

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 July 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr D A Flagg – Chairman

Cllr L Fear – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr H Allen, Cllr L Allison, Cllr M Anderson, Cllr S C Anderson, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr J Bagwell, Cllr S Baron, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Borthwick, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr D Brown, Cllr S Bull, Cllr R Burton, Cllr D Butler, Cllr D Butt, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr E Coope, Cllr M Cox, Cllr M Davies, Cllr N Decent, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr B Dion, Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr L-J Evans, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Filer, Cllr N C Geary, Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Haines, Cllr P R A Hall, Cllr N Hedges, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Howell, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr C Johnson, Cllr T Johnson, Cllr A Jones, Cllr J Kelly, Cllr D Kelsey, Cllr R Lawton, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr L Lewis, Cllr R Maidment, Cllr C Matthews, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr D Mellor, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr L Northover, Cllr T O'Neill, Cllr P Parrish, Cllr S Phillips, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr R Rocca, Cllr M Robson, Cllr V Slade, Cllr A M Stribley, Cllr T Trent, Cllr M White, Cllr L Williams and Cllr K Wilson

18. Apologies

There were no apologies submitted for this meeting.

19. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Mike Brooke, in respect of agenda item 6a Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees – Cabinet 27 May 2020 – Minute no 173 Bournemouth Town Centre Vision (TCV): Winter Gardens Site – Regeneration Opportunities, declared a local interest that he was a Member of the Bournemouth Development Company.

The Interim Monitoring Officer in response to queries from Members of the Planning Committee reported that the items before the Council being considered were dealing with the developments on an executive basis relating to the financing of the projects. Therefore, all Members unless they had a pecuniary interest can take part, speak and vote. She explained that Members of the Planning Committee should not show themselves through their comments as having predetermined any planning issues on these developments.

20. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 June 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

21. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman reported on the following:

A - Death of Baroness Diana Maddock, former Christchurch MP

The Chairman with sadness reported on the recent death of Baroness Diana Maddock former Christchurch MP. She had been an MP in Christchurch from 1993 to 1997.

B - Death of Sir John Eden, former Bournemouth MP

The Chairman with sadness reported on the recent death of Sir John Eden. He had been an MP in Bournemouth from 1954 to 1983.

22. Public Issues

The Chairman reported as follows:

A – Public Questions

In accordance with the Constitution the public question received from John Dobson on the Beach House Mudeford had been published on the website and a link circulated to all Councillors. A response to this question had also been published on the Council's website.

B – Statements

In accordance with the Constitution the statements received as follows had been published on the website and a link circulated to all Councillors:

Susan Chapman - Climate emergency and Agenda Item 8
L Carey and Mr & Mrs Tucknott - Housing Scheme at Moorside Road
Conor O'Luby - vote of no confidence
Susan Lennon - Housing Scheme at Moorside Road
Dr Martin Price - Housing Scheme at Moorside Road
Mark Chivers - Climate emergency and Agenda Item 8

C - Petitions

No petitions had been received by the deadline for this Council meeting.

23. Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees

6a - Cabinet 27 May 2020 - Minute no 173 – Bournemouth Town Centre Vision (TCV): Winter Gardens Site – Regeneration Opportunities

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the recommendations on the above were deferred from the Council meeting on 9 June 2020 to enable consideration of the risk assessment. He reported that Councillors had received a supplementary report relating to the Project Risk Register.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Culture presented the report on the above strategy and proposed approval as set out on the agenda together with the supplementary report on the project risk register. He outlined the detail of the scheme, financial implications of the project and the funding arrangements. He explained that the Leader of the opposition and Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board had been offered a briefing, but this was not required, and responses had been provided to questions from Councillors. The Portfolio Holder highlighted one outstanding question from a Councillor asking why consideration of joint venture partner Morgan Sindall's financial status was not considered in the risk register. He explained that officers had advised that the financial position of the Council's partners was considered as part of a strategic risk assessment within a different Council process. The Portfolio Holder in commenting on the scheme highlighted the benefit for the Town Centre and the need to look at space standards for schemes going forward.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 May 2020 and the supplementary report relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Agreed

Item 6b - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 182 – Organisational Design – Implementation & Budget

The Chairman reported that Councillor Diana Butler had submitted a question on the Poole Civic Centre and in accordance with the Constitution it was proposed that this question be dealt with prior to consideration of the recommendations.

