

NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2018

Present: Cllrs P Batstone, D Beer, P Brown, A Burch, G Carr-Jones, A Chase, B Cooper, D Croney, V Fox, J Francis, M Gould, T Handford, G Jefferson, S Jespersen, N Lacey-Clarke, C Langham, E Parker, V Potheary (Chairman), S Pritchard, M Roake, J Somper, Jackie Stayt, John Stayt (Vice-Chair), J Tanner and P Williams MBE

Apologies: Cllrs B Batty-Smith MBE, A Cattaway, C Dowden, A Kerby, B Ridout, D Skipwith, D Walsh and J Westbrook

Also present:

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Stuart Caundle (Assistant Chief Executive), Stephen Hill (Strategic Director), Jason Vaughan (Strategic Director) and Linda Quinton (Democratic Services Officer)

32. Chairman's announcements

In opening the meeting, the Chairman referred to the recent passing of a former Leader of the Council, Frank Spencer and Alderman Mervyn Jeffery. The Chairman spoke of the considerable contribution that Alderman Jeffery had made to his community and would pass a message of condolence to his family on behalf of the Council.

The Leader of Council read some words that had been sent from former Councillor and Liberal Democrat Group Leader, David Milsted. Councillor Beer also added his own tribute.

Members stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman also notified councillors that Alderman John Tory was making a sound recovery from a recent illness and on behalf of the council, she would send Alderman Tory their best wishes.

33. Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

36. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business for consideration.

37. Cabinet Update Reports

The Leader had nothing to add to his update, however he reminded members that they were invited to attend the new Nordon Hub at the conclusion of the Council meeting. He had already visited the building and stressed that it was an excellent facility for the Council and its customers. His only reservation was that the flag pole should be re-located.

Cllr Beer raised a question relating to the lack of adequate road and footway surfaces and street lighting at the Persimmons development north of Shaftesbury. Cllr Francis added that she had attended a meeting the previous week with representatives of Persimmons, Simon Hove and DCC Highways. Work would be starting in February as it was recognised that the developer was failing in their obligations and Cllr Francis would be included in future discussions on this particular issue.

In response to a question from Councillor Cooper, the Leader advised that any housing clients would be dealt with by appointment at the Nordon Hub where a continued housing officer presence would be maintained.

With regard to the Deputy Leader's Portfolio, the Leader had nothing to add. He advised members that Cllr Walsh was making a steady recovery and he would send best wishes on behalf of the Council.

With regard to the Community and Regeneration Portfolio, Cllr Beer raised an issue relating to the lack of coach parking at the Bell Street car park and the impact this would have on tourism. Cllr Jespersen asked that the query be put to her in writing and she would respond accordingly.

Cllr Cooper asked that local ward members be included in the town centre conservation area enhancement projects that were proposed for Blandford and Gillingham.

38. Recharging for Town and Parish Council elections

Cllr S Jespersen introduced the above report which was proposing the introduction of recharging parish and town councils for costs incurred by the District Council in organising scheduled ordinary elections.

In adopting the recharge, this would bring the council in line with all other councils in Dorset and would become operational from May 2019. By-elections were already subject to such a charge and the new arrangements would be coincidental with other elections being held on the same day. The

charge would only relate to contested town and parish elections. Subject to Council's consent, every town and parish would be advised of the likely cost, which would be charged and paid retrospectively.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by J Somper

DECISION

- (a) That, as from May 2019, in relation to any town or parish council elections thereafter that the expenditure properly incurred by the Returning Officer in relation to the holding of the election of a parish, and paid by the district council, shall be repaid to the Council by the relevant parish for which the election is held, and
- (b) that the costs are recharged on a recovery basis ie costs incurred in 2019 are recoverable in 2020/21.

39. Bourton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 - 2031

The Leader introduced the above report which was proposing the adoption of the Bourton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr P Williams, as the Local Ward Member, stated that the referendum had taken place on 11 January with a 93% vote in favour of accepting the Plan, from a 39% turnout. He paid tribute to Mike Withers, chairman of the Bourton Neighbourhood Plan Group, together with his team, who had spent the previous 6½ years working particularly hard to bring the Plan to this stage.

On behalf of the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Group, Cllr Williams thanked the Planning Policy Team, particularly Ed Gerry and his predecessor Nicola Laslo for their support. Members also noted that Bourton was the second community to reach this stage, which it was hoped would encourage other neighbourhood plan groups to persevere with this lengthy and complex process to achieve their own plans.

It was proposed by P Williams seconded by S Jespersen

DECISION

- i. That the District Council makes the Bourton - Dorset Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2031 (as set out in Appendix A) part of the statutory development plan for the Bourton Neighbourhood Area.
- ii. That the District Council offers its congratulations to Bourton Parish Council in producing its neighbourhood plan.

40. Implementing the Brownfield Land Register

The Leader introduced the above report which was seeking approval to amend the scheme of delegation to officers in relation to the maintenance and

addition of sites to the Brownfield land register. This would provide up-to-date and consistent information on brownfield sites that local authorities considered to be appropriate for residential-led development.

Members noted that the Registers would be in two parts;

- Part 1 would comprise all brownfield sites appropriate for residential development; and
- Part 2 would comprise those sites granted permission in principle. Permission in principle was a new form of planning permission similar to seeking an outline planning consent.

The matter had been considered last year by Cabinet who had referred the matter to the Planning Policy Panel for comment prior to consideration by full Council.

It was proposed by G Carr-Jones seconded by A Burch

DECISION

That Council agrees:

- (a) the amendments to delegated powers of committees and officers as set out in the appendix 1 attached to the report; and
- (b) that power be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to reflect the principles and changes set out in the appendix to the report.

41. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr M Roake introduced the above report which was seeking the adoption and implementation of the Dorset Councils Financial Regulations. The three sovereign councils in the partnership had previously been operating under their own regulations and this would align that position. Both West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland Councils had adopted the new Regulations.

It was proposed by M Roake seconded by D Croney

DECISION

That Council agrees the Financial Regulations.

42. Calendar of Meetings 2018/19

S Jespersen introduced the above report which was seeking approval to the 2018/19 Calendar of meetings.

Members noted that the Planning Committee scheduled for 17 July 2018 should be held on 24 July 2018.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by A Chase

DECISION

That the calendar of meetings for the period May 2018 to May 2019 be approved.

43. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

DECISION

That Cllr N Lacey-Clark be appointed to the Planning Policy Panel.

44. **Outside Body Report**

Members received and noted the Outside Bodies report, as circulated.

Cllr G Jefferson reported that the Shaftesbury Abbey and Museum Preservation Trust, of which he was a representative, had been awarded Heritage Lottery Grant of £43,000 which would be match funded by local organisations.

The Leader added that in view of the increased work loads of the Portfolio Holders and the on-going LGR, he would be reverting the Cabinet Membership back to its previous number of 6. He would advise members of the revised membership in due course.

45. **CONFIRMATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS**

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by A Chase

DECISION

From the date of this decision, (26 January 2018), the North Dorset District Council's principal office address will be South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ and this will be the address at which the Council will accept all documents for the purposes of service of any such document on the Council, unless the Council otherwise expressly directs.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman reminded members of the forthcoming 111 events at South Walks House on Monday 29 January on Local Government Reorganisation. Two identical sessions would be held at 2pm and 5.30pm.

Members then viewed a brief video on the work of the Economic Regeneration team on the Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy. Due to limited sound accompanying the video, members were e mailed the link in order that they could view it on their own devices.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.55 am

Chairman

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