its success.

Councillor Steve Butler

I would like to take a couple of minutes to thank our staff for all the work that has been done for the Health and Wellbeing of the residents of East Dorset.

The Active 4 Health Lifestyle Hub based at Moors Valley Country Park continues to support local people to get more active by finding a suitable pathway for their health needs. Jackie O'Connor and her team have trained over 200 Active Volunteer Leaders, looking after over 2,000 referrals each year.

This year the East Dorset Health and Wellbeing Locality Group, under the Chairmanship of Dr Colin Davidson from the Cranborne Practice, have made some significant progress towards improving the Health and Wellbeing of our residents.

Using data provided by Public Health and working together with Christchurch Borough Council, the East Dorset Family Partnership Zone and charities including Dorset Minds and Prama Life we have been running Task and Finish groups to find ways of:-

1. increasing the physical activity of our adults,
2. lessen the social isolation and loneliness of our elderly and
3. provide services to help with teenage mental health problems.

Our Public Health Officer Bernadette Pritchard has brought together the CCG, Public Health, the County Children's and Adult's Services, Charities, Education and the District to work together to solve local problems for the residents of East Dorset, this should become the template for health and wellbeing across Dorset.

Councillor Simon Gibson

I must thank the Housing team who have helped me so much over the past 5 years. I must also praise their dedication and professionalism during a busy and challenging period. The joint housing service has worked well for residents and that despite growing national pressure, East Dorset has continued to provide an excellent service to residents.

Councillor Derek Burt

In six days time the East Dorset District Council will come to an end. This is the end of a chapter that started 125 years ago. It began with the Local Government Act of 1894 which set up Rural and Urban Districts. The first change, in reality, a small change, was the reorganisation that took place in 1974 – as far as we were concerned it was the joining together of Wimborne Rural and Wimborne Urban. We called this 'new Authority'

Wimborne District but in November 1987 changed its name to East Dorset District.

During the life of this Council many enthusiastic and dedicated Members and Staff have served the district well and left their mark. They must all be congratulated and thanked for what they have achieved. Many, of course are no longer with us. I came here in 1966 and I remember my first day when I went to see Major Wickham the then Clerk of the Council and was told that I should, during the first year, just sit and listen and learn about the Council and what it does. Imagine being told today to sit quietly for the first year! When I joined, my Father was already here, he having followed his Father so, since my teens I had heard much about the Council. I think the three generations of my family have served as elected members on this council for a total of about 75 years.

The leading Councillors who come to mind from my early days are David Trehane from Hampreston, Tommy Sutton from West Moors, Col. Warren from Corfe Mullen, George Wakefield from Holt, Jean Dunk from Ferndown, Major Gumm from Three Cross. I felt at the time that it was David Trehane who, for several years, was the driving force in this Council - he was instrumental in the introduction of main drainage throughout the district.

The first chairman of the Wimborne District was Cllr Bill Tapper, Cllr David Morgan's Father-in-Law, and a good friend of my family. He served as chairman of the 'shadow Council' and then for three years as Chairman of the new authority.

From its start in 1974 the Council has prospered and served the public well. As it grew it became necessary to increase the office space and my father, George Burt, who had left the Council by this time, had the contract to build the first major extension to Woodleaze.

After a few years further accommodation was required and George and Harding of Bournemouth built more office space, a Members Suite, Committee Room and a New Council Chamber, all done without borrowing. The members felt that we now had the finest Chamber and offices in the County and Members and Officers were like a big happy family. Many officers spent their entire working life at East Dorset District and its predecessor council.

In the early days of the Council, planning was part of the District Surveyor's Department but it was decided to set up a separate department and Terry O'Rourke was appointed Chief Planning Officer. He brought on board Chris Clarke, William Wallace and Ray Bird, William and Ray remained with us until they retired. It was Terry and William who in 1980 were responsible for bringing in the Green Belt.

Some notable achievements during the life of the council are the creation of the Moors Valley Country Park, the Walford Mill Craft Centre, the formation of the East Dorset Heritage Trust, supporting and leasing the Priest House Museum from the Minster Governors, the redevelopment of Penny's Hill in Ferndown, which included the erection of the Barrington Centre, opened by the late Princess Margaret. Also the provision of several Community

centres throughout the District, among them the HUB in Verwood. The list goes on.

In July 1970 Mr. Bill Press was appointed Chief Executive and during his seventeen years much growth took place. On his retirement in 1987 Alan Breakwell was appointed Chief Executive, a post he held for 22 years.

In 2009 Mr. Alan Breakwell retired and Mr. David McIntosh was appointed Chief Executive. In 2012 we entered into a very successful formal Partnership with Christchurch Borough Council. This partnership, with Mr. David McIntosh as Chief Executive of both Councils, worked well and brought about financial savings. In 2016 the East Dorset staff transferred to the Civic Offices in Christchurch and the Furzehill complex was ‘mothballed’ and placed on the market.

