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## DORSET COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019

**Present:** Cllrs R Adkins, A Alford, J Andrews, P Barrow, S Bartlett, P Batstone, D Beer, R Biggs, D Bolwell, A Brenton, C Brooks, P Brown, R Bryan, G Carr-Jones, S Christopher, K Clayton, S Cocking, R Cook, T Cook, T Coombs, J Dover, J Dunseith, M Dyer, T Ferrari, S Flower, Les Fry, S Gibson, Barry Goringe, D Gray, M Hall, P Harrison, J Haynes, B Heatley, R Holloway, R Hope, R Hughes, N Ireland, S Jespersen, C Jones, S Jones, A Kerby, Paul Kimber, R Knox, N Lacey-Clarke, H Legg, R Legg, C Lugg, L Miller, D Morgan, L O'Leary, J Orrell, E Parker, M Parkes, A Parry, M Penfold, Bill Pipe, Val Potheary, B Quayle, Belinda Ridout, M Roberts, Julie Robinson, M Roe, D Shortell, J Somper, A Starr, C Sutton, R Tarr, David Taylor, G Taylor, D Tooke, B Trite, D Turner, D Walsh, P Wharf, K Wheller, S Williams and J Worth

**Apologies:** Cllrs M Barron, A Canning, B Ezzard, Molly Rennie and G Suttle

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

Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Manager), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer), Sarah Parker (Executive Director of People - Children), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive Designate), Kirsty Riglar (Democratic Services Manager) and John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place)

### WELCOME

Hilary Cox, Chairman of the Shadow Dorset Council welcomed and congratulated all the new Councillors to their first meeting of the Dorset Council.

#### 1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr N Lacey-Clarke and seconded by Cllr C Jones that Cllr P Batstone be elected Chairman of the Council for the period until the first meeting of the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2020.

There were no other nominations.

Decision

That Cllr P Batstone be elected Chairman of Dorset Council for the period until the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2020.

Cllr Batstone thanked her proposer and seconder and the members of the council for the honour that they conferred upon her. She subscribed and made the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Batstone also took the opportunity

to thank Hilary Cox for her years of dedicated service to Dorset County Council and the Shadow Dorset Council.

## **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr S Jespersen and seconded by Cllr P Brown that Cllr V Potheary be elected Vice-Chairman of Dorset Council for the period until the first meeting of annual council in May 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland and seconded by Cllr C Sutton that Cllr J Andrews be elected Vice-Chairman of Dorset Council for the period until the first meeting of annual council in May 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr P Kimber and seconded by Cllr K Wheller that Cllr K Wheller be elected Vice-Chairman of Dorset Council for the period until the first meeting of annual council in May 2020.

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke requested a recorded vote and in accordance with the constitution this was seconded and agreed.

Those who voted for Cllr J Andrews:

Cllrs J Andrews, P Barrow, S Bartlett, D Beer, R Biggs, D Bolwell, A Brenton, T Cook, J Dover, L Fry, D Gray, H Legg, R Legg, M Hall, R Holloway, R Hope, N Ireland, S Jones, D Morgan, M Roe, A Starr, C Sutton, R Tarr, D Taylor, G Taylor, D Tooke and S Williams.

Those who voted for Cllr K Wheller:

Cllrs K Clayton, S Cocking, B Heatley, R Hughes, P Kimber, J Orrell, B Ridout and K Wheller.

Those who voted for Cllr V Potheary:

Cllrs R Adkins, A Alford, P Batstone, C Brooks, P Brown, S Christopher, G Carr-Jones, R Cook, T Coombs, J Dunseith, M Dyer, T Ferrari, S Flower, S Gibson, B Goringe, R Bryan, P Harrison, J Haynes, S Jespersen, C Jones, A Kerby, R Knox, N Lacey-Clarke, C Lugg, L Miller, L O'Leary, M Parkes, A Parry, E Parker, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, M Roberts, J Robinson, D Shortell, J Somper, B Trite, D Turner, D Walsh, P Wharf and J Worth.

