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DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022

Present: Cllrs Tony Alford, Mike Barron, Richard Biggs, Cherry Brooks, Alex Brenton, Piers Brown, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Robin Cook, Jean Dunseith, Matthew Hall, Paul Harrison, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Robin Legg, Jon Orrell, Emma Parker, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Maria Roe, Jane Somper, Clare Sutton, David Taylor, David Tooke, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams, John Worth, Jill Haynes, Mike Parkes (Vice-Chairman), Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Tony Ferrari, Beryl Ezzard, Andrew Starr, Derek Beer, David Walsh, Cathy Lugg, Toni Coombs, Gill Taylor, Barry Goringe, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Pauline Batstone, Tim Cook, Nick Ireland, Paul Kimber, Laura Miller, David Morgan, Louie O'Leary, Ray Bryan, Shane Bartlett, Val Potheary (Chairman), Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, Spencer Flower, David Shortell, Susan Cocking, Gary Suttle, Simon Gibson, Bill Trite, Les Fry, Peter Wharf and Rod Adkins

Apologies: Cllrs Jon Andrews, Dave Bolwell, Graham Carr-Jones, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, David Gray and Andy Canning

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

Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Hayley Caves (Member Development and Support Officer), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Louise Drury (Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers) and Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships)

1. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Coombs that Cllr Val Potheary be elected Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Roe that Cllr Beryl Ezzard be elected Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Val Potheary be elected as Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

The Chairman thanked: Cllr Parkes for his support as Vice-chairman during the previous year, the Democratic Services Team Leader, the Democratic Services Team, her Personal Assistant and her partner. She made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chairman gave an update on the refurbishment of the war memorial at County Hall and the forthcoming Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr Potheary, seconded by Cllr Shortell that Cllr Barry Goringe be elected Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Ireland that Cllr Les Fry be elected Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Barry Goringe be elected as Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Cllr Goringe made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the sad death of John Russell, former Councillor for West Dorset District Council.

and

Cllr Bill Pipe had received an invitation to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace which would take place the following week.

6. **Election of Leader of Council**

Proposed by Cllr Wharf, seconded by Cllr Parry that Cllr Spencer Flower be elected Leader of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Flower Spencer be elected as Leader of Council for 2022/23.

7. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of Council, Cabinet/Portfolio Holders and Lead Members**

The Leader reported that there were no changes to the appointments of Deputy Leader, Members of Cabinet and Lead Members.

8. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members

The Leader of Council presented his bulletin and highlighted the headlines as follows:

Mission Statement – A two-year plan setting out our priorities for 2022 to 2024.

The vision for 2022 – 2024 was to focus on the following ten priorities:

Dorset Local Plan

Housing for local people.

Adult social care

Children's services

Assets and Property

Working with the integrated care system

Climate and ecological strategy

Community safety

County deal

Digital innovation

Council members commented on the need to be bold with regeneration for the benefit of constituents and the need for more affordable housing.

9. Public Participation - Questions and Statements

Public questions, statements and the responses from the Leader of the Council or the appropriate portfolio holder are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

10. Public participation - petitions and deputations

There were no petitions or deputations.

11. Questions from Councillors

There were three questions received from councillors. A copy of the questions and the responses were attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

12. Appointments to Committees, Joint Panels and Boards and Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

The Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic introduced the report which confirmed the allocation of committee seats, delegated authority to group leaders to make changes to appointments and nominations for Chair and Vice Chair's.

Proposed by Cllr Flower, seconded by Cllr Fry.

Decision:

- (a) That the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees, joint panels and boards, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3 of the report.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to committee, panel and board appointments.
- (c) That the nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen for 2022/23 be approved as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

13. Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke and seconded by Cllr Les Fry. Supported by Cllrs John Worth, Val Potheary, Tony Ferrari, Kate Wheller, Cherry Brooks, Mike Parkes, Spencer Flower, Rob Hughes, Susan Cocking, Toni Coombs, Graham Carr-Jones, Sherry Jespersen, Ray Bryan, Simon Christopher, Barry Goringe, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Andrew Parry, Jane Somper, David Shortell and Paul Harrison.

