

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January 2020 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr V Slade – Chairman

Cllr M Howell – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr L Allison, Cllr D Brown, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr S Moore,  
Cllr M Phipps, Cllr Dr F Rice and Cllr K Wilson

Also in Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr D Butler, Cllr B Dove, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr A Filer,  
attendance: Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr J Kelly and Cllr T O'Neill

There were 60 Members of the Council in attendance.

105. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

106. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

Voting: Unanimous

107. Public Issues

The Leader reported that one question had been received and nine statements.

**Question from Sue Merefield**

What work has been done to investigate the feasibility of monitoring the radio emission levels of the Lansdowne Digital Pilot and, assuming this work is ongoing, how is the public being informed of progress?

**Response by the Leader of the Council**

We are currently reviewing potential solutions and are looking to replicate what is taking place in Barcelona. This will involve monitoring emission levels remotely utilising specialist equipment (sensors) which regularly feeds back readings to a dedicated page on the Council's website. Initially, we are considering monitoring emissions on an hourly basis, but will keep this under review. As part of commissioning the network we will also use specialist hand held devices to validate the readings from any remote sensors.

**Statement from Christopher Gordon, local resident:**

We are aware that BCP are proposing to install 5G in a Lansdowne Smart Place pilot which could lead to the roll out of this technology across the 3

Boroughs. We would implore BCP Councillors and Officers to diligently research the implications, particularly in respect of severe damage to health, before agreeing to the installation of such a dramatic increase in E.M. transmission points. This will mean that everyone in the area would be constantly bombarded by the highest level of E.M. exposure. Should damage to health arise BCP Council could be liable under the terms of the Nuremberg Protocol.

**Statement from Lee Farmer, local resident:**

I recall my human rights to live in peace, safety, and harmony, not exposed to harm of any sort. I do not endorse the rollout of 5G / EMF devices. They are undoubtedly a threat to life as a whole. There is insurmountable independent evidence backing this from professionals in all fields on a global level. In law nobody can convincingly say they were unaware of the facts once they have been formally notified of them. Ignorance is no defence in law and a vote to allow the rollout of 5G is a vote for genocide.

**Statement read out by Nick Greenwood on behalf of Charles Ross Illingworth, local resident:**

"The recommendations of the O&S Committee on 5G are deeply flawed. At the second 'Call for Evidence' meeting requesting written evidence there was no engagement, nor genuine acknowledgement with the written evidence submitted from those opposing the rollout of 5G.

Council Officers seemed unaware or unconcerned with any of the downsides of 5G and this absence was not robustly challenged by councillors present. I submit that the way the committee operated in this regard, and the advice subsequently given to Cabinet may contravene the Nolan principles set in place to protect citizens from improper practice by those in public life."

**Statement read out by the Monitoring Officer on behalf of Charles Ross Illingworth, local resident:**

"I oppose the pilot scheme for fixed penalty notices for environmental enforcement.

This has been reported on elsewhere in the country and frequently results in the persecution of de minimis infractions by enforcement officials, often on a commission or bonus basis. These officials act as judge and jury and will harass constituents when a reasonable and contextual view should be taken of the infraction.

There needs to be a proper appeals system based on proportionality of offense, and this needs to be easy and straightforward for people. There needs to be a reasonable threshold for a substantive offense if this is not to be unjust."

**Statement read out by the Chief Executive on behalf of Lorna Markey, local resident:**

“I am against 5G smart technology being installed in Dorset and request BCP stop the 5G programme due to the dangers of electromagnetic radiation.

To obtain further information I urge all councillors and officers to read Computer Weekly. Com/feature Mobile Phones and Health: is 5G being rolled out too fast? Published April 2019.

The risks of 5G far out way the benefits.

BCP will be liable financially for insurance claims and health care due to escalating ill health in the population because of increased radiation.