Decision

That Cllr V Potheary be elected Vice-Chairman of Dorset Council for the period until the annual meeting of council in May 2020. She subscribed and made the declaration of acceptance of office

## **3. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Barron, A Canning, B Ezzard, M Rennie and G Suttle.

## **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declaration of interests to report.

## 5. **Announcements**

The Chairman of the Council welcomed all councillors to the first meeting of the Dorset Council and congratulated them on their election and appointment. She advised that the meeting room for the council meeting was a new trial arrangement and she would appreciate comments and suggestions regarding the layout and any future arrangements.

## 6. **Election of Leader**

It was proposed by Cllr T Ferrari and seconded by Cllr G Carr-Jones that Cllr S Flower be election the Leader of the Council for 2019/2020.

Decision

That Cllr S Flower be appointed Leader of the Council for 2019/2020.

Cllr N Ireland, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group congratulated Cllr Flower on his appointment and hoped that all councillors would be able to work together. Cllr Ireland also expressed his disappointment that the council was unable to consider Cllr D Turner's notice of motion regarding Climate Change and declaring a climate emergency.

The Chairman indicated that the notice of motion would be brought to the next council meeting in July. Cllr Ireland advised that if this was the case the meeting needed to be held at County Hall to ensure that the public was appropriately accommodated.

## 7. **Appointment of Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holders**

The Leader of the Council reported the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holders as follows:-

Spencer Flower	Leader/Governance, Performance and Communication
Peter Wharf	Deputy Leader/ Corporate Development and Change
Tony Ferrari	Finance, Commercial and Assets
Graham Carr-Jones	Housing
Gary Suttle	Economic Growth and Skills
Andrew Parry	Children, Education and Early Help
Laura Miller	Adult Social Care and Health
David Walsh	Planning
Ray Bryan	Highways, Travel and Environment
Tony Alford	Customer, Community and Regulatory Services

## 8. **Leader's Announcements**

Cllr S Flower took the opportunity to thank the Chairman and the members of the council for putting their faith in him to be the first Leader of the Dorset Council. He expressed that this was a great honour and an immense privilege.

As Leader he wanted to promote a collaborative approach for the delivery of quality public services, whilst dealing with the known challenges of rising demand and severe financial pressures. He advised that the council needed to create a 'Can Do Culture'; a culture that put the interests of Dorset's communities first with a member led council making a real and lasting difference in Dorset.

## 9. Public Participation

Public questions, statements and the responses from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders are set out in the Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr P Kimber seconded by Cllr N Ireland to suspend standing orders to allow group leaders to address the council on the issues of Climate Change. Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

In respect of the questions relating to climate and environment emergency, a number of group leaders and councillors expressed concern that the council was not taking adequate action or considering declaring a climate emergency at the meeting.

Many were disappointed that the Leader of the Council was only proposing a cross party Executive Advisory Panel to discuss the matter and that Cllr Turner's late notice of motion would not be considered until the next meeting of Full Council in July. Many councillors, present at the meeting, felt strongly that the time for discussion was over and the council needed to take action.

In response, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he proposed to create a cross party panel for discussions and the Executive Advisory Panel would report back to Council and the Cabinet on progress and the development of the policy.

He confirmed that he was committed to putting sustainability at the heart of the organisation and hoped that councillors would support him in putting Dorset at the forefront of councils working to tackle climate change.

It was proposed by Cllr R Legg that this matter be dealt with as an urgent item in accordance with section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972. Following advice the Chairman agreed to take this matter as an urgent item.

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr P Kimber "That Council recognises that climate change is happening and agrees to declare a climate emergency" The Council agreed to hold a recorded vote on the motion.

