

DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022

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

Apologies: Cllrs Robin Cook, Janet Dover, David Gray, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Howard Legg, Molly Rennie, Julie Robinson and Andrew Starr

Also present remotely: Cllrs Mike Dyer, Paul Kimber, Ryan Holloway and Gill Taylor.

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 and Monitoring Officer), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer)

29. Tributes to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The following councillors paid tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: - Cllr Val Potheary (Chairman), Cllr Spencer Flower, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Clare Sutton, Cllr Les Fry, Cllr Bill Pipe, Cllr David Walsh, Cllr Louie O'Leary, Cllr Mary Penfold and Cllr Belinda Ridout.

This was followed by a minute's silence.

30. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Janet Dover, Molly Rennie, Robin Cook, Howard Legg, David Gray, Mike Dyer, Andrew Starr and Julie Robinson.

31. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

32. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mary Penfold declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of minute 41 because she was the Council's representative on SCOPAC – the Standing Conference on problems associated with the Coastline. She continued to advise that the Monitoring Officer had advised that as a decision about governance arrangements for harbours did not relate directly to the work of SCOPAC, she would speak and vote on the item.

33. **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements to report.

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

Public questions and the responses from the Leader of the Council or appropriate portfolio holder were set out in appendix 1 to these minutes.

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

There were no petitions or deputations to report.

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

The Leader of Council advised councillors that his bulletin would be published following the meeting and he report included the following: -

- Support in respect of the cost of living
- The 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme
- Investment Zones and
- The current budget challenges

37. **Questions from Councillors**

A copy of the councillor questions and the responses are attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

In a response to a supplementary question from Cllr Jon Andrews, question 2, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment gave assurance to the Sherborne ward councillors that their concerns had been noted and a way forward was being addressed.

In response to a further supplementary question from Cllr Jon Andrews in respect of question 3, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment would contact Cllrs Andrews and Hall after the council meeting.

In a response to a supplementary question from Cllr Clare Sutton, the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Learning indicated that the Executive Director for People – Children had written to the Chairman of People and Health Scrutiny Committee confirming that a report would be coming forward in the future on Dorset schools' exclusion rates.

38. Refreshed Council Plan 2022-24

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation presented the refreshed Council Plan for 2022-24. The document set out the key strategic position and the councils aims, ambitions and key targets for the council going forward. In setting out the report, the Portfolio Holder proposed the recommendation.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr S Jespersen.

In response to questions, the portfolio holder advised that the plan set out the strategic aims. The delivery plan, being presented at the all-member webinar, would set out the proposed actions. In response to a question relating to development and the local plan, the Portfolio Holder indicated the portfolio holder for planning had previously explained the current position in respect of this matter.

Decision

That the refreshed Council Plan 2022-24 and the new strategic delivery plan be approved.

39. Community Governance Review: Parishes in the Vale of Allen group, the Winterborne Farringdon Group, Chickerell and Weymouth

The Leader of the Council set out the procedural report and proposed its recommendations. This was seconded by Cllr Piers Brown.

Decision

That the terms of reference for a community governance review as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Council on 20 October 2022, be adopted.

40. **Update on role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in the Integrated Care System**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health presented the report and proposed the recommendation.

The Director of Public Health advised that the recommendation aimed to ensure that the Health and Well-being Board developed into an effective interface with the integrated care partnership and the work of the new integrated care board to deliver the integrated care strategy. This work involved both Dorset Council and BCP.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr Jane Somper.

Decision

That an addition to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board be agreed, so that it becomes the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the Dorset Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.

41. **Governance Arrangements for Harbours**

The Leader of the Council presented a proposal that Harbour Management become an executive function of Dorset Council, with the Portfolio Holder undertaking the responsibility of duty holder, and the existing Harbours Committee becoming an advisory committee making recommendations to the Executive.

In response to questions, the Chairman of the Harbours Committee advised that whilst the advisory committee would still benefit from the advice and expertise provided by the independent members, the proposed change would streamline and accelerate the decision-making process.

The Chairman of the Harbours Committee further confirmed that harbour related decisions would be able to come forward in the future to meetings of scrutiny committee for appropriate challenge.

It was proposed by Cllr Spencer Flower seconded by Cllr M Roberts

Decision

- (a) That the harbour function becomes an Executive function with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment assuming the responsibility of Duty Holder.
- (b) The existing Harbours Committee becomes an advisory committee under Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

42. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Nick Ireland seconded by Cllr M Hall that Cllr Richard Biggs be appointed Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

There were no other nominations.

It was proposed by Cllr Nick Ireland seconded by Cllr Beryl Ezzard that Cllr Robin Legg be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Les Fry seconded by Cllr John Worth that Cllr Susan Cocking be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.

In response to a point of order, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that council procedure rule 30 did not indicate that a vacancy could not be filled at the next appropriate meeting of council. Therefore, the vote to appoint a vice-chairman could continue.

Upon being put to the vote, Cllr Susan Cocking was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Decision

- (a) That Cllr Richard Biggs be elected the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022-23.
- (b) That Cllr Susan Cocking was elected Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022-23.

43. Dispensation Report

It was proposed by Cllr Spencer Flower and seconded by Cllr Nick Ireland

Decision

That a dispensation for Cllr Janet Dover from attending meetings of the Council for a period of 6 months commencing on 12th November 2022, by reason of ill health, be approved.

44. Urgent items

There were no urgent items

45. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business to report.

Appendix 1 - Public Participation Q&A's
Appendix 2 - Councillor Q&A's

Duration of meeting: 6.00 - 8.52 pm

Chairman

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