Do you want your families, children, friends, the whole environment exposed to intensive, unprecedented levels of electromagnetic radiation? I for one do not. “

**Statement from Jane Prow, local resident:**

I urge BCP Council to please act responsibly ASAP and stop the roll out of 5G in Bournemouth and the initial test bed site at the Landsdowne. There has been no long term independent studies on the potential health risks on humans, or any other living organisms. As there may be a time lag between exposure and the harmful effects we may suffer as a consequence and could result in massive numbers of humans suffering irreversible negative neurological, physical and psychological injury. We are leaping from 4G at 2.5 GHz to 5G where frequencies go up to 90 GHz.

**Statement read out by Sally Harris on behalf of Darren Pidwell (Mudford Sandbank Beach Hut Association), local resident:**

MSBHA (Mudford Sandbank Beach Hut Association) Statement. Representing 346 beach hut owners contributing £900,000 per annum revenue to BCP Council

“In principal the MSBHA supports the rebuild of the café but strongly believes that increased retail floor space, additional covers and higher footfall would have a negative environmental impact on this sensitive site (SSSI/ Green belt). This is contrary to the Mudford Sandbank Management Plan 2014 – 2024.

The omission of a like for like rebuild option which satisfies lease obligations does not allow for an informed decision to be made.

We ask that Cabinet members consider the amendments submitted by MSBHA to officers (attached) and incorporate them into any approval to continue with the project.”

**Statement from Emma Johnson, local resident:**

Our environment is heavily polluted with invisible toxic electrosmog. The combined EMFs from our multitude of wireless devices is slowly cooking us.

Untested and unregulated 5G technology is an existential threat to all living

things. You have the power to stop it here in BCP.

324 Bournemouth East residents voted for me in the General Election as an independent candidate campaigning to stop 5G.

100+ people attended a 5G & EMFs Community Meeting for BCP. I invited all BCP councillors – a few attended.

If any councillor would like more information I would be happy to meet you to go through the evidence and answer your questions.

**Statement read out by Emma Johnson on behalf of Cathryn Jones**

"Please stop 5g now  
We don't want it here!  
We want to be safe  
Not to live in fear  
that health will come second  
to internet speed  
Will you listen to the people?  
Will you take heed?  
To the warnings, concerns  
that we don't know enough  
That insufficient testing  
has been carried out on this stuff  
BCP we urge you to listen  
Other local authorities do  
Glastonbury, Frome, Totnes,  
to name a few  
Brighton & Hove more recently too  
Follow suit  
Take a stand  
Demand more to be shown  
That health will come first  
on our planet called home!"

108. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Cabinet were advised that there were no additional recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda on this occasion.

109. Smart Place Programme

The Leader 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.

Cabinet were advised of the intention of the Smart Place Programme, in relation to this Members were informed of the way on which the programme could enable communities to work with the Council and other organisations to create new applications and services through new business models and better use of data. In addition Members were advised of the way in which a

Smart Place Programme would help the Council to deliver its Corporate Strategy and boost income.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised Cabinet that at their recent meeting the Board had requested that the Chairman write a letter in support of the Smart Place Programme to the LEP.

A Councillor present at the meeting urged the Cabinet to take on board the opinions of everyone who had spoken, and in relation to this stressed the importance of having a baseline to compare the long term monitoring.

Another Councillor present at the meeting thanked so many Members of the public for coming out and engaging with the process.

Cabinet discussed the report and in relation to this were reminded that the pilot for the implementation of 5G had been approved in December and will begin later on in the year, and that this report was about how the Council engages with the Smart Place programme and to approve the progression of the investment plan.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet endorsed:-**

- (a) The continuation of work by officers in developing the Smart Place programme including;**
  - (i) The development of a Smart Place Investment Plan (subject to funding from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership);**
  - (ii) The development of a Smart Place Investment Plan at a future Cabinet meeting;**
  - (iii) The continuing development of Smart Place Programme applications, use cases and associated benefits for residents and businesses; and**
  - (iv) The development of a Smart Place workstream within the Key Cities Programme**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

110. Transition to a Sustainable Fleet Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change presented 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.

Cabinet were requested to consider and approve the future fleet replacement strategy.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder stressed the importance of sustainability going forwards with the ambition of the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030, and that with this in mind it was important to develop a strategic Sustainable Fleet Strategy that embedded this declaration into front-line service fleet operation requirements and the Council's transformation programme.