Those who voted in favour:-

Cllrs R Adkins, A Alford, J Andrews, P Barrow, S Bartlett, P Batstone, D Beer, R Biggs, D Bolwell, A Brenton, P Brown, R Bryan, S Christopher, K Clayton, S Cocking, T Cook, J Dunseith, J Dover, M Dyer, T Ferrari, S Flower, L Fry, S Gibson, G Goringe, D Gray, M Hall, P Harrison, J Haynes, B Heatley, R Holloway, R Hope, R Hughes, N Ireland, S Jespersen, C Jones, S Jones, A Kerby, P Kimber, R Knox, N Lacey-Clarke, H Legg, R Legg, L Miller, D Morgan, J Orrell, E Parker, M Parkes, M Penfold, B Pipe, V Potheary, B Quayle, B

Ridout, M Roe, J Robinson, M Roberts, D Shortell, J Somper, A Starr, C Sutton, R Tarr, D Tooke, D Turner, D Taylor, G Taylor, D Walsh, P Wharf, K Wheller, S Williams and J Worth.

Those who voted against:-  
Cllrs R Cook and L O'Leary

Those who abstained:-  
Cllrs C Brooks, G Carr-Jones ,T Coombs, C Lugg, A Parry and B Trite.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

Decision

That Council recognises that climate change is happening and agrees to declare a climate emergency.

**The Council meeting adjourned at 11.40 am for a short comfort break and returned at 11.50 am**

10. **Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees and Appointment of Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen**

Councillors considered a report on the appointment to committees/joint committees and the election of Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen for 2019/20.

The nominations to committees from the Political Group Leaders had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr S Flower proposed that recommendations 1 and 2 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr N Ireland and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed.

In respect of recommendation 3 the following nominations and decisions were agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr T Ferrari that Cllr J Haynes be elected as Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr N Ireland be elected as Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to vote Cllr J Haynes was appointed Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr M Penfold that Cllr A Kerby be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr N Ireland be elected Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee .

**Upon being put to vote Cllr A Kerby was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr M Penfold that Cllr J Somper be elected Chairman of the People Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr

N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr G Taylor be elected Chairman of the People Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to vote Cllr J Somper was appointed Chairman of the People Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr B Trite that Cllr M Penfold be elected Vice-Chairman of the People Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr G Taylor be elected Vice-Chairman of the People Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr M Penfold was appointed Vice-Chairman of People Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr J Haynes that Cllr D Turner be elected Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr R Hope that Cllr R Tarr be elected Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr D Turner was appointed Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr M Roberts that Cllr C Brooks be elected Vice-Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr R Tarr be elected Vice-Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr C Brooks was appointed the Vice-Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr S Jespersen that Cllr P Brown be elected Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr T Cook that Cllr A Canning be elected Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr Brown was appointed Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr P Brown that Cllr M Parkes be elected Vice-Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr A Canning be elected Vice-Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr M Parkes was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr S Jones that Cllr M Hall be elected Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee. There were no other nominations.

It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr R Biggs be elected Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee. There were no other nominations.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr B Trite that Cllr N Lacey-Clarke be elected Chairman of Appeals Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr S Jones be elected Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr N Lacey-Clarke was appointed a Chairman of the Appeals Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr M Roberts that Cllr C Jones be elected Vice-Chairman of the Appeals Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr S Jones be elected Vice-Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr C Jones was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Appeals Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr P Wharf seconded by Cllr M Penfold that Cllr S Flower be elected Chairman of the Staffing Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr J Andrews be elected Chairman of the Staffing Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr S Flower was appointed Chairman of the Staffing Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr E Parker that Cllr P Wharf be elected Vice-Chairman of the Staffing Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr J Andrews be elected Vice-Chairman of the Staffing Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr P Wharf was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Staffing Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr S Jespersen that Cllr E Parker be elected Chairman of the Licensing Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr G Taylor that Cllr J Andrews be elected Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr E Parker was appointed Chairman of the Licensing Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr P Harrison that Cllr C Lugg be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr J Andrews be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr J Andrews was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr L O'Leary that Cllr R Cook be elected Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr S Bartlett be appointed Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr R Cook was elected Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr R Cook that Cllr S Jespersen be elected Vice-Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr S Bartlett be appointed Vice-Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr S Bartlett was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr M Penfold that Cllr S Jespersen be elected Chairman of Northern Area Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Taylor that Cllr R Legg be appointed Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr S Jespersen was appointed Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr B Ridout that Cllr M Penfold be elected Vice-Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr R Legg be elected Vice-Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee.

