

Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 5 September 2023
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

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A G E N D A

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4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below. Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to Kate.Critchel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Thursday 31 August 2023.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
 - a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
 - It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
 - Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
 - when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
 - Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
 - questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
 - all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.
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Cabinet 5 September 2023

Public Questions

Question from Linda Stevenson

Evidence of people living or visiting Dorset Area who have seen information displayed in public spaces which this consultation relates too, and where I can view it, not just in public libraries, but public notice boards.

What actions did she take after the announcement in June 2023 apart from press statements which appeared in Dorset Echo, online or on social media.

Cllr Beddow appears to have no understanding of assistance for children, or families with assistance dogs who want to enjoy public spaces together.

No understand of the Equality Act 2010 which was sent to all councils in 2011

No understandings of people with protected characteristics who may have a hidden disability.

Makes no reference of the different types of assistance dogs who are officially trained to work with people with a wide range of disabilities.

Cllr Beddow shared information regarding health risks to the public, she failed to quote the NHS who see the risk from dogs as low, also failing to recognise Cats, both feral and domesticated, Foxes and Badger are also a source of infection, public spaces are open to all types of animals particularly rats who spread disease and are found in our town and countryside due to fast food litter, wildlife live in close proximity to humans.

Today's dog owners are only too aware of the need to seek regular treatments for their dogs from their vets, not just for public health but for the health of their family and friends, the children who live or visit their home.

Since 7th August 2023 I have been trying to reach Janet Moore and Jane Williams of the dog Warden Department, environmental health services who are involved in the creation of the Public Space Protection Order.

I've asked Cllr David Grey, Cllr Peter Barrow and the Democratic Services to help in gaining a response from the department responsible, to date I still haven't received a reply. The consultation closes on 24th August 2023 which gives little time for the public who are still unaware to take part

Question from Cllr K Tippins

The former Tourist Information Centre at 8 Bell Street in Shaftesbury has been empty since Feb 2023 and this building is owned by Dorset Council. Any building that is owned by the Local Authority in Shaftesbury, is of interest to the residents of this town, and as a Town Councillor, I am frequently asked about progress regarding this particular building. Currently, as a Councillor there has been no published data or information from Dorset Council sent to Town Council elected members regarding this buildings. I understand that the lease has now been terminated with the

dissolved Blackmore Vale Tourism and Development Company Ltd and the possession of the premises has reverted back to Dorset Council. In paragraph 21.2 of the Cabinet Papers in Nov 2020, it states that 'closer collaboration with Town and Parish Councils to share space and explore opportunities will be beneficial in driving down costs'...At Shaftesbury, the Town Council is the Corporate Body of 12 Councillors and the elected members have not been communicated with regards to the future of this space, but there has been a Dorset Council arranged meeting on 30th Aug 2023 which seemingly has bypassed the corporate body of elected members. Some Cllrs, myself included, have been specifically requested by residents to lobby Dorset Council, to ensure that a 'spin off' Tourist function will not be leased this building and Dorset Council are aware of this request. I am sure that there are other Town Council elected members are aware of strong feelings by residents about lobbying Dorset Council regarding occupancy of 8 Bell St, Shaftesbury. Cabinet may or may not be aware that the former Tourist Information volunteers, around 20 Shaftesbury residents, who used to occupy 8 Bell St, Shaftesbury, have now all successfully moved to be located next door in the Morrisons shop.

Please can I request that Cabinet ensures that the Town Council, the 12 elected members, are not bypassed and are truly involved in the future of 8 Bell St, Shaftesbury building in an open and transparent manner, as specified in the para 21.2 of the Nov 2020 Cabinet Papers?

Statement from G Hooper

I have read on google that you are going to review the new car park charges in Dorset in September and so I am writing in the hope that my - and I am sure the views of many other people - may be take into consideration.

I am a pensioner living in Sherborne. I, and anything up to four other friends used to enjoy coming down to West Bay three or four times a month as it is not so crowded as Weymouth and somewhere you can actually sit near to and hear the sea which cannot be done at Weymouth our nearest seaside town. I came down with a couple of friends in May and was quite shocked at the car parks charges. Because I have neuropathy in my feet and can sometimes not walk far I had to pay to park in two different car parks, one near our usual eatery on the front and then move to the park nearer the harbour and piers for shops and tea. I paid £9 in total. I have not been back to West Bay since but decided to go to the coast less and travel an extra half hour over the border to East Devon when I do so as the car park charges are cheaper - £8 pays for 24 hours so we can go down for the day without having to look at our watches.

We decided to leave West Bay until the Autumn but I now see that the parking charges will be in place until the end of October so will not bother to visit. I understand that the Council are trying to catch the holiday makers but do you not think it would be a nice gesture to the people of Dorset to bring the parking charges down after they have returned in September? As residents of the county we are already paying the fifth highest council tax in the country. I did read some time ago

that Dorset wanted to attract the 'right people' at the top with six figure salaries. Is this what we are paying for while services are cut and charges go up?