Further to this Cabinet were advised that there were currently different policies in different areas, and that there was no previous revenue for the replacement of vehicles.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board expressed concern that the report wasn't detailed enough and did not contain all of the information required in order to assess the risk.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) the development of a rationalised, long-term BCP Sustainable Fleet Strategy be endorsed;**
- (b) the financial impact of the varied approach to fleet replacement by legacy Councils on the BCP Sustainable Fleet Strategy be acknowledged; and**
- (c) the Service Director for Environment be authorised to use up to £4m of uncommitted fleet capital budget to acquire critical, high priority vehicles in the transition period to the Sustainable Fleet Strategy.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment and Climate Change

111. Beach House Café Rebuild, Mudeford Sandbank

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Communities presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet approval was sought for the rebuild of the Beach House Café at Mudeford Sandbank.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder thanked the Mudeford Sandbank Beach Hut Association for their comments during discussions that had taken place, and in relation to this proposed an additional recommendation;

*“(f) delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure & Communities and the Director for Destination to continue to engage with the Mudeford Sandbank Residents Association throughout the development of this project.”*

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised Cabinet that whilst there were no formal recommendations from the Board that he wished to congratulate the Council and the current tenants in making the most of the opportunity.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet:-**

- (a) approved the principle of rebuilding and improving the Mudeford Sandbank Beach House according to the current development programme;**
- (b) approved the principle of reusing the insurance monies and affordable additional borrowing of £811,250 to support the build;**

- (c) supported the inclusion of the project budget of £1,060k within the Capital Programme for 2020/21 to be approved at Full Council in February;
- (d) authorises officers to conclude contract negotiations with the tenant;
- (e) supported the current development programme timescale; and
- (f) delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure & Communities and the Director for Destination to continue to engage with the Mudeford Sandbank Residents Association throughout the development of this project.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Tourism, Leisure and Communities

112. BH Coastal Lottery Small Grant Scheme Criteria and Proposal to Extend BH Coastal Lottery Across BCP

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Communities presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet were advised that the BH Coastal Lottery had been launched in 2019 in order to raise funds for 'good causes' in Bournemouth. In relation to this Members were advised that the sale of lottery tickets started in January 2019 with the first draw taking place in March 2019, BH Coastal Lottery is now one of the biggest and most successful local authority lotteries in the country.

Further to this Cabinet were advised that the purpose of the report was to seek approval for the criteria and implementation of the Community Fund Small Grant Scheme and to consider approving the expansion of the BH Coastal Lottery to operate across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised that whilst there were no formal recommendations from the Boards recent meeting that the ability to engage with the community and smaller charities through this process was really valuable, and that he would be pleased to see the scheme extended.

A number of Members addressed Cabinet praising the success of the project and welcoming the opportunity of extending the scheme. In addition Members congratulated Councillor Kelly on the success of the project as she had been instrumental in driving the project forward within the legacy Bournemouth Borough Council.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet approved:-**

- (a) the criteria and implementation of the Community Fund Small Grant Scheme; and
- (b) the expansion of BH Coastal Lottery to operate across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Tourism, Leisure and Communities

113. Pilot scheme for the use of fixed penalty notices for relevant environmental enforcement issues and associated policy

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Communities presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet approval was sought for a pilot scheme to undertake environmental enforcement through the use of fixed penalty notices, further to this Cabinet approval was also sought of the required BCP wide enforcement policy to ensure legal compliance in serving fixed penalty notices in this context.

In presenting the report and in response to concerns that had been expressed during public issues the Portfolio Holder advised that there was a thorough appeals process in place. In addition the Portfolio Holder advised Members that should this pilot scheme be successful then the possibility of extending the scheme would be explored.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised Cabinet that whilst there was no formal recommendations from the recent Board meeting that there was a lot of general support for the scheme from the Board, with the Board recognising the benefit of a pilot scheme which you can develop and monitor.

