

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr H Allen, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr J Challinor, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Clements, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Filer, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Haines, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr J Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr V Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr L Williams and Cllr K Wilson

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cameron Adams, Sue Aitkenhead, Julie Bagwell, Judes Butt, Sharon Carr-Brown, Brian Castle, Michelle Dower, George Farquhar, Rachel Maidment, Jamie Martin, Chis Matthews and Judy Richardson.

22. Declarations of Interests

Councillors Mike Cox, Paul Hilliard, Simon McCormack and Michael Tarling declared interests in Minute No. 27 (Cabinet 26 July 2023 – Minute No. 6 – Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)) Update, relating specifically to the sale of the Waitrose Car Park in their capacity as Christchurch Town Councillors and left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

23. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

24. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman updated Council on her activities since the last meeting. These included attendance at:

- Manorside Academy Year 6 Graduation
- Bike Night at Poole Quay

- Kushti Bok Roma Holocaust Memorial Service
- Burma Star Remembrance Day
- Igbo Dorset Yam Festival
- Commemoration of Ukraine Independence Day
- Annual Service of Remembrance FONFA (Friends of New Forest Airfields)
- Bournemouth Air Show
- Interview with Hope FM
- Service of Thanksgiving at the Priory Church, Christchurch for the Emergency Services

The Vice Chairman updated Council on his activities since the last meeting. These included attendance at:

- Beating of the Troop, Bournemouth Air Show
- UK Beach Volleyball Tour Championships

The Chairman advised Council that the Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal Services Susan Zeiss was retiring on the 18 October. The Chairman thanked Susan for her all her advice and hard work during her time working for the council.

25. Public Issues

(a) Public Questions

Public Question from Daniel Glennon

The science is clear that meat and dairy are major contributors to the climate and ecological emergencies. Other councils, for example Oxfordshire County, Oxford City, Cambridge City, Exeter City and Lewisham Borough, are ensuring that all food served at events is plant-based – could BCP council do the same? This is the logical next step after having declared a climate emergency. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study, is the most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact. So, given the climate and ecological emergencies declared by this Council, will the Council ensure that all food and drink provided at internal events is plant-based, as other councils have done? Even if this only applies to refreshments at a small number of events per year, it shows leadership, and will be a small step that sends a powerful message.

Response by Councillor Andy Hadley, Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Thankyou for your question, I welcome your challenge. I do believe in leading by example and I agree that changing to a meat and dairy free diet is an important component in reducing our personal carbon footprint. However, we do feel we should start by promoting and encouraging rather than mandating plant-based options in the first instance.

The Leader and I have both been in correspondence with representatives from The Plant Based Treaty Organisation and the Leader met with them

earlier today and has committed to talking to those councils that you have listed who have adopted these principles.

We are happy to consider the implications of such a decision in the next review of the climate plan and from a personal perspective I will seek to promote the concept throughout the organisation.

Public Question from Alex McKinstry

On 28 February the Standards Committee upheld a complaint against Cllr Mark Anderson, which revolved around a street-cleaning initiative that was politically calculated. Summing up that night, the Chair of Standards announced that there were "other areas of concern" which the Committee had identified, and they would be asking the Chief Executive to conduct "a thorough, further investigation" into those concerns.

Can the Leader of the Council clarify what, precisely, the Chief Executive was asked to investigate; when he will be reporting back; and via what mechanism?

If on the other hand *no* investigation is underway - and I say that because we've heard nothing about this matter since February - can the Leader confirm when the decision was made to abandon, or simply not proceed with, any investigation; who was involved in the making of that decision; and the reasons for that decision?

Response by Councillor Vanessa Ricketts, Chair of the Standards Committee

"I would like to thank Mr McKinstry for his question, as I also dislike loose ends and this has given us the opportunity to publicly conclude this matter.

As the then interim Chair of Standards, I sent an email to the Chief Executive on 1 March 2023 asking that he consider making inquiries into additional areas which were associated with, but not directly, the subject of the complaint before Standards Committee. I also requested that the Chief Executive refer the complaint to Dorset Police, asking them to review their decision not to take any further action in light of the findings of the Committee. This was done and Dorset Police confirmed their initial decision not to investigate the matter further.