Upon being put to the vote Cllr M Penfold was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr P Harrison that Cllr T Coombs be elected Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr S Bartlett be elected Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr T Coombs was appointed Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr A Kerby that Cllr C Brooks be elected Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr S Bartlett be elected Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote Cllr S Bartlett was elected Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr S Jespersen that Cllr S Christopher be elected Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning

Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr D Gray be elected Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote and by the Chairman's casting vote, Cllr S Christopher was appointed Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr B Trite that Cllr J Dunseith be elected Vice-Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr D Tooke that Cllr D Gray be elected Vice-Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning Committee.

**Upon being put to the vote, Cllr D Gray was elected Vice-Chairman of the Western & Southern Area Planning Committee.**

Decision

- (a) That the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees and joint committees, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2019/20.
- (b) That authority be delegated to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to appointments.
- (c) That the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen appointments be approved.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	J Haynes	Vice-Chairman	A Kerby
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People Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	J Somper	Vice-Chairman	M Penfold
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Place Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	D Turner	Vice-Chairman	C Brooks
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Resource Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	P Brown	Vice-Chairman	M Parkes
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Audit & Governance Committee

Chairman	Matt Hall	Vice-Chairman	R Biggs
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Appeals Committee

Chairman	N Lacey-Clarke	Vice-Chairman	C Jones
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Staffing Committee

Chairman	S Flower	Vice-Chairman	P Wharf
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Licensing Committee

Chairman	E Parker	Vice Chairman	J Andrews
Strategic Planning Committee			
Chairman	R Cook	Vice-Chairman	S Bartlett
Northern Area Planning Committee			
Chairman	S Jespersen	Vice-Chairman	M Penfold
Eastern Area Planning Committee			
Chairman	T Coombs	Vice-Chairman	S Bartlett
Western & Southern Planning Committee			
Chairman	S Christopher	Vice-Chairman	David Gray

- (d) That authority be delegated to the harbour committee members to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Harbour Committee at their first meeting following the meeting of Annual Council.

**11. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Joint Bodies, Working Groups and Panels**

The council considered a report that sought the appointment of councillors to outside bodies, joint bodies and other working groups and panels.

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr P Wharf

Decision

- (a) That the appointment of councillors to joint bodies and other significant bodies at Appendix 1 of the report, in accordance with political proportionality, be approved;
- (b) That delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments and to fill vacancies where appropriate;
- (c) That the appointment of councillors to local member positions at Appendix 3 be approved and
- (d) That a fundamental review of appointments be undertaken by a Task & Finish Group comprising five members, to be nominated by Group Leaders, and for the review to be reported back to Council on 17 October 2019.

**12. Amendment to Wool Parish Council Precept and Council Tax Charges**

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Change reported that the Shadow Council had received and considered a report at its meeting on 20 February 2019, on the proposed budget for 2019/20.

Unfortunately, there had been a drafting error within the report and the wrong precept and Council Tax charges were shown for the parish of Wool. The tables as set out in 1.2 of the report corrected this error.

Decision

That the corrected precept and charges, as set out in the tables at 1.2 of the report to Full Council of 16 May 2019, be approved.

**13. Questions from Councillors**

Cllr N Ireland and Cllr C Sutton asked questions of the Leader of the Council. The questions and responses are attached to these minutes at Appendix 2

**14. Urgent items**

There were no further urgent items to report.

