

**EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present:-

Cllr S M Lugg – Chairman

Cllr D W Shortell – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr Mrs S J Burns, Cllr D B F Burt, Cllr S Butler,  
Cllr R Bryan, Cllr A A J Clarke, Cllr R D Cook, Cllr Mrs T B Coombs,  
Cllr Mrs J Dover, Cllr M R Dyer, Cllr S G Flower, Cllr S Gibson,  
Cllr B Goringe, Cllr P R Harrison, Cllr K D Johnson, Cllr Mrs C Lugg,  
Cllr Mrs B T Manuel, Cllr D Morgan, Cllr B E Mortimer,  
Cllr P G Oggelsby, Cllr D G L Packer, Cllr J L Robinson,  
Cllr G W Russell, Cllr A Skeats, Cllr S S Tong and Cllr J L Wilson

262. Prayers

Prayers were led by the Reverend Patches Chabala of St Mary's Church, Ferndown.

263. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 were confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the question referenced under Minute No. 204, page 145, paragraph 2, being amended to remove reference to Councillor Harrison having attended meetings with Mr St. Quinton. Councillor Harrison advised Council that no such meeting had been attended.

264. Declarations of Interests by Members

The Legal Services Manager advised Council that, in relation to Cabinet Minute Nos. 254 (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset) and 255 (Dorset Combined Authority), those Members who had declared on the Registerable Interests Form that they were a Dorset County Councillor, would require a dispensation to speak and vote from the Chief Executive. This dispensation had been granted accordingly prior to the meeting.

Those Members who had not declared on their registrable interest form that they were Dorset County Councillors were advised to disclose their interest for transparency purposes.

Councillors S Butler, Mrs T B Coombs, Mrs J Dover, S G Flower and J L Wilson declared that they were Dorset County Councillors. Councillors J L Wilson and S G Flower informed Council that he had received advice from the County Council that Membership of another local authority was not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillor S M Lugg declared, as a spouse of a Dorset County Council employee, an interest in Minute Nos. 254 (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset) and 255 (Dorset Combined Authority) and advised that a dispensation to speak and vote on these items had been granted.

Councillor Mrs C Lugg declared, as a Dorset County Council employee, an interest in Minute Nos. 254 (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset) and 255 (Dorset Combined Authority) and advised that a dispensation to speak and vote on these items had been granted.

265. Announcements

The Chairman of Council referred to his list of engagements attended since the last meeting of Council which was included on the agenda, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman made particular mention of the Wimborne Save the Children parade on Saturday, 12 December which proved to be a most enjoyable event.

The Chief Executive informed Council that he had received written notification from Ian Monks that he was to stand down as Leader of the Council and also as a ward member.

Council was advised that it was a matter for the controlling group to elect a new leader of their group who would in turn become the Leader of the Council.

In the meantime, as Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Tong would take up the role as Acting Leader.

The Chief Executive placed on record his thanks, and those of the Council's staff, for Ian Monks' hard work during his term as both a councillor and as Leader. He proved himself to be a dedicated and intelligent Member. As Leader he was never anything other than supportive, and brought a sense of calm and perspective to the decision-making process.

Councillor D B F Burt expressed his sadness that Ian Monks had stood down and requested that his thanks and appreciation for Ian's contribution to the Council be recorded.

The Acting Leader of the Council had two announcements:-

1. The Government's Syrian Refugee Programme – On 26 November, the Leaders of all local authorities received a letter from Richard Harrington MP, the Minister with responsibility for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme. The letter explained that the Government was committed to resettling 20,000 refugees from the Syrian conflict over the lifetime of this parliament and called upon local authorities to play their part. To date 55 local authorities would be welcoming refugees into their communities by Christmas and many more would be doing so in the coming months. Michael Tomlinson MP had contacted each of the nine Dorset local authorities seeking support.

Council was advised that in a multi-tier area, providing facilities and support individually was limited and therefore Dorset County Council was taking the lead in co-ordinating the required support for the whole of the county including Bournemouth and Poole. The Leader of the County Council was in regular contact and had advised that the main role would be the care and safeguarding of unaccompanied young people.

2. Change of Portfolio Holder for Environment – Council was asked to note that Councillor M R Dyer had been replaced in this role by Councillor S G Flower.

266. Questions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no questions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

267. Petitions by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no petitions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

268. Deputations by Members of the Public

The Chairman reported that no deputations had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

269. Questions by Members of the Council

The Chairman advised Council that a question had been submitted by Councillor Mrs C Lugg in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.

**Question by Councillor Mrs C Lugg**

Why in these days of Smarter working mail delivered to Furzehill is being sent to Christchurch, then re-delivered back to Furzehill, with a delay of several days before it reaches the destination it started at? This is surely not cost efficient?