The Chief Executive then met with the Statutory Officers and, after establishing some facts internally, including a lack of wider examples, agreed that it would not be proportionate to take any further action."

Public Question from Zoe Tees (read by Soo Chapman)

Given that BCP Councils Head of Climate Dr Montgomery's stark warnings in the "Councillors' Workbook on Acting on Climate Change" of October 2022 and BCP's February 2023 Draft Climate Action Strategy 2023-2028. When will BCP council and all councillors have a meeting to discuss the workbook and various actions needed, such as promoting plant-based catering for all institutions, including schools now that the charity Pro—Veg provides free consultations for councils and schools?

Response by Councillor Andy Hadley, Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Thank you for Zoes question, when first appointed I circulated the Councillor Workbook that was produced by our Head of Climate, Dr Matt Montgomery to all councillors back in June 2023, to ensure that both old and new members had sight of it.

Matt has now unfortunately left the organisation, but we conducted two training sessions for members last week on climate change. We have also been reviewing progress against the climate change action plan that was previously circulated and published.

We are planning a series of awareness raising events both within the council and with the public, with most schools running as Academy Trusts in the area they are no longer directly in our control, but we will certainly be working with them including to sign post them to available resources such as promoting the link to Pro-Veg information. Schools who want to take this further can do so.

Reducing consumption of meat and dairy products is an important strand in reducing our carbon footprint.

Public Question from Conor O'Luby (read by the Acting Chief Executive)

"On 7th January 2020, BCP Council held a public consultation event at the Bridge, Littledown, regarding future developments on the Wessex Fields site. Please set out your current thoughts on development and whether the results of the consultation play any part in them."

Response by Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Dynamic Places

I would like to thank Mr O'Luby for his question, I remember the event at The Bridge in Littledown on 7th January 2020 where I presented to residents and partners around the options open to us at that time for Wessex Fields. This administration takes public consultation seriously and will always consider the views of the public and explain where things requested by the public cannot be progressed. I have asked officers to ensure that the output from that meeting is provided for background when proposals come forward for this site.

FuturePlaces were asked to look at possible development options for the Wessex Fields site as part of their project portfolio. The results of past consultation were passed to them so they could understand the views of key stakeholders at the outset of their project.

As you may be aware the Council is currently undertaking a review of the way in which regeneration work is delivered, and a paper which will include an update on this site will be coming to Cabinet on 27 September and will also be a subject of the Scrutiny meeting on 20th September.

Public Question from Daniel Parkin

In December, there were 144 16-17 year olds in the care of BCP, 28 of whom were living in semi-independent or independent accommodation with no day to day care or supervision.

8 months on, this number has risen to 526, with 65 receiving no day to day care. This is an increase of 365% in care and 232% in unsupervised care. So could I please ask the following:

- A) Can you shed any light on why this significant increase has taken place;
- B) What plans, if any, are in place to reduce the instances of vulnerable children entering unsupervised accommodation;
- C) What are you doing to address the fact that these children's records are still on paper file, to the point where your department couldn't give me basic details of how many of these children receive counselling or support?

Response by Councillor Richard Burton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Thank you, Mr Parkin, for your question and providing me with the opportunity to talk about young people at full council.

All council officers and councillors in this chamber, and throughout the Council, are Corporate Parents so we all have an interest in this question.

I have an answer based on the data I have received. I would love to have a dialog with you about this but, unfortunately, Full council doesn't provide opportunity for this. However, I would welcome the chance to discuss your question with you further as I am sure that my answer will raise further questions for you.

In December 2022 there was 508 children in care (aged 0 to 18), within this cohort we had 143 children who were 16 and 17. 63 children living in semi-independent living arrangements. All these children were receiving support, the package of support offered would depend on the level of need.

- A We currently have 534 children in care aged 0 to 18.

From this cohort we have 151 children aged 16-17 years old,
65 children are living in semi-independent living arrangements.

All of these children will be receiving a package of support that is assessed against individual need, as we have a statutory responsibility to provide this.

- B There has not been a significant increase in vulnerable children living in semi-independent accommodation, the number has increased by only 2 children in the past two months.
- C All children's records are kept electronically. We do collect data to manage/monitor performance including the number of children who receive support.

As I said. Please do get in touch with me directly so that we can have further discussions.