**Appendix 1 Public Participation - Questions and Answers**  
**Appendix 2 Councillor Questions and Answers**

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.50 pm

**Chairman**

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### Questions for Full Council 16 May 2019

#### Questions and Statements from members of the public

##### 1. Mr Alistair Chisholm - Question

"Since the 'ALL for Dorset' group of Independent councillors are mindful that

(a) a Referendum on Council Governance was held in West Dorset in 2014,

(b) the West Dorset electorate voted convincingly by 2:1 (16,534 to 8,811) to change the one-party WDDC Executive Committee, or 'Cabinet', to a mixed-party Strategy Committee to reflect, far more democratically, the make-up of the full Council,

(c) the Executive Committee, or 'Cabinet', will be the most important policy-making committee of this new Council and should therefore reflect, as far as possible, the composition of the new Council, and

(d) the great majority of the Dorset Council electorate will share this latter view,

(1) what principles have guided, or will guide, the selection of the Executive Committee, or 'Cabinet', of the new, unitary Dorset Council?, and (2) has this decision already been made and, if so, what is that decision and what principles were applied in its making?"

##### Response from the Leader of Council:-

"The Order which established the new Dorset Council was very clear in requiring that the Council should adopt the Leader and Executive governance model. In the Leader and Executive model the Leader is elected by the full Council. I am extremely grateful for the confidence that fellow councillors have placed in me by electing me as Council Leader.

The Leader and Executive model gives me as Leader personal responsibility for deciding both the areas of responsibility to be filled on my Cabinet and which councillors should be appointed to those areas.

Conservative candidates were successful in being elected to the majority of seats on Dorset Council and I have drawn my Cabinet from the majority group. In making my decisions about areas of responsibility and who should fill them my guiding principles has been to identify not only the best person for the role but also a group of councillors who will be able to work together

effectively as a team. As part of that I believe that particular strength of purpose comes from forming a Cabinet of like-minded councillors drawn from the same political group.

Councillors from all political groups and ungrouped councillors will all play an important part in Dorset Council. I am committed to working with councillors from all groups and this is reflected in the announcement that I have just made about a cross party executive advisory panel to advise the Council on the implications of climate change in Dorset.”

***The following questions all relate to Climate Change, the Chairman will ask all the members of the public to read out their questions/statement and a response will be provided by Ray Bryan after all of the questions/statement have been read out.***

## **2. Mr Philip Jordan - Question**

“Please to help solve the situation incorporating/using as an initial start point Energy Trust advice below\*: can Dorset Council urgently agree an Environment & Climate Change Emergency , together with related solution/s, via sustainably resourced Problem Analysis/Action Plan development Meetings (as A, B or C above or similar – inside Council/out in Community )”

Energy Trust advice\* <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/climate-change-what-can-you-do-help>

## **3. Ms Caz Dennet – Statement on The Case for a Climate Emergency Declaration**

Caz Dennett, on behalf of Extinction Rebellion

The science is clear. It is understood that we are facing an unprecedented global emergency. We are in a life or death situation of our own making. We must act now.

At the end of 2018, the UN Secretary General warned that:

- Humanity and life on Earth now face a ‘direct existential threat’
- The world must act swiftly and robustly to keep global warming under 1.5°Celsius and avoid utterly catastrophic impacts to life on Earth.

Human activities have caused the planet’s average surface temperature to rise about 1.1° since the late 19th century and most of this warming has occurred in the past 35 years.

Maybe 1 and ½ degrees doesn’t sound like much? We are at a tipping point, if we do not act now we seriously risk runaway or uncontrollable climate change. To put this temperature rise into context, for those of you with high school aged children (or grandchildren), the projected temperature rise when your child or grandchild retires is around 5 degrees.

Effects on global human society, if the climate and ecological emergency is not addressed, may spiral out of control.

