

## **DORSET COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs Tony Alford, Jon Andrews, Richard Biggs, Cherry Brooks, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Piers Brown, Graham Carr-Jones, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Robin Cook, Janet Dover, 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, Daryl Turner, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams, John Worth, Jill Haynes, Mike Dyer, Mike Parkes (Vice-Chairman), Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Tony Ferrari, Beryl Ezzard, Andrew Starr, David Walsh, Cathy Lugg, David Gray, Toni Coombs, Gill Taylor, Barry Goringe, Pete Barrow, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Pauline Batstone, Tim Cook, Nick Ireland, Paul Kimber, Laura Miller, David Morgan, Louie O'Leary, Ray Bryan, Val Potheary (Chairman), Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, Spencer Flower, David Shortell, Susan Cocking, Gary Suttle, Roland Tarr, Simon Gibson, Bill Trite, Les Fry, Peter Wharf and Rod Adkins

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mike Barron, Derek Beer, Andy Canning and Shane Bartlett

**Also present:**

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

Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer), 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) and Antony Littlechild (Sustainability Team Manager)

**17. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021 were received and noted.

**18. Declarations of Interest**

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

**19. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the sad death of Alderman Biles who served as a councillor for Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council between 1963 – 1983. Cllr O'Leary was invited to pay tribute to him.

The Chairman also announced the recent death of former Cllr Brierley who served as a councillor at Dorset County Council for 11 year up to 2013. Cllr D Turner and Cllr S Christopher paid tribute to him. There was a minute silence for pay respect and for reflection.

**20. Public Participation - Questions and Statements**

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

**21. Public participation - petitions and deputations**

The Chairman advised that a petition has been received from the STAND group, requesting that the council rejected the inclusion in the local plan of the site north of Dorchester, as a preferred option for major building development. This petition had also been submitted as a duly made representation to the local plan consultation and was being considered alongside all the other responses received during the consultation period.

The petition could not be debated as it related to a planning decision.

Full Council would be making the decision about the content of the plan for the next stage, the publication plan at its meeting in April 2022. This would then be published in May 2022, with the opportunity for people to make comments. All responses made at that stage would be considered by the inspector who will hold the public examination. The STAND petition will be debated at that meeting as part of the Local Plan process.

**22. Questions from Councillors**

There was one question received from Cllr N Ireland. A copy of the question and the response was attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

**23. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members**

The Leader of the Council advised members that his bulletin would be published following the meeting and a few areas that would be included in this were as follows: -

- Update members on the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions
- Update on the creation of the new special school and Centre of Excellence near Shaftesbury.
- The progress of the review of council assets and facilities.
- He reported on a meeting with Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government – Proposed Planning Reforms
- Matt Warman MP visited Dorset and the 5G Rural Dorset project.

In response to a question regarding the calculation of housing numbers and the planning bill, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he did raise concerns with Robert Jenrick. The Portfolio Holder would circulate more details when appropriate.

In response to a question in respect of underfunding of services, the Leader of Council confirmed that he would continue to lobby for a fair deal for Dorset.

#### 24. **Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy**

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment presented the recommendation to adopt the Climate and Ecological Strategy & Action Plan and associated response to the notice(s) of motion of 18 July 2019. This was following Dorset declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019.

In presenting the strategy he advised that it set out key areas where Dorset Council would need to take action to directly reduce carbon emissions to become a carbon neutral Council by 2040 and working with Dorset residents and organisations towards achieving a wider carbon neutral County by 2050. As technologies advanced, he hoped to be able to shorten some of those target dates. He also thanked officers and the Executive Advisory Panel for their work on the document and consultation process.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the report on Climate Change notice(s) of motion tabled by Cllr D Turner and Cllr K Clayton at Dorset Council on 18 July 2019. These were referred to the Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel for consideration. He confirmed that the Strategy and accompanying action plan had been thoroughly researched and costed and set out how all the issues raised in the notice of motions would be addressed.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the strategy and action plan had been considered by the informal meetings of Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2021 and Cabinet on 18 May 2021. He reminded members that the strategy was a living document that would be constantly amended and updated.

The Strategy, Action Plan, and the response to the notices of motion was supported and seconded by Cllr R Hughes.

Members spoke largely in support of the strategy as a realistic approach to climate change and carbon emissions in Dorset and acknowledged that there was still much more to do. The following points, comments and questions were raised: -

- Concern was expressed about the lack of ambition of the document, in response the portfolio holder confirmed that the transforming cities fund would be used to encourage people back to cycling and walking.
- Officers were also engaged with central government to develop a public transport campaign which was at the centre of the ambition for the Dorset Council area.

- Grant funding was time limited, but much work had started and an extension to the time limit has also been sought.
- The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment was working closely with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to address climate issues in the remit of the planning portfolio.
- Recognised that target dates were realistic, but wherever possible dates would be brought forward.

Following discussion, the Chairman asked that the vote be taken on both recommendations together. Upon being put to the vote the “minded to” motion was carried.