Public Question from Philip Stanley-Watts (read by the Acting Chief Executive)

In the light of the crisis in the concrete of some public buildings what inspections have taken place on bcp public buildings. also will there be a more sustainable building materials policy within the planning framework.

Response by Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Dynamic Places

The council is currently assessing all of its corporate estate, including BCP Homes buildings, to identify any buildings that due to their age or construction, may contain RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete). The information we currently have on our building stock does not suggest that RAAC is present in our buildings, but we are carrying out a comprehensive review over the coming weeks to confirm the situation. I understand this will be completed by the beginning of November.

This will include all properties owned by the council, including those leased out to third parties or used by community organisations. It should be noted that the presence of RAAC does not mean that a building is inherently unsafe, it would be necessary to understand how it has been used and what condition it is in, in order to determine any mitigation measures that may be required.

In respect of your second point relating to future buildings policy, the climate change chapter in the local plan will require new buildings to take a fabric first approach to energy efficiency. Whilst we won't be able to prescribe the materials, developers will have to reduce energy loss and demonstrate this through an energy statement.

Whereas the local plan deals with external appearance, the Building Regulations cover the technical aspects. The Future Homes Standard will come into effect through Building Regs in 2025, which is when the local plan is adopted. This standard will require that new homes are net zero ready.

For commercial buildings we will continue to require BREEAM Very good or excellent standards, which will require developers provide sustainable buildings.

(b)Public Statements

Public Statement from Soo Chapman

This chocolate teapot represents the failure of policies and communications regarding the terrifying emergencies acknowledged by Dr Montgomery's report of a year ago as well as by BCP's draft Climate Action Strategy of February 2023.

Spelling out the emergencies, and multiple risks to well-being must be prioritised immediately before more precious time is lost. Decarbonisation at speed and scale is essential. The ecosystems that sustain us continue to collapse.

Such appalling failures must not be allowed to happen. Tobias Ellwood points out that every citizen, "....must unite to tackle this huge threat to our planet and humanity."

Yet environmental literacy continues to be undermined and the risks underplayed. The public deserves an easy-to-understand immediate update, with guidance and incentivisation as to how they can all help before society breaks down, we lose everything, and bequeath a most desperate legacy to those we should be safeguarding.

There were no petitions received for this meeting.

26. Cabinet 26 July 2023 - Minute No. 5 - Financial Outturn Report 2022/23

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox presented the report on the Financial Outturn for 2022/23 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the item with Members acknowledging the financial situation of the council and the budgetary issues.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (c) approved the 2023/24 capital virements to accept new grants above £1m as set out in Appendix C.**

Voting: Nem.Con

Note – resolutions (a) and (b) were resolved matters by the Cabinet.

[Councillor Pete Miles left the meeting at 20:03]

27. Cabinet 26 July 2023 - Minute No. 6 - Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Mike Cox presented the report on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

In relation to this Councillor Cox advised council that due to his declaration in respect of this item he would be seeking an alternative proposer in respect of recommendation (e) bullet point 4 would therefore leave the room.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the disposal of the individual assets and the following points were raised:

Waitrose car park:

- The sale of the asset would secure the asset for the people of Christchurch
- Control of the car park is kept with the Town Council
- Car park income will provide for the Town
- Concern was expressed with the lack of consultation and scrutiny.

- The assets had been discussed at the Cross-Party Asset Disposal Working Group.

Public Conveniences in Adastral Square, Canford Heath Poole

- Members raised the importance of an impact assessment.
- Council was advised that the toilets had been closed for over 10 years and that there were alternative facilities available.

RESOLVED that Council: -

(e) approved the following list of assets for disposal: -

- (i) St Ambrose Cottage**
- (ii) 27 High Street, Christchurch**
- (iii) Public Conveniences in Adastral Square, Canford Heath, Poole**
- (iv) Waitrose Car Park, Christchurch but only to Christchurch Town Council**

(f) approves a reduction in the working capital loan facility to BCP FuturePlaces Ltd. The value and timing of the reduction to be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Voting: (e) (i), (ii) and (iii) Nem.Con (e)(iv) 48:10 (1 Abstention)

(f) Nem.Con

Note – resolutions (a), (b), (c) and (d) were resolved matters by the Cabinet.

