

## **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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