- Mass species loss
- Sea level rise and Flooding
- Wildfires
- Water shortage
- Crop failure
- Extreme weather
- Millions of people displaced
- Disease
- Increased risk of wars and conflicts

Please be in no doubt that the **climate and environmental emergency is real.**

A mass extinction event is underway. Many current life forms could be wiped out or at least committed to extinction by the end of this century (when your child or grandchild retires). I think we would all agree **this is not the legacy we want future generations to inherit from us.**

We need environmental considerations and risk assessments to be **central to Dorset Council's decision making, actions and behaviors.** We need a proactive approach to preventing further environmental harms. If you can see a pipe is leaking flammable liquid, you do not watch and wait to see if it catches fire and only act once it has. But currently our government at all levels is doing precisely this. The pipe is already leaking, we have no time to wait and watch for the disaster to unfold.

This means taking actions and commitments that demonstrate environmental-based decisions, for example:

- Investment and support for **public transport** - we need early action to reinstate bus services that have been cut in recent years.
- Action on **air pollution**, such as the ongoing situation on Boot Hill , Rodwell Road in Weymouth where levels of NO2 have regularly exceeded legal limits causing serious harm to resident's health and wellbeing
- Planning consideration for **renewable energy schemes** - Navitus Bay Offshore Wind Park was refused planning in Sept 2015, this was a decision in the wrong direction to help reduce harmful emissions

We demand Dorset Council **RECOGNISE THE CURRENT CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS BY DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY and ACT NOW** to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

Thank you for listening.

#### **4. Ms Caz Dennett – Question (on behalf of Extinction Rebellion)**

Declaration of a climate emergency in principle

You have kindly listened to the case for Dorset Council to declare a climate emergency.

Does any Councillor deny or doubt the climate crisis we are in, if not will this meeting agree to declare a **climate emergency in principle TODAY** and approve a written motion to formally declare a climate emergency at the earliest opportunity and with a sense of urgency?

## 5. Mr Scott Morrison - Question

West Dorset Friends of the Earth:

You may have received an email from our group recently.

I think everyone in this room is convinced that all of us must change our behavior in response to climate change and biodiversity collapse. So I am asking today that this council like many others in the UK declares a Climate Emergency.

A declaration is a statement of intent: what will our community, our county, look like in 10 years time, what will it look like in 50 years time. The declaration is easier to make than to convert into policies that will sustain us, but first we need that intent.

10 years ago councils were busy enshrining sustainability into their frameworks. If only we had felt the urgency then that we now share. Our responses were not bold enough, we behaved as if we could solve climate change with slight of hand accountancy; that we could still squeeze the last drops of fossil fuels from our land while solving this.

But as someone said a century and a half ago:

The **dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate** to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disentrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

We don't have the luxury any longer to wrap ourselves up in labels of left or right; we need to shed our self-constraints and act to give Greta Turnberg and her generation a future. It is not good enough for our legacy to them to be just an apology.

## **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment**

Recent statements and reports by both the Committee on Climate change and the UK Parliament have all highlighted the significant concerns and risks associated with climate change to our environment, our society and our economy.

As the new Dorset Council, we have an opportunity and an obligation to demonstrate leadership - thinking globally about the implications of climate change and acting locally to help address them in our communities.

Councils in Dorset have historically taken some large steps. We have the most energy-efficient schools in the country and Dorset was an early adopter of low-energy street lights. We need to continue this good work but in doing so we need to be more ambitious and implement new initiatives to bring about significant reductions in our carbon emissions.

The crucial need to tackle climate change is something that we can all agree upon. It is an issue which transcends party politics and after discussions with the other Cllrs we have agreed on the need to create a cross-party Panel on Climate Change. That Panel, led by myself as Environment Portfolio holder, will have the task of developing policy for Dorset Council. That policy needs to take into account:

- the most recent science
- the recommendations of the UK Committee on Climate Change
- and the national approach

but it also needs to reflect the particular concerns about and the impacts of climate change upon our own communities in Dorset.

The Executive Advisory Panel will report back to the Council and the Cabinet on progress and the development of the policy.