Think of the lost income to local businesses when the holiday makers have left. As one car load we would have paid for five meals three or four times a month at the Windy Corner Cafe and always ended up going into the small shops near the harbour and having tea there before we returned.

Much as I like West Bay I am quite happy to either carry on driving to East Devon or free parking in the National Trust car park and seeing the sea at Burton Bradstock but I think you need some forward thinking for the survival of the small businesses in West Bay.

Letter (statement) from Hannah Kearns (see details on following page)

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Lobster Pot (Portland Bill) Ltd

Portland Bill, Portland
Dorset DT5 2JT
Tel (01305) 820242 or (01305) 823426

31 August 2023

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Council Offices
North Quay
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 8TA

To Councillor Ray Bryan

We are writing to yourselves as we have been advise by Elizabeth Dawson, the parking services manager, that our issue is beyond her remit and needs to be dealt with at committee level.

I enclose a copy of a letter that was written to the council in 2007 from ourselves outlining the issues we face at Portland Bill. Subsequently there has been an un written rule, that the Nothe Fort car park and Portland Bill have been treated equally until the last round of car parking charges published in 2023.

Currently, the parking charge at the Nothe is £1.50 for 2 hours against Portland Bill at £4.50, a huge difference. These large differences also apply to the winter rates leaving visitors at Portland Bill at a disadvantage. Moreover, in line with most other Weymouth and Portland Car Parks there is no charge between 6pm and 8 am unless you're at Portland Bill or Chesil Beach where standard charges apply 24 hours a day. Facing large increases in cost, we tried opening 2 evenings a week to increase turnover, however, the car parking charges killed it stone dead. If we were in Weymouth parking would be free. Portland Bill has no bus service other than the summertime fix charge tourist bus and visitors rely totally on the car park as the nearest car park to Portland Bill is a mile and a half walk. It appears to us that the tariffs are not being fairly applied and visitors to Portland Bill are treated differently to other areas of the borough. I find it difficult to understand the current difference between car parking at the Nothe and every other car park in the area.

We are experiencing a large increase in verbal abuse from customers who rail at us over the charges and to reduce costs they put 1 hour parking on their cars, and expect us to turn around a meal in that given period during the summer season.

We understand the council are facing increased financial pressures along with every local business, but we do not believe the current charges at Portland Bill are either fairly or evenly applied.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Kearns
Enc.

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Lobster Pot (Portland Bill) Ltd

Portland Bill, Portland

Dorset DT5 2JT

Tel (01305) 820242

Fax (01305) 786556

28 June 2007

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Council Offices
North Quay
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 8TA

To Councillor Nigel Reed

RE Car Parking Charges at Portland Bill –Winter Rates

I write to the Borough Council to ask them to reconsider the winter car parking charges at Portland Bill. It has recently been drawn to my attention that a 2 hour parking charge will increase from 60p to £1.50 an increase of 150%. I note from the list of proposed charges published in the Echo that no other car park received a similar increase.

I have been the owner of the Lobster Pot since 1975, and in that time the business has changed considerably, culminating in the rebuild during the winter of 2002. I was urged to open the business all year round, and to that end I included air conditioning and heating in the new building so that I could open during the winter. I run a well regarded and professional business with a well trained staff, and I am proud to have earned a gold standard food safety award over the last three inspections. By opening all year I have been able to offer several members of staff a salaried position with job continuity rather than the seasonal opening that we used to operate.

Trading at Portland Bill during the winter is at best a “cover your costs” operation and after three years we have just managed to arrive at that position. During that period revenues at the car park must have increased because the Lobster Pot is open and it seems rather heinous to penalise a business which has already helped winter revenues. We rely totally on the car park for our customer base as there is no practical bus service and no alternative place to park and for practical purposes you can not walk there in winter. The cost of the car park affects us as a business like no other in the area, because there is no alternative. I understand as a council that raising revenue is a problematic and controversial area but I also believe a good council should help a local business where possible. I have no complaint at the increase in parking charges for the summer period, but I strongly believe a reduced rate in the winter could be levied to help us. Furthermore, I understand that a similar problem was identified at

the Nothe car park this year and remedial action was taken by the Council. The situation at the Nothe is very similar to that of Portland Bill, but at least the Nothe is close to the centre of town and has some alternative parking. I would ask the Council to be as sympathetic to our argument as they have been to those at the Nothe.

Since the publication of the new charges many of our regular customers who with out exception are local people have commented unfavourably on the new winter charge and have told us they are unlikely to come out to the Lobster Pot for a tea and scone due to an extra 90p being added to their bill which they cannot avoid paying.

I apologise that this letter has come late in the year, but as I provide eight annual season tickets for myself and staff, I do not use the parking meters where the proposed charges were advertised and I do not always pick up a Dorset Evening Echo. I do feel very strongly that the business is being treated very harshly and I would be happy to meet with any committee member who would be prepared to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Martin Brain
Director

CC Martyn Gallivan - WPBC
Derek Whittaker – WPBC
Christine James - WPBC
Louise Spain – Cluttons (agent for the Crown Estates)
Roland Reynolds – Court Leet