In conclusion, during my 53 years as a member of East Dorset and its predecessor Councils, I have met and worked with many dedicated Councillors and Officers. It has been both a privilege and an honour. Members have always worked together to deliver services for the benefit of the residents and we can all be proud of the legacy we leave.

It has been a privilege and an honour.

David McIntosh (Chief Executive)

Madam Chairman

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to speak under this item. As Members have pointed out this is a historic period in the delivery of local government services in East Dorset. We are on the eve of a transition from the long standing two tier system to a unitary set up for the Dorset area.

While we all need to look forward and support the creation of the new Council it is also right that we take this opportunity to reflect on the achievements of East Dorset District Council since its creation in 1974; albeit under a different name in its early years.

I was very pleased to have been appointed as Chief Executive back in 2009 and I reflect on the last 10 years with a great deal of pride about what we have collectively achieved in extremely challenging times. Councils work best when Members and Officers work closely together to develop policies which reflect both the needs of local residents and the circumstances in which the Council finds itself at any one time. The decisions that this Council has made have achieved this and put us in the best possible place to be able to continue to deliver services with much reduced resources.

It was a bold move to partner with Christchurch and to be founding members of the Dorset Waste Partnership and the original Stour Valley Partnership. It was equally bold to further develop the way we work, to invest in the facilities and technology to allow us to work in a modern and flexible way to best serve the public.

Members have set the strategic direction and given the clarity to allow Officers to deliver. We have won numerous national awards both for our work at an organisational level as well as for excellence in service delivery. We should all take pride in this.

I have very much enjoyed my positive relationship with East Dorset members and wish to thank you. Given our respective roles we haven't always agreed but on those rare occasions we have always remained professional, found a way forward and had the residents of East Dorset in the front of our minds.

I wish to pay thanks in particular to Cllr Spencer Flower for his leadership, support and friendship.

Change rarely happens without a consequence and so bringing about transformation has also meant having to deal with many difficult and challenging situations. The staff have responded fantastically well to all that we have asked them to do. They have adopted new ways of doing things, brought forward innovative ideas to improve services, continued to respond to a rising public expectation, and managed increasingly complex situations; all of this with fewer resources at hand.

I can only congratulate and also thank each and every one of them for their tremendous support and hard work. Through our collective efforts we have been able to create an organisation that is amongst the best in local government. I wish in particular to thank my senior colleagues on the Corporate Team, current and past. These are not easy jobs and the last 10 years has not been the easiest time in which to fulfil them.

So Madam Chairman, a significant chapter of local government in Dorset comes to a close and a new one begins. I wish all Members and staff the very best for the future in whatever it is that they choose to do.

Councillor Toni Coombs

Members and Chief Executive, thank you all for your memories and service to the residents of East Dorset.

Everywhere I have been during this term of office as Chairman, I have received comments from the community on the positive impact this Council has had on residents and the good working relationships with our officers. We have a precious culture based on mutual respect (including the cross-party relationship) which has allowed us to achieve so much as a team, which those going forward into Dorset Council must fight to protect and enhance.

Chief Executive, on behalf of the members our thanks to you and all of your staff for their part in developing East Dorset, we realise this is a difficult time for all of you but want to take this opportunity to formally give our enduring thanks for all that the professional staff have done. The past few years have been marked by continual restructure in response to service needs and government policy (both national and local) and despite the pressure of continual change you have risen and overcome these challenges.

At the thank you event for staff and members we had a PowerPoint of memories, after the meeting this evening, we will again share this with you.

Member, you will have seen a small gift on the table this evening, these were purchased by a previous Chairman and I thought it appropriate that every member should have one as a memento. I also have one for the Chief Executive.

Questions have been asked about the future of the Civic Regalia, I am pleased to say that next Monday they will be handed over to the Priest's House Museum for safekeeping along with the photographs and other memorabilia, I know they will be well looked after as part of our local history; and will be accessible by visitors to the museum.

Also, as a record of the service given by members, I have a certificate for each one of you, to mark your part in serving our community.

For my part, I was an accidental politician and I never expected to still be part of this Council after 20 years! So much has happened and I have been involved in many committees over the years. The one constant has been planning committee – a bit like marmite – you either love it or hate it! I have also had the privilege of being part of the changes to the district; in particular when my own area saw huge development and being able to be part of the working groups and decision making around new infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

I have come across many different personalities and have learnt many new skills in how to handle people – not all of them happy with their lot! However, it has been the people that have made this journey worth every step. It also seems that the smallest achievements can make a bigger difference than large schemes.

It has been a fascinating journey, something I am very proud to have been a part of.

342. Past Chairmans Badge

Councillor D B F Burt presented the Past-Chairman's Badge to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs T B Coombs in advance of the end of the Municipal Year, and in doing so gave thanks to the Chairman for everything she had done over the past ten months.

343. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of this evenings meeting, as submitted, be confirmed and adopted.

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 20:04

CHAIRMAN