Members expressed the importance of publicising the scheme, in addition Cabinet discussed the leave only footprints campaign, and recognised the work already being carried out by volunteer groups. Members felt that this pilot scheme should help encourage and support the volunteer groups to continue their good work.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (a) Cabinet approved a pilot Environmental Enforcement scheme in Bournemouth Town Centre for a period of six months; and**
- (b) Cabinet receive a further report on the outcome of the pilot, financial implications and future options appraisal for Environmental Enforcement across BCP, following completion of the pilot period.**
- (c) Cabinet approved the Policy for Environmental Enforcement through Fixed Penalty Notices to ensure legal compliance.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Tourism, Leisure and Communities

114. Review of Leisure Centre Management

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Communities presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.



Cabinet approval was sought to undertake a review of the management arrangements for the public leisure centres within BCP.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder advised that the purpose of the review was to ensure there was equal access to leisure centre services across BCP. In relation to this Members were advised that BCP Council owns 8 leisure centres which are currently operated under four different models of management and a variety of lease and contractual arrangements. Further to this Members were advised that the review would focus primarily on future arrangements at Ashdown, Poole (Dophin), Rossmore and 2Riversmeet Leisure Centres, due to the length of existing arrangements at other sites, and it was intended that the review would explore the options to generate capital investment to improve facilities and revenue savings for leisure, whilst providing a service that integrates with health and wellbeing through prevention at scale generating longer term savings elsewhere for the Council.

A Councillor present at the meeting addressed Cabinet stressing the importance of taking into account the cost of parking at each of the sites, particularly in relation to 2Riversmeet.

Cabinet members spoke in support of the report, both in terms of the potential efficiencies which could be achieved and the importance of integration with health and wellbeing.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (a) a review of the management arrangements for public leisure centres within BCP be supported;**
- (b) the allocation of £20k from existing service revenue budgets to procure a specialist leisure consultant to support the review be approved; and**
- (c) it was noted that current agreements may need to be extended until future management arrangements are approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Tourism, Leisure and Communities

115. Council Tax – Tax Base 2020/21

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

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder advised that the report calculated and presented the proposed Council Tax Base for council tax setting purposes in line with current legislation and guidance. Further to this Cabinet were advised that there was a requirement to maintain three separate Council Tax bases for Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch until the Council Tax Band D charge is harmonised for the new authority.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) the report for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2020/21 be approved and the tax base be recommended to Full Council;**
- (b) pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended, the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council is split for the year 2020/21 as Bournemouth 63,985, Christchurch 20,403 and Poole 58,609.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Finance

**116. Housing Scheme at Luckham Road, Bournemouth**

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

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder advised Cabinet that the BCP Council owned site currently consisted of 2x3 bedroom houses and 8x2 bedroom flats. In relation to this Cabinet were advised that the existing properties presented significant ongoing maintenance issues for BCP Council which are not sustainable and therefore require demolition. In addition to this the Portfolio Holder advised Cabinet that the site presented an opportunity for redevelopment and the building of replacement better quality sustainable family affordable homes.

Cabinet members were advised that the replacement homes would be of high quality and built to Passivhaus principles with additional sustainability components such as PV panels and electric heating.

Cabinet members praised the principles of the report, particularly with regards to the proposal to conform to the Passivhaus principles and the potential family affordable homes.

**RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:-**

- (a) support the scheme and for the budget required to deliver this within the HRA budget to be presented to Council in February;**
- (b) approve the proposed £1.856m housing scheme for subsequent approval request;**
  - (i) approval to commence and completion of build subject to the conditions set out in the Financial Strategy and authorise the Corporate Director for Environment and Community to approve necessary contractual and legal agreements in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer;**
  - (ii) approve the financial strategy for the scheme as set out in paragraphs 24 to 36 with specific approval for:**

- (iii) £939k to prudential borrowing to be repaid over 25 years used to finance the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Affordable rented homes;**
- (iv) Authorise the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to determine the detailed funding arrangements.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Housing

117. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website.

In addition to this the Leader advised of a change of venue for the next Cabinet meeting, confirming that the next meeting which was scheduled for Wednesday 12 February would take place in the Civic Offices in Poole.

The meeting ended at 11.50 am

CHAIRMAN