The Executive Director for Place advised that he noted the result of the “minded to” vote and confirmed that he had read and considered the report before members. He also acknowledged the comments made by the original proposers of the notices of motion of 18 July 2019 and the views expressed at the informal meetings of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee of 12 May and Cabinet of 18 May 2021. He confirmed that his decision was to adopt the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

#### **Delegated Decision of the Executive Director for Place**

- (a) That the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan be adopted.

#### **Council noted**

- (b) The response of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) in the publication of the draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan addressed the Climate Change Notices of Motion tabled by Cllr Daryl Turner and Cllr Kelvin Clayton at Dorset Council on 18th July 2019.

[Decision - Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](#)

**Reason for the decision:** Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and established an Executive Advisory Panel to strategically guide the Councils response. A draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan was produced and approved for public consultation by Cabinet in October 2020.

## **25. Youth Justice Plan**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help presented the recommendation to adopt the Youth Justice Plan.

This was a PAN Dorset report, which had been considered by People and Health Scrutiny Committee on 20 April 2021 and Cabinet on 18 May 2021.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr B Pipe.

Members welcomed the report and upon being put to the vote, they were “minded to” adopt the Youth Justice Plan.

The Executive Director for People (Children) confirmed that she had taken into account the background information relating to the report and had listened to the debate, noting the “minded to” vote and confirmed her decision was to adopt the Youth Justice Plan.

### **Delegated Decision of the Executive Director of People (Children)**

That the Youth Justice Plan be adopted.

[Decision - Youth Justice Plan - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](http://wdwp.local)

**Reason for the decision:** Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and the National Probation Service Dorset. Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

## **26. Community Governance Review of the Parishes in the Dorset Council area**

The Leader of the Council presented a report on a Community Governance Review of Parishes in the Dorset Council area and proposed the recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr M Roberts.

In response to a question, the Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic confirmed that parish meetings would be reflected within the review process and terms of reference.

Upon being put to the vote the “minded to” decision was to approve the recommendation as set out in the report.

Following the vote, the Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic advised that he taken into account the background information, the report and the point raised at the meeting in respect of parish meetings. His decision was to adopt the Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review of all parishes in the Dorset Council area.

### **Delegated Decision of the Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic**

That the Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review of all parishes in the Dorset Council area be adopted.

[Decision - Community Governance Review of the Parish in the Dorset Council Area - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](#)

**Reason for Recommendation:** To ensure that community governance arrangements within the area under review are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area.

27. **Proposed Dissolution of Chedington Parish Council**

The Leader of the Council presented a report on a request from a parish meeting to dissolve a parish council in advance of the community governance review discussed in the previous item. Cllr S Flower proposed the recommendation as set out in the report.

The local ward member Cllr R Knox seconded the motion. Upon being put to the “minded to” vote the motion was carried. The Corporate Director for Legal and Democratic advised that he had considered the background to this item and listened to the support of the local ward member. He confirmed that his decision was to make the order to dissolve the Chedington Parish Council as detailed in the report.

**Delegated Decision of the Corporate Director of Legal and Democratic**

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| (a) | o make an order under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dissolve the Chedington Parish Council.   | T |
| (b) | o grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the ward member, to enable orders to be made under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 to group, separate or dissolve parish councils without the need for individual decisions by the Full Council. | T |

[Decision - Proposed Dissolution of Chedington Parish Council - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](#)

**Reason for the decision:** Dissolution of the Parish Council has been requested by Chedington Parish meeting.

28. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Maria Roe**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr M Roe and seconded by Cllr B Heatley and supported by: Cllr Paul Kimber, Cllr Brian Heatley (seconder), Cllr Dave Bolwell, Cllr Kate Wheller, Cllr Kelvin Clayton, Cllr Les Fry, Cllr David Tooke and Cllr Roland Tarr.

Notice of Motion

“Government decided to retain the Standard Method formula used to determine housing need for local authorities last year. The formula determines the target for the number of houses Local Authorities must achieve or run the

risk of facing penalties. This formula uses the 2014 household projections which showed a greater population growth than there is now. In fact, Dorset has one of the lowest growth rates in comparison to the rest of England. Using the outdated data set results in an inflated and inaccurate number of houses being planned for Dorset which will put pressure on our Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and on the character of our towns and villages. There is a concern from many residents that excessive growth may be at the expense of local people as well as the environment. There is an obvious need for the right types of housing to be built and for them to be built in the right place - this is not in dispute. Everyone should have a decent place to live, which meets their needs, and that they can afford. We have an opportunity now with the new Local Plan to challenge the target imposed on us to ensure that the number is correct.

Dorset Council therefore resolves to:

- Call on Dorset Council to make the case to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government before the next full council, to use more recent data in their calculations for the target number of houses instead of the outdated 2014 numbers, and to report back to council”.

Members debated the motion and the methodology of housing requirements for the area of Dorset.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **LOST**

29. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr N Ireland seconded by Cllr R Hope and supported by Cllr Andy Canning, Cllr Clare Sutton, Cllr Sarah Williams, Cllr David Taylor, Cllr Jon Orrell, Cllr Peter Barrow, Cllr Gill Taylor, Cllr Howard Legg, Cllr Tim Cook

Notice of Motion

1. That Dorset Council resolves to replace the Leader and Cabinet model of Governance with a Committee system in which seats on committees, including those on a Management Committee, are allocated in accordance with political proportionality.
2. That the change to the Committee system is to take effect from the Annual Meeting of Dorset Council in 2022.
3. That a working group of councillors, nominated by group leaders on a politically proportionate basis, be formed to recommend to Full Council the changes to be made to the Constitution to bring about the change to the Committee system.
4. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to recommend to the Council consequential changes to the scheme of Members' Allowances.