To put this in context with one example, the Chairman and I recently received a hand delivered invitation to a scout function. It was sent to Christchurch from where it took a week to reach Furzehill again. As the Chairman's Secretary only works part time it was another couple of days before it was answered by which time the event had already taken place. Hard for the scouts to believe we hadn't had the invitation in time when they had hand delivered it ten days before. Can this practice please stop immediately?

**Response by the Chief Executive**

The Digital Mailroom went live with the scanning of all the partnership's incoming mail in September. Some teething issues were experienced but

these have now been resolved and the service was now running smoothly and managing in the region of 1,000 pieces of post each week.

All mail was now scanned in Christchurch, whether it was sent there directly or redirected from Furzehill. This allows officers to receive post digitally wherever they are located which supports the partnership's Smarter Working plans. In the event that a piece of post needs to be retained in paper format e.g., invites, tickets, etc. it would be forwarded to the service concerned after scanning. This process was the same for mail sent to the Chairman as it would not normally be possible to distinguish between invites and other types of post. A delivery takes place to Furzehill every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon so any originals sent will arrive at East Dorset on the same day, or the day after scanning.

On this occasion it was not clear why the invite took longer than usual to reach the Chairman, but the customer services team will re-examine how it deals with post of this kind to ensure it reaches the Chairman in a timely manner in future.

270. Licensing Committee, 20 October 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2015 and the recommendation at Minute No. 186 (Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy) were submitted.

**RESOLVED that the recommendation and the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

271. Scrutiny and Policy Development, 27 October 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2015 were submitted.

**RESOLVED that the recommendation and the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

272. Planning Committee, 10 November 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015 were submitted.

**RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

273. Cabinet, 11 November 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015 were submitted.

In relation to Minute No. 228 (request to change the timing of Cabinet meetings), clarification was sought when this matter would be considered.

The Deputy Leader of the Council advised that a Cabinet Committee, including Members of the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, would be convened in early January 2016 to consider among other matters, the timing of the Cabinet meetings. The decision on this matter will be made in good time before the end of the Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

274. Scrutiny and Policy Development, 24 November 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015 were submitted.

**RESOLVED that the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

275. Licensing Committee, 1 December 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2015 and the recommendation at Minute No. 245 (Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy) were submitted.

**RESOLVED that the recommendation and the minutes, as submitted, be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

276. Cabinet, 9 December 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 and the recommendations at Minute Nos. 254 (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset), 255 (Dorset Combined Authority) and 256 (Proposed Community Safety and Criminal Justice Board) were submitted.

In relation to Minute No. 255 (Dorset Combined Authority), Members of the Council were supplied with a correction sheet. The Recommendations for this Minute should have read:-

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- (a) **East Dorset District Council agrees, in principle, to support a submission to set up a Combined Authority;**
- (b) **Comments on the content of the proposal identified by the Council are submitted via the Leader and Chief Executive;**
- (c) **The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to approve the wording of the submission to Government for a Dorset Combined Authority;**
- (d) **Approval be given for a provisional Revenue budget item of £17,490 to be identified to cover the costs of the Council's share towards the annual running costs of the Combined Authority.**

In relation to Minute No. 254 (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset) concern was expressed that combining as a Unitary authority would not be in the best interests for East Dorset District Council. It was considered that there had been insufficient time to consider the matter to make an informed decision; focus appeared to be on addressing the deficits of the existing Unitary councils; the timescales were to implement any change ahead of the 2019 elections and the matter was not included within any existing election manifesto. Members further added that East Dorset District Council had not shied away from supporting the change agenda and new ways of working, and had conceded many benefits in its Partnership with Christchurch Borough Council, including the movement of staff to the Civic Offices in Christchurch, closure of Furzehill Offices and establishment of a small remote satellite site for front line services and meetings. The Council has further embraced other partnerships including Dorset Waste Partnership and Stour Valley and Poole Partnership, and would later be considering a Dorset Combined Authority.

Conversely, Council was urged to agree the recommendations in order to gather the required information and options modelling. Failure to support the commissioning of a business case, as proposed, to examine the financial implications and options outlined in the report, would prevent the Council from making an informed decision as to the best way forward at a future meeting. It was further stressed that the Council did not possess the facts at the time of the meeting to accept or reject any of the options and that the purpose of the proposal before Council was to obtain that information.