Notice of Motion

“We must always support our democracy by ensuring the rights to peaceful protest are respected. However, the behaviour of two climate protesters at Full Council on the 14 April 2022 ruined the potential for an active debate by elected members, prevented any further amendments to the motion being put forward and encroached on the safety of members and officers of this council. The security of those in public office has very largely been self-policed through common decency and respect for the rule of law. Recent events across the country and in this Council chamber have caused concern and anxiety for the safety of those in public life who, abide by the principles of democracy and are elected to represent the interests of the people of Dorset.

Security measures will now need to be stepped up to protect elected members and officers of this council from a repeat of any unauthorised public access to the council chamber, which will sadly be at a cost to the local taxpayer.

The Motion:

That members of Dorset Council condemn the behaviour of those who disrupted the Full Council meeting on Thursday 14 April.”

Cllr Robin Legg proposed, Cllr Nick Ireland seconded the following amendment:

“That members of Dorset Council whilst regretting the behaviour of those who disrupted the full council meeting on Thursday 14th April are critical of the leadership of the authority who allowed such disruption to take place and used this interference with the democratic process as an opportunity to curtail debate.”

There was a short comfort break while the legitimacy of the amendment was confirmed with the Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic.

On returning to the Chamber the Chairman confirmed that the amendment was legitimate.

Members debated the amendment

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

The debate continued and a number of views were expressed by members both in support and against the motion.

Proposed by Cllr Harrison. In accordance with procedure rule 19.6 a recorded vote was taken.

Those who voted in favour of the Motion: Cllrs: Rod Atkins, Anthony Alford, Michael Barron, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Simon Christopher, Susan Cocking, Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Jean Dunseith, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Barry Gorringer, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Robert Hughes, Carole Jones, Sherry Jespersen, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Cathy Lugg, Laura Miller, Louis O’Leary, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Valerie Potheary, Byron Quayle, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Jane Somper, Gary Suttle, William Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller and John Worth.

Those who voted against the Motion: Cllrs: Belinda Bawden, Richard Biggs, Kelvin Clayton, Tim Cook, Beryl Ezzard, Brian Heatley, Ryan Hope, Nick Ireland, Stella Jones, Paul Kimber, Robin Legg, Howard Legg, David Morgan, Jon Orrell, Molly Rennie, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr, Clare Sutton, David Taylor, Gill Taylor and Sarah Williams.

Those who abstained: Cllrs Derek Beer, Alex Brenton, Matt Hall, Ryan Holloway and David Tooke.

Following a recorded vote, 47 for, 21 against and 5 abstentions the Motion was carried.

Decision: that members of Dorset Council condemned the behaviour of those who disrupted the Full Council meeting on Thursday 14 April.

14. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

15. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Appendix 1 - Public Questions
Appendix 2 Councillor Questions

Duration of meeting: 6.00 - 9.15 pm

Chairman

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Annual Meeting of Council 12 May 2022

Questions and Statements submitted for the Public Participation Period

Question 1 – submitted by Alistair Chisholm - read by Neil Matthews

In an email, dated 28th April 2022, written to all those invited to the second HYAS master planning workshop for the North Dorchester Garden Community, Wessex Water stated the following:

1.(We) are still not satisfied that risks to Eagle Lodge, a major strategic public drinking water supply source, can be mitigated..... “

and

2. “major development in a source protection zone can result in significant water quality deterioration in the aquifer.....serious pollution may render the source unusable.....”

and

3. "Significant investment is likely to be required to serve the site,
including new service reservoirs."

In view of these damning comments, and the massive costs involved in providing suitable mitigation measures to ensure the continued supply of healthy drinking water to the town, why is this Council continuing to spend public money on the DOR 13 site which is clearly and fundamentally flawed?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Any major proposed development will have substantial issues that need to be resolved before it can be approved. This is an important part of devising the Plan as we work with key stakeholders to identify challenges and look to address concerns.

The Council has yet to endorse any specific aspects of the Local Plan and would not do so until asked to support the final draft for submission to the Secretary of State.

However, all decisions need to be supported by appropriate evidence, and we will continue to work with Wessex Water in investigating the issues that they have raised.

Question 2 – submitted by Rob Pearce on behalf of the Dorset Equality Group

Dorset Equality Group's question is to ask what progress is being made in implementing the Real Living Wage as the baseline staff employment rate.