I am committed to putting sustainability at the heart of the organisation. I hope that you will support us in putting Dorset at the forefront of councils working to tackle climate change.

## **6. Mr Phillip Jordan**

“Please to also help solve the situation can Dorset Council reconsider the 3,500 new homes proposed for just North of Dorchester, made in 2018’s LPR Preferred Options: with all due respect, these proposals fail in Heritage & many “Environmental” ways, as they just stretching the built Environment in the same old same old way, as over a century ago led Octavia Hill to be one of 3 founders of the National Trust e.g.

Among unanswered queries they raise, LPRPO proposals like “Norchester” (& elsewhere in Dorset), don’t tackle the Environment & Climate Change crisis e.g. though use of floors over shops is in the LPR, there’s an unmet need for active official promotion of say  
- residential use of the many under used upper floors above Dorchester shops, & land used or zoned for things other than housing!

Similarly, 2018’s LPR Preferred Options have little on utilising/maximising use of the currently under used existing Rail network e.g.  
- relating new development to the Railway & adjacent brown-field land;

- encouraging much better use of the existing Rail infrastructure + walking & cycle (& other public transport) routes promoting healthy exercise, greater biodiversity & less carbon costs & impact!”

ADAPT = A Dorset Action Plan Together to help solve the Environment & Climate Change Emergency

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning**

The Dorset Council is required to have a new local plan, covering the whole area, in place by April 2024, and the Shadow Executive Committee agreed in February that the Council should aim to have this adopted by April 2023. A report on the programme for its preparation will be brought to Cabinet at the end of June.

The new local plan will need to provide for the housing numbers generated by the national standard methodology for the area. It is also possible that it will need to provide for housing need that cannot be met in adjoining council areas.

Work on the new plan will include reviewing all the options that have been previously considered, to decide on the most appropriate distribution of development across the council area. It is however already clear that the housing needs cannot all be met through the efficient use of land within the urban areas, and that further greenfield development will be required as well.

Sustainable development is the aim of the planning system, and factors such as accessibility by public transport, walking and cycling, and impact on biodiversity, will be important considerations in making decisions about the location of development. Concentrating development at the larger settlements with more facilities and public transport, such as Dorchester, is likely to be more sustainable. The text in the 2018 local plan consultation document relating to the North Dorchester development refers to creating easy access for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing carbon emissions from buildings, and enhancement of biodiversity as part of the development.

### **7. Sara Greenhalf**

With Aspirations Academy Trust, currently running with insufficient reserves, and with the situation at Atlantic Academy - Allstars nursery provision under threat of closure due to profitability and a drop in numbers attending the school, which has led to a drop in the PAN - how does this bode for Budmouth College's future?

Job losses are imminent at Budmouth, with redundancies paid for by Dorset Unitary. The curriculum is under threat of loss of subjects. No Ofsted inspections have been carried out since September.

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Years**

All Stars is the Atlantic breakfast and after school club for children from reception year upwards. This provision is certainly under threat of closure, but Dorset Council has no information on what this might mean for the future of Budmouth College. The circumstances surrounding the College are very different to the All Stars situation and it is very difficult to draw conclusions at this stage. It is, however, apparent that closure could impact on Atlantic's intake as parents may chose this school because this provision enables them to work.

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### Councillor Questions and Responses

#### Question from Cllr N Ireland

As the parent of two children who excelled recently at Budmouth College, and the representative of both staff at the school and the parents of children attending Budmouth who reside in Crossways Ward, I am extremely concerned that a setting, which was admittedly struggling following the departure of the last permanent Head Teacher but has now turned the corner and is well on its way back up to the almost stratospheric levels it had previously attained, is seemingly being forced into becoming an Academy.

I also note that the Multi-Academy Trust which is intending to take over the school, which has admitted it has a daily shortfall in meeting its running costs and states in its last Annual Report the intention to only expand by assimilating existing Academies or Free schools, has recently taken over two 'failing' schools and now got Budmouth in its sights.

