

DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2022

Present: Cllrs Val Potheary (Chairman), Tony Alford, Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Pete Barrow, 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, Jill Haynes, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Cathy Lugg, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, Gill Taylor, Bill Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller and John Worth

In attendance remotely: Cllrs Robin Cook, Barry Goringe (Vice-Chairman), Jane Somper, David Morgan, David Tooke.

Apologies: Cllrs Rod Adkins, Mike Barron, Belinda Bawden, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, David Gray, Stella Jones, Robin Legg, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes, Maria Roe, Roland Tarr and Sarah Williams.

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

Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services) and Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children)

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

17. Declarations of Interest

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

18. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported the death of former Weymouth & Portland Councillor, Margaret Leicester. She invited Cllr P Kimber to pay tribute.

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

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

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

There were no petitions or deputations.

21. **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 areas that would be included were as follows:

- The cost-of-living crisis and energy rebates
- Support for Ukraine refugees
- Dorset Council sofa session
- Dorset Education Conference
- Dorset Council's Key Priorities

Councillors asked questions regarding, the local plan, support provided and associated with all refugees, including those from Ukraine and the support being provided in respect of the cost-of-living crisis.

In respect of the "Household Support Fund" and Food Projects, and any additional plans to address the cost-of-living crisis, the Leader of Council agreed to report back to members on the position of any possible supplementary government funding.

22. **Questions from Councillors**

A copy of the councillor questions and the response is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

As a supplementary to Cllr B Bawden's question relating to the termination of bus services, the Portfolio Holder for Highways Travel and Environment confirmed that the council continued to work with its neighbouring authorities to make sure that cross-border issues were addressed collectively.

As a supplementary question from Cllr Ireland in respect of allegations and complaints from parents with children at Coombe House, the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help advised that if there was evidence of such behaviour, it should be reported to the appropriate Executive Director for People (Children). He continued that as Corporate Parents all allegations must be taken seriously and investigated accordingly.

23. **Youth Justice Plan 2022/23**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help set out the Cabinet recommendation to approve the Youth Justice Plan. In proposing the recommendation, he also advised that the plan was considered and supported by People & Health Overview Committee on 3 May 2022.

Decision

That the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 be approved.

24. Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations

The Leader of Council presented the report in respect of the Community Governance Review following the public consultation exercise and the cross-party working group.

Cllr L Fry seconded the recommendation.

In supporting the reports proposals, several councillors welcomed the removal of certain parishes from the final recommendation.

Decision

- (a) That the proposals set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted by the Council as Final Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.
- (b) That, save as set out in the Final Recommendations, the existing parishes in the Dorset Council area, and the names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
- (c) That the Final Recommendations form a Reorganisation Order to take effect on 1 April 2024.

25. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and proposed its recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr N Ireland.

Cllr N Ireland put forward the following amendment.

That part 5 (7.) of the Scheme of Allowances in the constitution be amended to read: -

“A dependent carers’ allowance paid to members of up to £11 per hour, i.e. actual expenditure incurred up to a maximum of £11 per hour, or in exception and by prior arrangement with the Service Manager for Democratic & Electoral Services invoiced expenditure above £11 per hour, will be paid for care of dependants, whether children, elderly people or people with*

disabilities, while a member is on Dorset Council business where travelling allowances are payable.”

The Leader of the Council confirm that he was supportive of the amendment and seconded the motion.

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

Cllr B Quayle left the meeting at this juncture.

Decision (Substantive)

That the attached report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the review of allowances for co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances, and other matters reviewed, be adopted by Full Council and that the Panel be thanked for their work in arriving at the recommendations.

- (a) To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to £2,000 per annum in recognition of the significant role that they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP.
- (b) To increase the retainer for the Independent Person appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct to £1,000 per annum and that any significant additional duties are agreed and remunerated at an hourly rate to be determined in the discretion of the Monitoring Officer.
- (c) To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee to £1,000 per annum to recognise the role performed outside of the formal meetings of the Committee.
- (d) To increase the allowance paid to Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee to £500 per annum on the basis that this might increase the likelihood of recruiting members to these positions.
- (e) To include an allowance within the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme to reimburse the cost of charging an electric vehicle and that this should be set at the same rate as for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- (f) That a consultation be undertaken of Dorset Councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave and that the response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.
- (g) That part 5 (7.) of the constitution's Scheme of Allowances be amended to read: -

“A dependent carers’ allowance paid to members of up to £11* per hour, i.e. actual expenditure incurred up to a maximum of £11 per hour, *or in exception and by prior arrangement with the Service Manager for Democratic & Electoral Services invoiced expenditure above £11 per hour*, will be paid for care of dependants, whether children, elderly people or people with disabilities, while a member is on Dorset Council business where travelling allowances are payable.”

26. Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen of the Dorset Council Area

The Leader of the Council introduced a recommendation from Audit and Governance Committee of 22 June 2022. The recommendation was seconded by Cllr M Hall.

Several councillors spoke against the proposed scheme as they failed to see how the proposal was of benefit to Dorset’s residents. There were no projected costs for the scheme or its administration and there were also concerns expressed on how an “outstanding contribution” would be measured.

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

27. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

28. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business to report.

Appendix 1 - Public Questions

Appendix 2 - Councillor Questions and Responses

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 8.06 pm

Chairman

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