As a group we are aware of the debates initiated by Councillors Nick Ireland and David Gray surrounding the Council's current pay structure, especially at the top and bottom of the scale. It is more than just our contention, there is a growing body of evidence, that the

pernicious effects of inequality impact heavily on happiness, health, housing and many other areas of life and that they affect us **all**.

We applaud the tenacity, flexibility and service to the people of Dorset which Dorset Council has demonstrated throughout the pandemic. The contribution of staff undertaking essential, but in the past relatively unrecognised, roles has been widely appreciated by Dorset residents and we urge Dorset Council to become in the very near future a Real Living Wage employer and to be in a position to promote widely the benefits of a more equitable wage structure.

We recognise the huge burdens placed on local authorities to fulfil their statutory obligations with diminishing resources in real terms, but we know too that economic, health and social crises provide unmissable opportunities for imaginative policy formation and implementation. It is our view that now is the time for Dorset Councillors, council officers and staff, trades unions, staff associations and Dorset residents to design such a policy and to see it to implementation. Not only will baseline pay increase, but so too will morale, productivity, local purchasing power and the example set to the private sector.

Dorset, despite all that it offers in terms of quality of life, has some of the highest indicators of inequality in the UK with often exorbitant urban housing costs; isolation and expensive, but frequently poor, public transport links in rural areas; and insecure and seasonal employment in seaside towns.

Let's secure for Dorset not only a highly valued quality of life but also the consideration and respect which the lowest paid deserve, alleviating some of their anxieties about the cost of enjoying life in Dorset.

Thank you very much.

Response by Cllr Jill Haynes

The majority of Dorset Council's pay rates are set through national pay bargaining.

The national local government employers are seeking to increase the lowest pay point, over a period, to achieve the Real Living Wage. As the Council is committed to national bargaining then it is right that we support the national employers in their endeavours.

The pace of Dorset Council's movement towards the Real Living Wage will therefore be determined through national negotiations

Question 3 & 4 – submitted by Dr Sandra Reeve on behalf of Dorset Climate Action Network (Question to be read by Giles Watts from Dorset Action Network)

Dorset Council needs to be seen to operate fairly and to set high standards in public office. **Dorset Climate Action Network** is therefore very disappointed at the way the motion on UK energy self-sufficiency (Agenda 13) was handled at the Full Council meeting on 14th April.

It was clear that there were strong feelings in the chamber about this motion which included the proposal: 'Mindful of the current experience of global conflict and uncertainty, Dorset Council urges the Government to introduce an energy policy with the principal objective of securing permanent UK energy self-sufficiency from as early a date as possible, ***utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK are necessary to***

this end'. This proposal ignores both the recommendations of the IPPC report and Dorset Council's own Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

Following the disruption by protesters, the meeting was moved to another room, where a vote was taken **with no debate permitted, apart from the words of the proposer and the seconder which were delivered before the disruption**.

We note the actions by the two protesters calling themselves Grannies for the Future. However Dorset Council's response to the protest was disappointing. By hurrying through the vote of such a key motion without public discussion and behind closed doors, the Council has stifled an important debate in the face of climate change and clearly failed to respect the principles of democracy, thereby damaging the Council's democratic reputation.

We call on the Council to deem the vote on the motion Agenda 13 null and void and bring the motion back to a future meeting so that it can be openly debated in public before a second vote is taken. We gather that this is possible if 24 members provide notice of a revised motion.

Question 1: Will the Chair please give their reasons for moving to an immediate vote on Agenda 13 without debate, rather than adjourning the vote to another occasion, which they could have chosen to do?

Question 2: We hope Dorset Council agrees that our energy and climate security is important enough to require a proper public debate; if so will the Council bring the motion back to a future meeting as this appears to us to be the most equitable way forward?

Response by Cllr Val Pothecary

In the introduction to their questions Dorset Climate Action Network merely **note** the actions by the two protesters who disrupted the last Full Council meeting and they then go on to criticise the Council for what they say was a failing to respect the principles of democracy.

