

## DORSET COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023

**Present:** Cllrs Val Potheary (Chairman), Bill Trite (Vice-Chairman), Rod Adkins, Jon Andrews, Pete Barrow, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Belinda Bawden, Laura Beddow, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Andy Canning, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Susan Cocking, Robin Cook, Tim Cook, Toni Coombs, R Crabb, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, David Gray, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Andrew Kerby, Paul Kimber, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Robin Legg, Cathy Lugg, David Morgan, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Mike Parkes, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Jane Somper, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, David Taylor, Gill Taylor, David Tooke, David Walsh, Kate Wheller and John Worth

**Apologies:** Cllrs Tony Alford, Mike Barron, Graham Carr-Jones, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, Barry Goringe, Nick Ireland, Rebecca Knox, Emma Parker, Maria Roe, Roland Tarr, Peter Wharf and Sarah Williams

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

Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jennifer Lewis (Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Matthew Piles (Corporate Director - Economic Growth and Infrastructure), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), James Potten (Communications Business Partner - Place), Claire Shields (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), Kirstie Snow (Business Partner - External Affairs) and Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

19. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023 were confirmed and signed.

20. **Declarations of Interest**

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

21. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Richard Crabb the new councillor for Sherborne West, elected on 29 June 2023.

Members of the Youth Council were also welcomed.

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

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

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

Mr N Sims-Duff presented a petition requesting Dorset Council reduce the carpark charges in Weymouth to those of other towns with immediate effect. A copy of his statement to Council is attached at appendix 2 to these minutes.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy responded and gave two assurances, that the item would be debated in Cabinet as soon as was practically possible (5 September 2023) and that if the evidence clearly showed a detrimental affect due to the car parking policy he would recommend a change.

The Director Legal and Democratic advised that it was not in the constitutional arrangements for this to go to a Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet could take advice from an Overview Committee and if they wished to do so a Scrutiny Committee could call in the decision or call the Portfolio Holder to account. Members felt it was important to look at residents' health and wellbeing, as well as the impact on businesses and not just the financial implications.

Proposed by Cllr Gary Suttle, seconded by Cllr Spencer Flower

**Decision: that the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration without further debate.**

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

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

- Reaping the benefits of LGR
- Successful funding grants

- Leader's recent meeting with DLUHC
- A Devolution Deal for Dorset
- Dorset Council's apprenticeship scheme
- The recent Ofsted visit to our Care Leavers Service
- MJ Awards - Corporate Director of the year
- Customer Services Awards

## 25. **Questions from Councillors**

There were thirteen questions received from councillors. A copy of the questions and the responses are attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

Supplementary question from Cllr R Hope (Question 3)

Cllr Hope requested an emailed response from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment and asked why he believed it was fair for the residents of Weymouth to foot the bill just because they were in a tourist location.

## 26. **Youth Justice Plan**

The report was presented by the Portfolio Holder for People – Children, Education, Skills & Early Help.

Proposed by Cllr Byron Quayle, seconded by Cllr Mark Roberts

**Decision: that the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 was approved.**

## 27. **Comfort break 20:46 - 21:05**

## 28. **Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972**

The Leader introduced a report to approve a dispensation for Cllr J Dover due to ill health.

Proposed By Cllr Flower, seconded by Cllr Canning.

**Decision: that a dispensation for Cllr J Dover from attending meetings of the Council until 2 May 2024, by reason of ill health be approved.**

In accordance with procedural rule 8.1 a vote was taken, Council agreed to exceed the 3 hour meeting time limit.

## 29. **Notice of Motion - Cllr T Ferrari**

**Asylum Seekers Barge – Portland Port**

The Chief Executive laid out some background information prior to the council debate. This is attached at appendix 4 to these minutes.

#### Notice of Motion

“That this council condemns the commercial Agreement between the Home Office and Portland Port for the mooring of the Bibby Stockholm barge to accommodate up to 500 asylum seekers at this location.

That the mooring of the barge in Portland Port is an entirely inappropriate location and should be removed at the earliest opportunity.

That Dorset Council, while not the decision makers, will work with agencies to mitigate the impact this will have on Dorset.”

Proposed by Cllr Tony Ferrari  
Seconded by Cllr Louie O’Leary

#### Supported by:

Toni Coombes, Graham Carr-Jones, Barry Gorringe, Jill Haynes, Cherry Brooks, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Mary Penfold, Robin Cook, Paul Harrison, John Worth, Jean Dunseith, Belinda Ridout, Mike Parkes, Mike Barron, David Shortell, Gary Suttle, Peter Wharf,

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.3 (a) this Notice of Motion, upon being proposed and seconded, was debated by Full Council.