An FOI to the Interim Executive Board of Budmouth College confirmed that the outstanding debt of the school would be met by Dorset Council upon academisation, and that debt was confirmed by the Finance Officer of the IEB as currently being circa £400k.

It seems perverse that the council tax of Dorset Council residents should be spent on handing over a historically successful school with valuable assets to a private concern.

Can the Leader confirm that the debt of Budmouth will be met by the taxpayer and also that the cost of the recently announced redundancies (and those yet to come before September 2019) will also be accrued to that debt?

#### Response from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Years

Budmouth College is currently a foundation school. Foundation schools are not under the direct control of Dorset Council. The running of the school, including finances, building assets and other key decisions such as curriculum and employment of staff were the responsibility of the college governors.

Budmouth College was directed by Ofsted to academise under the Education and Inspection Act due to their poor inspection outcome in July 2018. Although the revisit in January 2019 identified some improvements, it is very rare that an order to academise is revoked.

Section 5b Academies Act 2010 states the local authority must take reasonable steps to convert the school to academy. Dorset Council are legally bound to cooperate, our powers are limited and any attempt to stop academisation would likely be overruled by the Secretary of State. Essentially,

the decision to academise Budmouth College was not the Council's decision to make or change.

The decision to choose Aspirations Multi Academy Trust was made by the Regional Schools Commissioner, with input from the interim executive board, who have replaced the governors and are overseeing the transition of the school to the Academy.

Because Budmouth College has Foundation status, the local authority has a duty to pick up the debt of the school at transfer. Regarding the cost of the restructure, this is subject to a cabinet decision in June.

In the spirit of cross-party co-operation, I would like to extend an invitation to Cllr Ireland to meet with Officers and myself, in order to provide a fuller briefing on a broader perspective regarding academisation of Budmouth College.

### **Question from Cllr C Sutton**

I recently met with a group of parents who are extremely concerned at what they see as the forced academisation of Budmouth College in Weymouth and the potential impact that this might have on students. My children also attend Budmouth, and I share many of their concerns. My questions are as follows:

1. If the school is taken over by Aspirations Academy Trust, how will this impact upon Dorset Council's ability to help Budmouth drive up both educational and welfare standards, including for SEND students?
2. The evidence suggests that Academies do not out-perform Local Authority controlled schools, but they clearly have less democratic control. Why would Local Authorities wish to advance this agenda if there is no demonstrable evidence that it improves standards?

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Years**

1. Budmouth College is currently a foundation school. Foundation schools are not under the direct control of the Council, the running of the school, including finances, building assets and other key decisions such as curriculum and employment of staff are the responsibility of the Governors. Dorset Council has, however, been working with the College to address the issues raised by the Ofsted inspection that took place in May 2018.

Responsibility for educational and welfare standards at Budmouth Academy will fall to Aspirations Academy Trust and the Regional Schools Commissioner. Dorset Council will continue to track progress but will not have direct involvement. This is the same as a foundation school. SEND students on an Educational and Health Care Plan

(EHCP) are monitored and reviewed as individuals. This will not change when the College becomes an Academy.

2. Budmouth College was directed by Ofsted to academise under the Education and Inspection Act due to their poor inspection outcome in July 2018. Although the revisit in January identified some improvements, it is very rare that an order to academise is revoked.

Section 5b Academies Act 2010 states the local authority must take reasonable steps to convert the school to academy. The Council are legally bound to cooperate, our powers are limited and any attempt to stop academisation would likely be overruled by the secretary of state. Essentially, the decision to academise Budmouth College was not the Council's decision to make or change. This is the only reason why Dorset Council would advance the academy agenda.

I would like to extend an invitation to Cllr Sutton to meet with me and senior officers at the earliest opportunity following Council. This is in order to be able to provide a fuller briefing on some of the wider implications of academisation.

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