Noting the actions of the protesters is not good enough. What the protesters did was a deliberate attempt to prevent a democratic vote from taking place. It resulted in disruption to our meeting, it resulted in the police having to be called out and it is now resulting in council tax payers having to meet the cost of additional security measures for our meetings, tonight and in the future.

The question describes the vote as having taken place behind closed doors. That is not true. The disruption by the protesters meant that we had to reconvene in a different room but I did not re-start the meeting until members of the public were present, as we are obliged to do.

In fact it was the very presence of the three members of the public that influenced my decision. They had been in the gallery with the two protesters and having just witnessed such an extraordinary event I was most concerned that no further incidents occurred – who knew what might still happen!? So for reasons of members and officers safety I took the decision to forgo the usual debate and move straight to a vote. Yes, I could have adjourned the meeting, but I did not wish the protesters to succeed in preventing a democratic vote from taking place.

I was supported in my decision by both the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer. Debate was curtailed because of the actions of the protesters but my decision was to ensure that a democratic vote took place on an item that was included on our agenda to be decided that evening.

Questions, answers, motions and updates relating to climate feature regularly on our agendas and I expect that will continue. The Leader's motion to our last meeting was agreed and it stands now as a decision of the Council and has been enacted.

Question 5 & 6 – submitted by Caz Dennett XR, Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland

On the 4th April 2022 UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres said:

“We are on a pathway to global warming of more than double the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris. Some Government and business leaders are saying one thing, but doing another. Simply put, they are lying. And the results will be catastrophic. This is a climate emergency.

Climate scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts. But, high-emitting Governments and corporations are not just turning a blind eye, they are adding fuel to the flames.

They are choking our planet, based on their vested interests and historic investments in fossil fuels, when cheaper, renewable solutions provide green jobs, energy security and greater price stability.

Climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals. But, the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels [which include the UK].

Investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness.

We must triple the speed of the shift to renewable energy.

Leaders must lead.

If you live in a big city, a rural area or a small island State; if you invest in the stock market; if you care about justice and our children's future; demand an end to all fossil fuel subsidies.”

Is Antonio Guterres, the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change wrong to say we must prevent all new oil & gas extraction, including here in Dorset?

Question 2

Three years ago Dorset Council declared we are in a climate emergency, yet last month passed a motion to support new oil & gas extraction including here in Dorset, and continues to invest £41 million of our Dorset Pension Fund in fossil fuels.

Does Dorset Council understand you are saying one thing and doing another, and displaying the moral and economic madness Mr Guterres refers to?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

If I may, I would like to answer your questions together as one is relate to the other.

Dorset Council has committed to the leadership required to deliver the aspirations of the climate and ecological strategy, working across multiple systems and partnerships. The council has significant tools and levers that it can utilise to help us on this journey, but it cannot deliver the change required on its own. As with any change of this scale, there will out of necessity be a period of transition where energy, transport and other key systems decarbonise, and wider behavioural change reduces our environmental impact. Reducing

the discussion to a simple binary set of choices minimises the scale and scope of the challenges that we all face within society. We are all facing a huge challenge to make the necessary changes, and therefore I have committed to continue dialogue with government and other key partners and communities to investigate how we can remove barriers and empower councils like Dorset to make decisions on their energy needs. I have always been open for dialogue on how we can work on accelerating the transition, and concrete ideas that are cognisant of the complexity of delivering on our aspirations that understand the role of local government are always welcome.

Dorset Council has delegated its responsibilities as an administering authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to the Pension Fund Committee which has a duty to scheme members and their employers to ensure that the contributions they pay into the pension fund are invested appropriately to make returns sufficient to meet the fund's obligations to pay pensions and other benefits.

In September 2020, the Pension Fund Committee agreed a strategy not to divest completely from companies involved in the sourcing and refining of fossil fuels but instead to seek to reduce investment in all high carbon emitting companies and to influence the demand for fossil fuels and their financing, not just their supply. Significant decarbonisation has been and will continue to be achieved through the transition of assets to the management of Brunel Pension Partnership, the pension fund's LGPS investment pooling manager. 10% of the pension fund's assets are now invested in Brunel's sustainable equities fund and all other actively managed Brunel funds are committed to a policy of a 7% year on year reduction in their carbon footprint."