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Paul Kimber, seconded by Cllr Brian Heatley.

#### Amendment

“This Dorset Council recognises the contribution that Refugees have made to our Dorset economy and Society, over the years whilst we accept the Bibby Stockholm Barge is inhumane and is entirely inappropriate.  
Dorset Council welcomes all refugees to be treated, with dignity, and respect”.

**The amendment was carried.**

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Kate Wheller, seconded by Cllr Jon Orrell.

#### Amendment

“DC’s opposition should be voiced at every opportunity and any legal means taken to reject the Barge.  
That DC urges the Home Office to increase resources to speed up the asylum application process.”

**The amendment was LOST**

The following amendment to Cllr Ferrari's NOM was proposed by Cllr Ryan Hope.

**“Dorset welcome's refuges however** this council condemns the commercial Agreement between the Home Office and Portland Port for the mooring of the Bibby Stockholm barge to accommodate up to 500 asylum seekers at this location, Portland Port is an entirely inappropriate location. **Furthermore, the use of the Bibby Stockholm barge is not appropriate for people fleeing war and legally seeking asylum in this country. They should be housed in decent accommodation with proper facilities and more crucially, their claims should be properly and consistently processed.**

**The Bibby Stockholm is required due to the government's Governments mismanagement of the asylum system and this is what needs to be reviewed therefore**

**“Dorset Council calls on the government not to allow the Bibby Stockholm barge to be placed at Portland Port and for the government to carry out a urgent review asylum system to remove the requirements to use such accommodation”**

**Should the government not listen and The Bibby Stockholm barge still come** Dorset Council, while not the decision makers, will work with agencies to mitigate the impact this will have on Dorset **and explore avenues to have it to be removed at the earliest opportunity”**

Following advice from the Director Legal and Democratic Cllr Hope withdrew his amendment.

**The substantive motion was CARRIED**

**Decision:**

**“That this council condemns the commercial Agreement between the Home Office and Portland Port for the mooring of the Bibby Stockholm barge to accommodate up to 500 asylum seekers at this location.**

**That the mooring of the barge in Portland Port is an entirely inappropriate location and should be removed at the earliest opportunity.**

**That Dorset Council, while not the decision makers, will work with agencies to mitigate the impact this will have on Dorset.”**

**“Dorset Council recognises the contribution that Refugees have made to our Dorset economy and Society, over the years whilst we accept the Bibby Stockholm Barge is inhumane and is entirely inappropriate”.**

**Dorset Council welcomes all refugees to be treated, with dignity, and respect”.**

30. **Notice of Motion - Cllr K Clayton**

“The heavy rain parts of Dorset experienced last month once again resulted in sewage being discharged into the sea – this time at West Bay, Lyme Regis, and seven locations across Weymouth and Portland. As a result people were advised not to bathe on certain polluted beaches.

The main reason this occurs is our antiquated sewage system – a single system that has to deliver both foul water and surface water to the treatment plants, a system that is unable to cope with sudden large amounts of surface water.

Whilst the investment and determination to upgrade this system is largely outside the remit of this Council, there are three things it can do. This Council, therefore, resolves to:

1. Engage positively with central government in implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Act 2010 (and any subsequent changes in national planning guidance) to ensure sustainable drainage systems are designed, constructed and adopted to national standards for the lifetime of the development, securing the separation of foul water from surface water.
2. Through both its new local development plan and any associated guidance, promotes the use of permeable surface treatments where this is achievable.
3. engages with Wessex Water and South West Water to focus their investment plans on reducing sewage discharges by the substantial amount needed.”

Proposed by: Cllr Kelvin Clayton

Seconded by: Cllr Belinda Bawden

Supported by: Peter Barrow, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Susan Cocking, Beryl Ezzard, Les Fry, Brian Heatley, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Howard Legg, Jon Orrell, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr, Clare Sutton, Kate Wheller

**Decision:**

**Council, resolved to:**

1. **Engage positively with central government in implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Act 2010 (and any subsequent changes in national planning guidance) to ensure sustainable drainage systems are designed, constructed and adopted to national standards for the lifetime of the development, securing the separation of foul water from surface water.**
2. **Through both its new local development plan and any associated guidance, promote the use of permeable surface treatments where this is achievable.**
3. **Engage with Wessex Water and South West Water to focus their investment plans on reducing sewage discharges by the substantial amount needed.**

31. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

32. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Appendix 1**  
**Appendix 2**  
**Appendix 3**  
**Appendix 4**

**Duration of meeting:** 6.30 - 10.14 pm

**Chairman**

.....