Question from Councillor Diana Butler

Poole Civic Centre is a beautiful listed Art Deco building which is part of Poole's historic identity. Why is it proposed to sell this unique asset, whilst there are many ways to enhance it's use as a Civic building and increase financial income through room and office hire?

Response from Councillor Vikki Slade (Leader of the Council)

Information provided to Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny clearly illustrates the need for a significant rationalisation of our property portfolio of the Council. This rationalisation and reduction of operating costs was a clear driver of the Local Government Reorganisation proposal and business case, and it is inevitable that there will be some high profile and difficult decisions as we move through this process.

With the earlier adoption of the Bournemouth Town Hall Campus as the site for the BCP Council Civic Centre and principal administrative "Hub", a decision based on a wide variety of criteria including the buildings capacity, cost, environmental constraints and geographic issues, we will need to

develop and consider alternative uses for the buildings that are released. In the case of Poole Civic Centre, this work will need to take into account its unique characteristics including the listing of part of the site and the potential, along with the accompanying cost/benefit appraisal, the continued use of all/part of it for heritage or civic purposes.

Councillor Butler asked that added to the civic use of the Poole Civic Centre had consideration been given to the massive opportunities that exist to earn income through hiring out rooms for weddings, conferences, training events and long term business office use in view of difficulties for businesses as the internal structure of the modern part of the building could be changed for that purpose with minimal cost.

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Butler for her suggestions and explained that a piece of work had already been undertaken on the accommodation strategy which will continue on other options for redevelopment around the site including for housing and other uses. She explained that there was a considerable amount of office space available in the Town Centre with better connectivity which was currently empty and the Council had not received any indication that this site was particularly of value for that purpose until such time as the work was complete all options remain on the table.

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the above and proposed approval as set out on the agenda. She explained that the paper before the Council followed the new operating model agreed last year based on a range of principles set out in a two-day piece of work with senior managers including finding market support for the transformation model. The Leader of the Council reported that Local Government Reorganisation had been predicated on making significant transformational savings within the Council not just by bringing the Councils together but transforming them into a modern, accessible and accountable Council. Councillors were reminded that the budget attached to the project was £30m which would expect to deliver up to £45m of benefits work, see improvements over a 3-4 year period and the Council would instruct a business partner to develop much of the work. The Council was advised of the premarket interest in the Council's plans and that the Council could be far more ambitious than the proposed £45m savings. Councillors were informed that the report before the Council required a higher price tag but comes with a bigger expectation with minimum savings of £47m.

The Leader reported that there had been significant changes in transformation work due to Covid 19 and that the Council could probably go faster than the 3-4 years to change the way it works moving out of civic buildings into community hubs and working remotely. She outlined the finances for the project and that prudential borrowing may no longer need to be used. The Leader of the Council referred to the timeline and the workstreams. She explained that a member group would be established in September working alongside an Officer Board on the workstreams. Councillors were informed that now the Bournemouth Town Hall had been adopted as the civic centre it was not proposed to undertake the major refurbishment project of up to £29m doing a lighter touch piece of refurbishment work and a further report

would be submitted later in the year. The Portfolio Holder for Finance outlined the change in the financial position of the project.

The Opposition Group Leader commented on the lack of ambition of the report and challenged how the project was being funded. He also commented on the removal of the transformation item from the Cabinet Forward. He reported that having made the above comments the Council needed to move away from service cuts and provide a clear message to officers and partners to support the project.

Councillors in discussing the project referred to a number of issues including the need for further work on space utilisation, the language used in the Equality Impact needs assessment and the requirements of the Equality Act and the need to ensure that there was appropriate accessibility to all civic buildings.