Question 7 – submitted by Giles Watts

My wife and I are lucky enough to be hosting two lovely Ukrainian Families who are seeking sanctuary from the war. They are two women in their 30s and three children aged 5, 8 and 8. Both families are from Kharkiv which has been largely destroyed by Russian forces. At the start of the war they spent their first week cowering in an unlit cellar beneath a Barber's shop before escaping to Poland. The Polish welcomed them in without any delays and quickly allocated them a single room in a large apartment block in Katowice along with many other refugee families.

The families arrived in Dorchester on Friday after a 5-week struggle to obtain visas. Two of the children did not have passports and had to travel to Warsaw for biometrics (photos and fingerprinting). Despite intervention from Chris Loder's team – for which we are grateful – the last visa for the 8-year-old boy was not granted until Wednesday evening just hours before flying. The stress levels have been very high and our first hand experience of the Home Office's visa system has been a shameful disgrace.

Local support in Dorset has been fabulous and heart-warming with everyone wanting to help with everything including phone chips, clothing, events and even offers of monetary support. it is truly the kindness of strangers. Dorset council have also supported us in a number of ways. DBS checks and a safety check of our property have both been carried out with common sense and efficiency, while your helpline and welcome packs were well received although ultimately less useful than local networks such as "Help for Kindness" in Weymouth.

School places are our first priority and we were surprised that schools have not been provided with any additional resources and many are already full. We have been incredibly lucky. The Prince of Wales School in Dorchester under their inspirational head, Gary Spracklen, agreed to take in the children immediately, and has provided them with free

second hand school uniforms and allocated them with school meals out of their own budget until universal credit is confirmed.

For the mothers, the next stage may prove to be even more difficult. They need to sign up for medical and dental services and they need a bank account before they can apply for universal credit and child benefit which we have been informed will take at least 6 weeks and may require originals of documents they do not have. Until then, they will have almost no funds coming in. To work, they must also apply for a National Security number which we hear can be very tricky and time-consuming.

Question

We believe Dorset Council is receiving £10,500 from the government for every Ukrainian refugee. Out of this the Ukrainians receive £200 each on a pre-paid card and the Host families receive £350 per month. How do Dorset Council intend to spend the remaining funds? We wondered whether some should go to local schools that take on refugee children to provide additional staffing and resources and whether the council might also support language classes for both refugees and host families.

Response by Cllr Laura Miller

We thank Giles for their response and indeed offer our thanks to all hosts in Dorset. We are humbled by the wonderful warm welcome being provided to Ukrainian refugees by Dorset residents.

We recognise the challenges that people are facing in receiving their visas and share your appreciation of the work our local MPs have been doing to help address these issues with the Home Office.

The support from Dorset Council and partners, including 'Help and Kindness' and Volunteer Centre Dorset, who are undertaking the DBS checks on our behalf is coordinated through our Dorset Together network so I am pleased to hear how well this has worked. It is a strong multi-agency partnership that continues to respond to questions and emerging needs at both county and local level.

We are coordinating admissions to schools through our school admissions team and can confirm that 27 schools across the county have welcomed children or are in the process of welcoming children.

The council is due to receive funding based on a formula of £10,500 per guest arriving through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This funding is being used to deliver the requirements of the Homes for the Ukraine scheme in the following ways:

- Undertaking the suitability checks for hosts including accommodation and DBS checks
- Set up our call centre response and undertaking the administration of payments to hosts
- Making interim payments to guests
- Providing guest welfare checks through in person visits once they have arrived
- Meeting any care or support needs of guests
- Helping guests settle if they wish to remain here
- Supporting voluntary and community organisations that are supporting hosts and guests

- Helping guests if initial accommodation arrangements don't work
- Supporting integration

I can confirm that there is a separate funding scheme for schools and early years settings. The council has agreed to release this funding as quickly as possible to settings as children arrive.

- £3,000 per child for Early Years settings for children accepting children aged 2 to 4 years
- £6,580 per child for Primary schools
- £8,755 per child for Secondary schools

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Annual Meeting of Council 12 May 2022

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Maria Roe

In May 2019 Dorset Council declared not only a climate change emergency but also an ecological emergency. Dorset Council has many opportunities to show leadership on strengthening and protecting the natural environment.