Councillors Mike Cox, Paul Hilliard, Simon McCormack and Michael Tarling declared interests in resolution (e)(iv) and left the room for the discussion and voting on this part of the resolution thereon.

28. Cabinet 26 July 2023 - Minute No. 10 - Children's Services Building Stronger Foundations Programme

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Councillor Richard Burton presented the report on the Children's Services Building Stronger Foundations Programme and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

In proposing the recommendations the Portfolio Holder advised that the recommendations had been tweaked in order to make grammatical sense, and that this wasn't an amendment to the recommendation but to ensure the recommendation was clear.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) Approved £4.462 million investment into Childrens Services Improvement and transformation; and**
- (b) The areas for investment to establish the structures and capacity needed to deliver transformation and improvement in children's services being delegates authority to the Director of**

Children's Services in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer with the allocation of funds and monitoring of impact and expenditure through the Children's Transformation Board.

Voting: Nem.Con

Note – resolutions (c), (d) and (e) were resolved matters by the Cabinet.

Meeting adjourned 20:58

[Councillors Hazel Allen, Mike Cox, Anne Filer and Vanessa Ricketts left the meeting]

Meeting reconvened 21:18

29. Audit and Governance Committee 27 July 2023 - Minute No. 8 - Treasury Management Monitoring Outturn 2022/23 and update for Quarter 1 2023/24

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on the Treasury Management Monitoring Outturn 2022/23 update for Quarter 1 2023/24 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that the revised prudential indicators set out in table 10 of the report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 July 2023 be approved.

Voting: Nem.Con

Note – resolutions (a), (b) and (c) were resolved matters by the Audit and Governance Committee.

30. Audit and Governance Committee 7 September 2023 - Review of the Council's Constitution - Recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on the Review of the Council's Constitution – Recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Comprehensive discussion took place with members stressing the importance, of both the overview and scrutiny function and welcoming the proposed new arrangements.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) (i) **in relation to Issue 1 (Overview and Scrutiny Structure and Arrangements) the proposed amendments to Parts 2, 3, 4 and 7, as set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be approved with an implementation date of 29 September 2023;**
- (ii) **subject to the approval of (a)(i) above, authority to agree the calendar of meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Board for the remainder of 2023/24 be delegated by Council to the Overview and Scrutiny Board;**

- (b) in relation to Issue 2 (salary Sacrifice Scheme for Councillors): -
 - (i) the proposed amendment to insert a new Section 8 into Part 7 (Scheme of Members' Allowances), as set out in paragraph 35 to the submitted report, be approved;
 - (ii) the Chief Executive be delegated authority to determine from time-to-time which benefit schemes are to be made available to councillors;
- (c) in relation to Issue 3 (Schedule of Council Meetings – Change of Date, Time and Venue), the amendment to Part 4D, Procedure Rule 1, as set out in paragraph 39 to the submitted report, be approved; and
- (d) any necessary and consequential technical and formatting related updates and revisions to the Constitution be made by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the powers delegated.

Voting: 50:0 (7 abstentions)

31. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

The Chair of the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented a report, 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.

Council was advised that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is a statutory function of all councils operating an executive model of decision making.

In relation to this members were advised that in BCP Council, O&S activity is currently carried out by four O&S committees formed of councillors and co-opted members, and that there is a requirement to report on the work of O&S to Council, to ensure good visibility of the function and Council ownership of any improvements required.

Council was informed that the annual report contains a summary of O&S activity undertaken over 2019-23, reflections on working practices and an action plan identifying strategic improvements to the O&S function.

RESOLVED that Council noted the contents of the annual report and agrees the associated action plan.

Voting: Nem. Con

32. Notices of Motion in accordance with Procedure Rule 10

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Cllr S Armstrong and seconded by Cllr J Salmon.

‘BCP Council believes:

Every family and community should be safe from the loss of a life due to knife crime.

As community leaders, many of us are parents, grandparents and carers and we are all corporate parents – we have a responsibility to set an example to our children and young people and send a clear message that violence is never the answer, that young people can stand up for themselves and harm others.