The Leader of the Council proposed an amendment to the motion to delete words in (3) and (4); to change (2) to read “that a review of the current Dorset Council governance model be undertaken during 2023 by a working group of councillors, reflecting political proportionality, and that an options paper be available to inform a governance review following the scheduled elections in 2024. The amendment was seconded by Cllr N Lacey-Clarke.

Councillors debated the amendment and the Leader of the Council asked for a recorded vote on the motion. This was supported by at least 10 councillors.

*In accordance with procedure rule 8.1 and prior to the vote, councillors agreed to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour threshold for the duration of a meeting.*

Those who voted for the amendment: Cllrs Rob Adkins, Anthony Alford, Pauline Batstone, Cherry Brookes, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Graham Carr-Jones, Simon Christopher, Susan Cocking, Robin Cook, Toni Coombes, Jean Dunseith, Michael Dyer, Tony Ferriar, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Barry Goringe, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Rob Hughes, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Noc Lacey-Clarke, Cathy Lugg, Laura Miller, Louie O’Leary, Emma Parker, Mike Parks, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Val Potheary, Byron Quayle, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Gary Suttle, Jane Somper, William Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, John Worth

Those who voted against: Cllrs Jon Andrews, Peter Barrow, Richard Biggs, Dave Howell, Alex Brenton, Kelvin Clayton, Tim Cook, Janet Dover, Beryl Ezzard, David Grey, Matt Hall, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Nick Ireland, Stella Jones, Paul Kimber, Robin Legg, Howard Legg, David Morgan, Jon Orrell, Molly Rennie, Marie Roe, Andrew Starr, Clare Sutton, Roland Tarr, David Taylor, Gill Taylor, David Tooke, Daryl Turner, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams. There were no abstentions.

*The meeting adjourned for a short comfort break at 21.38pm and returned at 21.48pm.*

As part of proposing the following amendment Cllr K Wheller took the opportunity to extend her grateful thanks to the staff for all their hard work during the pandemic.

Amendment

“With the acknowledgement of the staff workload and with grateful thanks to them, it is proposed that a review of the DC governance take place over this current term with a vote to be taken before the 2024 election.” The motion was seconded by Cllr P Kimber and supported by Cllr L Fry.

Councillors debated the amendment before them and upon being put to the vote the “minded to “motion was carried.

Councillors were asked to vote on the substantive “minded to” motion. Upon being put to the vote this was carried.

The Chief Executive advised that he had considered the background information and listened to the debate and the “minded to” decision. He confirmed his decision as set out below.

### **Delegated Decision of the Chief Executive (Substantive)**

With the acknowledgement of staff workload, and with grateful thanks to them, it is proposed that a review of the DC governance take place over this current term with a voting before the 2024 election.

[Decision - Notice of Motion Submitted by Cllr N Ireland \(Committee Governance System\) - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](#)

### 30. **Social Mobility in Dorset**

The Executive Director for Place advised that this report responded to a notice of motion that was presented to Council on 18 July 2019. The matter was considered by the Economic Development Executive Advisory Panel on several occasions between August 2019 and February 2020 and the EAP panel agreed to address social mobility through the Economic Growth Strategy, adopted by Cabinet in July 2020.

The Portfolio Holder for Education, Children, Skills and Early Help proposed the recommendation. Cllr P Barrow seconded the motion.

Councillors discussed the motion and upon being put to the “minded to” vote the motion was carried. The Executive for Place advised that having considered the background and listened to discussion he was decision to approve the recommendations as set out within the report.

### **Delegated Decision of the Executive Director for Place**

- (a) That the Economic Development Strategy approved by Cabinet on 28 July 2020, be welcomed and recognise the important part that the strategy will play in improving social mobility throughout Dorset.
- (b) The lead responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help, be noted and the Executive Director for Place in relation to economic development and for improving social mobility.
- (c) That a strategic alliance be formed with partners and community representatives to build upon the objectives of the Economic Development Strategy by co-producing a targeted plan to improve social mobility in Dorset, be agreed
- (d) That the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee undertake quarterly monitoring of progress towards achieving the objectives of the Economic

Development Strategy and the plan to improve social mobility in Dorset as part of its ongoing performance management scrutiny responsibilities.

[Decision - Social Mobility in Dorset - Dorset Council \(wdwp.local\)](http://wdwp.local)

**Reason for Recommendation:** Improving social mobility aligns with the corporate aims for economic growth and strong healthy communities

31. **Exempt Business**

There were no exempt items.

32. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items to report.

**Appendix 1 Public Participation - Questions**  
**Appendix 2 - Questions for Councillors**

**Duration of meeting:** 6.30 - 10.40 pm

**Chairman**

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