Since November 2019 I have been trying to find out what Dorset Council's policy is on the use of glyphosate. I have had many discussions and emails with officers and I have had many different and conflicting responses. Some officers tell me that glyphosate is only used under statute to maintain hard surfaces and highways and used in exceptional circumstances to control pervasive weeds such as Japanese knotweed.

In November 2021 at the Places and Resources Scrutiny Committee the Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Strategy Progress report stated definitively that glyphosate will now only be used as a management tool for highway verges. However, this is quite clearly not the case as glyphosate is used on SANGs quite liberally. Where I live it has been sprayed down by the riverbank, around drain covers, 2 foot strips around a children's play area, around information boards, around the base of trees. I have been told that using Roundup ProVantage, which is readily available in supermarkets, will not have an adverse impact on bees and other insects, animals, or people. The last email I received stated that the Roundup herbicide has been one of the most trusted herbicides in the world for more than 35 years.

The reality is that it is highly toxic, and the science is being undermined. In 2020 and 2021 a landmark court cases have been taking place in the United States against Monsanto and the new owner Bayer. Settlements of 100,000 Roundup lawsuits of \$10.9 billion and \$2 billion for personal injury have been made for people suffering from cancer.

Professor Dave Goulson from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Sussex has for many years warned of the dangers of using glyphosate. The University of Birmingham published research in December 2020 where they tested keystone species and found that even at approved regulatory levels glyphosate causes significant DNA damage, embryonic development failure and interferes with the metabolism and gut function of animals.

My question is - what is Dorset Council's policy on the use of glyphosate?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Dorset Council take the health of our residents seriously and complies with all current National regulations and guidelines in the use of glyphosate. We actively aim to reduce herbicide use and to use mechanical control methods wherever practicable.

Supplementary Question - Cllr Maria Roe

Many councils have stopped using Roundup because of the ecological emergency. Governments are notoriously behind the curve recognising dangers – you only have to look back at the 1960s and 1970s to see how powerful the tobacco industry used

to be. Think about how asbestos used to be thought of as safe, and more recently the deadly cladding on Grenfell tower.

But, we have a growing body of caselaw from the United States and most importantly we have the scientific evidence to show us how harmful glyphosate is.

My question requires a yes or no answer. Is Dorset Council willing to risk a law suit for using glyphosate?

Cllr Ray Bryan advised he would speak to the Legal Team and respond in due course.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Kelvin Clayton

The Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy states that it “has a key role in lobbying government for clear policy and financial support required for the transition to a zero-carbon future”. The Notice of Motion, proposed by the Leader of the Council, and approved at the last Council, calls for the Council to urge “the Government to introduce an energy policy with the principal objective of securing energy self-sufficiency from as early a date as possible, utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK are necessary to this end”. Unless the latter is restricted zero-carbon energy, how does it intend to do both?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

The motion presented by the Leader and approved at last Full Council is not in conflict with the Climate Strategy. We are recognising that there is a need for a period of transition from a reliance on fossil fuels to an energy network that is fully resourced by renewable energy. It is clear that industrial and manufacturing machinery, transport and many other aspects of our daily lives will require oil-based products for a period of time until a transition can be made to alternatives. With current uncertainties and reliance on oil and gas from other countries it makes sense for our country to become more self-sufficient in this regard.

Following the debate at the last Full Council meeting, the Council Leader wrote to The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth & Climate Change expressing the need for energy self-sufficiency utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK as are necessary to this end, including wind, solar and hydrogen. This letter emphasised the need for government to meet its declared 2050 net zero carbon target.

Following COP 26 in Glasgow last year I sent a letter to central government expressing amongst other things the need for processes to be simplified to encourage the development of more renewable energy installations in the UK. I pointed out that it is unnecessarily difficult to set up solar arrays, wind farms, and tidal power generation in terms of bureaucracy, funding, and physical infrastructure and that we wanted the government to remove these barriers and empower councils to make their own decisions on how best to address their energy needs.

We are actively lobbying government to encourage renewable energy development but recognising that a period of transition will be necessary to meet our current energy needs. This is why we have set a realistic date for Dorset Council to become carbon neutral.