We need to keep working together to get to the root causes of knife crime – we acknowledge the efforts being made to tackle it head on by BCP Council and partners such as the Police, for example the dedicated work under taken by the Community Safety Partnership who amongst many other things, have established a multi-agency Serious Violence Young Persons Task and Finish Group to lead on project and intervention work with the aim to reduce serious violent offences committed by young people.'

In proposing the motion Cllr Armstrong requested that the recommendations set out within the agenda front sheet be altered to recommend the Portfolio Holder report back in January rather than November to allow sufficient time.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the motion with Members setting out their support for the motion and the importance of a multi-agency approach.

The Portfolio Holder advised that actions were already underway.

RESOLVED: that Council supports the motion as set out below:

- (a) To consider the amount of funding required to effectively deliver our Serious Violent Crime duty and if there is a short fall, to lobby the government for resources that reflect the specific needs of BCP;
- (b) To work in partnership with other voluntary services such as youth organisations to find alternative sources of funding to develop and deliver early intervention programmes especially in areas where we know there are vulnerable young people and their families;
- (c) To commit to working towards a public health approach that brings together youth services, community groups, schools, NHS and other statutory partners to tackle knife crime and serious violent crime in our neighbourhoods; and
- (d) That the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services reports back to Council on progress of the Community Safety Strategy in particular paying attention to knife crime, at the full council meeting in January. This update to include figures on the current attainment of the KPIs set out in the Community Safety Strategy. These figures to be available via a dashboard and shared with councillors and the relevant stakeholders.

Voting: Unanimous

33. Additional Ordinary Council Meeting - 5 October 2023

RESOLVED that Council schedule an additional ordinary meeting of Council on Thursday 5 October 2023 at 7.00pm.

Voting: Nem.Con

34. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor T Trent

There seems to be a lot of figures being bandied around social media. What is the actual cost to BCP Council of the Bournemouth Air Festival, net of any additional income from the four-day event. Can this be clarified for us and the wider public.

Response by Councillor Millie Earl, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Connected Communities

Thank you, Cllr Trent. I'm aware that there has been a considerable amount of misinformation across social media and in the press peddled by our current and former Conservative colleagues, so I would like to take the opportunity to clarify the financial position relating to the Bournemouth Air Festival.

The events team have worked closely with the Council finance team to start to calculate the cost of the 2023 Bournemouth Air Festival to the Council. The **estimated** cost currently calculated includes the direct expenditure and income related to the delivery of the Air Festival, as well as Council staff time to support the festival and the net position of income from wider services during the festival such as from across our seafront and car parking services. It must be emphasised that after an event on the scale of the Air Festival, it takes time to receive final invoices and income from all the activities delivered, therefore the current figure is **estimated**. Currently the cost to the Council of the 2023 Bournemouth Air Festival is **estimated** to be £480,000, as mentioned this is a current **draft** position of the cost, the final position will alter.

Over the coming weeks all costs and income linked to the delivery of the 2023 Air Festival will be finalised.

The task and finish group are reviewing the options for the future of Bournemouth Air Festival, a paper will be brought to Cabinet later this year, at this point we will also be able to provide the final cost of the 2023 Bournemouth Air Festival to the Council.'

Supplementary question from Councillor T Trent

For clarification does the estimated figure include the ultimate cost of the staff that have been transferred from other duties, and who will be having overtime/ time off in lieu and things like that. Is that actually part of the figures because I wasn't quite clear on that part of the answer.

Response by Councillor Millie Earl, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Connected Communities

I'm happy to provide the information but want to be clear that this is an estimation.

As a council, our expenditure specifically on the air festival is approximately £900k. Our income specifically from the air festival is approximately £500k.

We have estimated around £190k of staff time is used for the air festival – including those in seafront, events, comms and other teams across the council.

We have estimated we bring in £110k from car parking and seafront services that we may not bring into this level if it wasn't for the event.

This means the approximate net cost of the Air Festival in its entirety this year is £480,000.

I just want to stress again that this is an estimate, and the final figures will be published when we have them.

I am though, certain, that the net cost to the council, and by extension, the BCP tax payer, is more than £400,000 - this is significantly more than our Conservative colleagues would like residents to believe.

35. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

The Chief Executive advised that there were no urgent decisions to be reported on this occasion.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm

CHAIRMAN