Upon the motion being put that Minute 254 (a), (b) and (c) (Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset), as set out in the published Minutes, be adopted, a recorded vote was requisitioned, the result of which was as follows:-

For the Motion

Cllr S Butler  
Cllr R D Cook  
Cllr Mrs T B Coombs  
Cllr S G Flower  
Cllr S Gibson  
Cllr Mrs B T Manuel  
Cllr S S Tong  
Cllr J L Wilson

Against the Motion

Cllr S Bartlett  
Cllr R Bryan  
Cllr Mrs S J Burns  
Cllr D B F Burt  
Cllr A A J Clarke  
Cllr Mrs J Dover  
Cllr M R Dyer  
Cllr B Goringe  
Cllr P Harrison  
Cllr K D Johnson  
Cllr Mrs C Lugg  
Cllr S M Lugg  
Cllr D Morgan  
Cllr B E Mortimer  
Cllr P Oggelsby  
Cllr D G L Packer  
Cllr Ms J Robinson  
Cllr G W Russell

Cllr D W Shortell  
Cllr A Skeats

The number of votes for the motion was 8 and against 20.

Immediately following the vote, the following Motion was proposed and seconded.

**“that East Dorset District Council is content to continue Joint Working with Christchurch and does not wish to change the structure of Local Government under which it currently operates.”**

Before being put to the vote, it was proposed and seconded that the following amendment be added as (b) to the above:-

**“(b) the Council re-examines the matter of exploring the options for the future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset in 12 months.”**

Upon the amendment being put, a recorded vote was requisitioned, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Cllr S Bartlett	Cllr Mrs S J Burns	Cllr S M Lugg
Cllr R Bryan	Cllr S Butler	Cllr J L Wilson
Cllr D B F Burt	Cllr R D Cook	
Cllr A A J Clarke	Cllr Mrs C Lugg	
Cllr Mrs T B Coombs	Cllr Ms J Robinson	
Cllr Mrs J Dover	Cllr S S Tong	
Cllr M R Dyer		
Cllr S G Flower		
Cllr S Gibson		
Cllr B Goringe		
Cllr P Harrison		
Cllr K D Johnson		
Cllr Mrs B T Manuel		
Cllr D Morgan		
Cllr B E Mortimer		
Cllr P Oggelsby		
Cllr D G L Packer		
Cllr G W Russell		
Cllr D W Shortell		
Cllr A Skeats		

The number of votes for the motion was 20, against 6 and abstentions 2.

Upon the substantive motion being put, a recorded vote was requisitioned, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For the Motion</u>	<u>Against the Motion</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Cllr S Bartlett	Cllr R D Cook	Cllr S M Lugg
Cllr R Bryan	Cllr Mrs C Lugg	Cllr J L Wilson
Cllr Mrs S J Burns	Cllr Ms J Robinson	
Cllr D B F Burt		
Cllr S Butler		
Cllr A A J Clarke		

Cllr Mrs T B Coombs  
Cllr Mrs J Dover  
Cllr M R Dyer  
Cllr S G Flower  
Cllr S Gibson  
Cllr B Goringe  
Cllr P Harrison  
Cllr K D Johnson  
Cllr Mrs B T Manuel  
Cllr D Morgan  
Cllr B E Mortimer  
Cllr P Oggelsby  
Cllr D G L Packer  
Cllr G W Russell  
Cllr D W Shortell  
Cllr A Skeats  
Cllr S S Tong

The number of votes for the motion was 23, against 3 and abstentions 2.

The substantive resolution in relation to Minute No. 254 was therefore as follows:-

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (a) **East Dorset District Council is content to continue Joint Working with Christchurch and does not wish to change the structure of Local Government under which it currently operates;**
- (b) **the Council re-examines the matter of exploring the options for the future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset in 12 months.**

Voting: 23:3 (2 abstentions)

The remainder of the Minutes and the recommendations in Minute Nos. 255, as corrected in the second paragraph above, and 256 were put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED that the minutes and recommendations in Minute Nos. 255 (Dorset Combined Authority) and 256 (Proposed Community Safety and Criminal Justice Board), be adopted.**

Voting: Unanimous

277. Updates to the Constitution

The Legal Services Manager advised Council that notification had been received on 11 December 2015 from the then Leader of the Council to make a change to the Scheme of Delegation to replace Councillor M R Dyer as Portfolio Holder for the Environment with Councillor S G Flower.

The notice also advised that responsibility for Strategic Planning matters were to be transferred from the Environment Portfolio to the Housing Portfolio and the Constitution would be updated accordingly.



278. Corporate Plan 2012-2016 progress report

The Portfolio Holder for Performance submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were informed about the Council's achievements against the 2012-2016 Corporate Plan.

**RESOLVED that the progress made against the Christchurch and East Dorset Corporate Plan objectives, as set out in the submitted report, be noted.**

Voting: 26:0 (1 abstention)

279. Representations from Outside Bodies

The Chairman advised that there were no reports from Members of the Council with respect of Outside Bodies on this occasion.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

CHAIRMAN