



## Council

**Date:** Thursday, 3 September 2020  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** A link to the meeting can be found on the front page of the main agenda.

### **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 telephone Democratic Services on 01305 252216**

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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 listen to the debate 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.

### **Recording, photographing and using social media at meetings**

Dorset Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. Anyone can film, audio-record, take photographs, and use social media such as tweeting and blogging to report the meeting when it is open to the public, so long as they conform to the Protocol for filming and audio recording of public council meetings.

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	

# AGENDA

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## 10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

5 - 8

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements, on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can ask either 2 questions, or 2 statements or 1 question and 1 statement at each meeting.

### **\*\*Important\*\***

**The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Friday 28 August 2020.**

**Each question and/or statement is limited to 450 words.**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic public speaking has been suspended however questions and statements will be published on the website and the Chairman of Council will decide whether a question or statement is to be read out aloud in whole, in part or not at all at the meeting. The Chairman will invite the relevant member to respond to the questions and statements at the meeting.

Details of the Council's procedure rules can be found at: [Temporary Procedure Rules](#)

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## Full Council – 3 September 2020 Questions from the Public

### Question 1 – submitted by Tony Walter

#### Getting to zero carbon: lobbying national government

On 15 July, Dorset Council published its long-awaited Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Strategy, now passed for public consultation by Place Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. One of the most striking things about this strategy from a council controlled by the same party as the UK government is its highlighting of *national* policies and regulations, a *national* lack of direction and low *national* standards, hampering local authorities from moving to zero carbon, including several policies/regulations/standards introduced in the last decade (p.17). Reforming this national framework is essential if the UK is to achieve the government's de-carbonisation commitments.

**The Strategy (pp.27,30,48,49,55) promises to lobby government on the national policies, regulations and standards that undermine its climate & ecological ambitions in 5 of the Strategy's 8 areas for action:**

#### Renewable energy (p.26)

- Uncertainty at national level re strategy & direction
- National grid limits deployment of renewable energy at scale
- Current policy framework does not support the move to low carbon
- The planning system does not actively encourage renewable energy

#### Buildings and assets (p.29)

- Lack of national strategy for heating
- Current & potential *Future Homes* standards for new builds not high enough to deliver national carbon-reduction targets
- Lack of legal requirement to retrofit buildings

#### The economy (p.35)

- Low carbon & renewable energy economy growing only slowly & adversely affected by recent changes in legislation and incentives
- Government introduced Additional Business Rates Levy penalising businesses that install renewable energy on their premises
- Circular economy heavily influenced by national policy & regulation

#### Water (p.41)

- Government limits councils' power to enforce water conservation in new developments

#### Transport (p.47)

- Lack of national direction and policy

**Question: How does Dorset Council propose to lobby government effectively?**

### **Question 2 – submitted by Joe Burlington**

Greta Thunberg(1) said “I’ve met many of the most powerful people in the world. And even among them, **pretty much everyone lacks even some of the most basic knowledge**” and, in *The Guardian*, Rebecca Willis (2) wrote “(One MP) said that **just a few of her 600 or so fellow parliamentarians took climate seriously** as an issue: ‘You might not get into double figures’.” The Council has acknowledged that there is ‘a climate emergency and an ecological crisis’ but its current policies will not deliver a sustainable future and it is clear that many politicians (and most voters) are unaware of dire threats to the future of our children.

Question:

What actions will Councillors take to educate themselves and the public about these matters?

To this end, I am willing to support councillors in person or by Zoom (or similar). I am a former physics teacher. I have been studying these matters intensively for 16 years.

(1) *Summer with Greta* (Chapter 8) “(P)eople understand much less about the climate crisis than you’d think ... **the level of knowledge and awareness is close to nonexistent.**” July 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000kwcc>

(2) Rebecca Willis: ‘In return for anonymity, MPs agreed to speak candidly with me about climate change. ... ‘ 21 May 2020

[www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/21/i-dont-want-to-be-seen-as-a-zealot-what-mps-really-think-about-the-climate-crisis?utm\\_campaign=Carbon%20Brief%20Daily%20Briefing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Revue%20newsletter](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/21/i-dont-want-to-be-seen-as-a-zealot-what-mps-really-think-about-the-climate-crisis?utm_campaign=Carbon%20Brief%20Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Revue%20newsletter)

**Question 3 – Submitted by Professor Philip Marfleet (on behalf of Dorset Says – Low Pay, No Way** - Convenor, Weymouth and Portland Action on Wages (WeyPAW), and Jenny Lennon-Wood - Secretary, Dorset Trades Union Council

### **Real Living Wage for employees of Dorset Council**

Question:

Dorset Council (DC) proposes increased payments to Council members and new paid roles for members of the majority party. Our Council appears to have

ignored repeated recommendations to introduce the Real Living Wage for its employees and those working for its contractors. Dorset is a low-wage county: we need urgent action to address a crisis of poverty wages and declining social mobility. Why is DC directing funds to its senior members while thousands of Council workers and others struggle to make ends meet?

**Statement:**

Over a year ago, local organisations urged DC to tackle poverty incomes and declining social mobility:

- Declare its public commitment to meet legal requirements on the National Minimum Wage, Equal Pay for women, and terms and conditions of employment - and expect this of its contractors.
- Prepare to introduce the Real Living Wage (£9.30 an hour) and encourage others to follow suit.
- Take the lead in educating our young people about rights at work.

Our proposals were referred to the Executive Advisory Panel on Economic Growth, to which we gave a presentation in September 2019. Having heard nothing from the Panel, we raised questions at the Council's meeting in February 2020 and were informed that the issues would be considered during development of the Council's *Economic Growth Strategy (EGS)*. The Cabinet has apparently approved this Strategy without the benefit of democratic debate by Full Council. There are no proposals to introduce the Real Living Wage; meanwhile, senior Council members are to be appointed to new paid positions, increasing the annual cost of councillors' fees by over £100,000.

DC has undertaken a preliminary assessment of the implications of introducing the Real Living Wage - yet the *EGS* contains no evidence of practical measures to address the injustice of low pay. Almost a third of jobs in the Council's area pay less than the Real Living Wage: in Weymouth and Portland this rises to 48%, the second-worst record in the country (government figures).

Many of Dorset's low-paid jobs are in tourism and retail - among the sectors hardest hit by the COVID crisis. Termination of the government's Job Retention Scheme could have a devastating impact. HMRC recorded claims to furlough a third of all eligible jobs in Dorset by the end of July - around 51,600 potential redundancies. Dorset is likely to be one of the areas worst affected by the COVID crisis – its low wages making many families vulnerable.

Cornwall shares many economic problems with Dorset. Its Council introduced the Real Living Wage for all employees in 2015. Why can't DC do the same?

DC should abandon plans to increase payments to councillors. Instead, let's work together to make Dorset a Living Wage County.