Our intention has always been and remains to become carbon neutral by 2040 or before and for us to influence and support the wider county meeting this goal by 2050. The motion presented and approved at last Full Council does not change this.

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Belinda Bawden

Article 5.2(b) of the Council's Constitution states that it is the responsibility of the Chairman of Council "to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently with regards to the rights of Members and the interests of the community".

Do these rights of Members include the right to speak in opposition to a Notice of Motion?

Response by Cllr Val Potheary

I believe that this question is alluding to my decision to move to a vote after protesters disrupted our meeting on 14 April.

I take my responsibilities as Chairman of the Council very seriously. As required by the Constitution I work hard to ensure that our business is carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of members and the interests of the community.

There was a motion on our agenda to be decided on 14 April but protesters made a deliberate attempt to disrupt the meeting and to prevent a vote from going ahead.

I moved straight to a vote rather than adjourning to another occasion because I did not wish the protesters to succeed in preventing a democratic vote from taking place that evening.

Sometimes I have to make decisions so that council business can be carried on efficiently and that may include curtailing debate that would otherwise take place. Members might not always agree with my decisions but I do expect them to respect the Chair and to abide by what I have decided.

Question 4 – submitted by Cllr Alex Brenton

Since declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, Dorset Council has made substantial changes to the way the council operates, working towards being Carbon Neutral by **2050**. There is a welcome expansion of renewable energy schemes, the transport fleet is changing the use and procurement of vehicles.

However, there is one area where Dorset is **not** preparing for a low carbon future and that is in Planning Policy and Procedure. We are still permitting new buildings which are not fit for the next 30 years. They are neither Carbon Neutral in building techniques or use by residents.

As a Planning Committee we are constantly told that we **CANNOT demand** Carbon reduction measures as we have **no policy, and we cannot have a Policy until the Local Plan is agreed and accepted and even then it is subject to Government Building regulations which may or may not encourage these measures.**

In our Planning Officers reports we have a nod to Climate Change – usually indicating whether there is a bus service or train station nearby, as though lower car use is the only solution.

If we can ask for biodiversity and environmental surveys, why can we not ask for a Dorset Protocol NOW which demands information before the application is accepted.

On: -

Building techniques which reduce wastage and excess concrete use,

Solar energy capture from roof tiles or garden array,

Passive heat systems – ground or air source heat pumps,

Rainwater collection and storage and reuse,

Permeable outside ground coverings (drives and patios)

Most Councillors on Dorset Planning Committees believe we urgently need a Policy on Carbon Footprint of all new buildings. **When can we expect this to be delivered?**

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Changes to building regulations are coming into place this year, which will introduce more stringent energy efficiency requirements for new dwellings, and further enhancements are due in 2025 when the national Future Homes Standard will be introduced.

We cannot change development plan policy without adopting a new local plan or separate development plan document, which has gone through the statutory preparation process including a public examination. The local plan programme is currently under review and a revised programme has not yet been published.

In the meantime however, officers are carrying out some work on what can be done under the current policy framework, with the aim of developing an interim position statement, based on existing national and local policies but seeking to take as proactive approach as we can.

Question 5 – submitted by Cllr Alex Brenton

Every new building involves more impermeable covered space increasing rainfall run off and every dwelling produces sewage. Natural England is concerned that mitigation measures to stop Eutrophication are not enough, In the meantime, planning permission will only be granted if Dorset Council can be satisfied that it will not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity of a protected habitat as a consequence of the impact of nutrient enrichment upon water quality.

All properties in my ward drain eventually into the Poole Harbour basin. **Can I assume that as our pumping and treatment plant in Lytchett Matravers already overflows regularly and cannot cope with existing flows that NO New Buildings will be permitted in Lytchett Matravers for the foreseeable future?**

Response by Cllr David Walsh

We have adopted policies for mitigation of the effects of Nitrogen on Poole Harbour, which allow development where it makes provision for appropriate mitigation of any adverse effects on protected habitats. Natural England has recently published revised guidance on nutrients matters, suggesting that the impact of Phosphorus on Poole Harbour needs to be considered, in addition to that of Nitrogen, and further work is taking place to work out the implications of this. Development proposals will be refused if they do not provide satisfactory mitigation but can be allowed if they do.

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