The Leader of the Council responded to some of the issues raised during the debate. She welcomed the Opposition Group Leader's support for the project and reported that the proposal to spend up to £29m on the Town Hall had been supported across the Council which did include the then Group Leader and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. The Leader of the Council clarified that the transformation item had not been removed from the Cabinet forward plan, explained that the spatial resource was continually being reviewed and that the equality needs assessment had looked closely at the needs of different protected characteristics in order to make the necessary changes.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Agreed

Councillor Diana Butler voted against the proposals.

Item 6c - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 183 – Bistro on the Beach

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Communities presented the report on the above and proposed approval as set out on the agenda. He outlined the detail of the project.

A Portfolio Holder indicated that he was pleased to see lift access to the beach as part of the development.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Agreed

Councillor Diana Butler voted against the proposal.

Item 6d - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 187 – Convert Bournemouth Learning Centre building into a school

The Portfolio Holder for Children’s and Families presented the report on the above and proposed approval as set out on the agenda. She outlined the detail of the project which would provide a special school to be run as a satellite to a local external provider. This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, approved by Cabinet and Council approval was now required for the disposal of the lease. The Portfolio Holder reported that increasing local specialist provision would meet increased demand and reduce the pressure on the high needs block fund and the transport budget. A six-week formal consultation was required by the DFE and the Portfolio Holder outlined the timetable for the project. The Portfolio Holder reported on the relocation of staff and other partners and explained that she had met with Ward and other Councillors and that issues and questions raised would be included in the public consultation.

A Ward Councillor expressed his concerns that initially he and his ward colleague had not been consulted on the proposals but thanked the Portfolio Holder and Service Director who quickly rectified that error. He commented on the potential impact of the scheme and the necessary consultation. Councillors welcomed the project.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Unanimous

Item 6e - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 188 – Templeman House, Leedham Road, Bournemouth

The Portfolio Holder for Housing presented the report on the above and proposed approval as set out on the agenda. He outlined the detail of the scheme and the funding arrangements.

The Portfolio Holder advised Councillors of an error in the report and confirmed that there would be a gate which would have two-way secured access.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Agreed

Councillor Jackie Edwards abstained from the above decision.

Item 6f - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 189 – Housing Scheme at Moorside Road, Bournemouth

The Portfolio Holder for Housing presented the report on the above and proposed approval as set out on the agenda. He reported that the ward in

the report should refer to Kinson and not Kinson South. The Portfolio Holder outlined the housing scheme and referred to the statements received which had raised three main concerns on flooding, pilling and the financing of the scheme. He outlined the proposals for dealing with surface water and the use of sustainable urban draining systems and highlighted that the amount of surface water would be no greater than before the development to meet the requirements of the Local Plan. Councillors were advised that a pilling engineer would be appointed to provide detailed design and undertake a full assessment. The Portfolio Holder referred to the ecological aspects of the scheme and explained that a specialist ecologist would be working on the site and issues on ecology consulted upon. Councillors were advised of the financing of the scheme which included using Right to Buy receipts and the standards of the proposed development.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change reported that she appreciated the correspondence from Friends of the Earth and local residents on the scheme. She explained that these aspects had been looked at in depth and been through the Planning Committee. She acknowledged the difficulties for residents when such a large change was proposed and had looked into the issues raised.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change explained that the SSSI designation in itself does not mean that it needs a 400-metre buffer. She reported that an SSSI needs international designations for that 400 m buffer feature to be relevant these are the special protection area, the special area of conservation and Ramsar designations. Councillors were informed that the Fernheath SSSI does not have the international designations and therefore does not require the 400 m buffer. The Portfolio Holder reported that she had requested details of the management of protected species on the site and reported if the scheme was approved she was satisfied that the Council and its partners were fulfilling their duties following the policies in place when planning permission was granted and complying with national guidance. She also commented on the opportunities through the Local Plan and the Climate Emergency which had been declared to create action and develop policies to increase biodiversity.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance highlighted the opportunity that would be provided for local families in supporting the scheme.

A Councillor reported that he had been lobbied by local residents in the area and requested that findings of the ecological studies were made public.

Members commented on the scheme and confirmed that all issues including the 400 m buffer had been taken into account when considered by the preceding authority.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting: Agreed

Councillor Diana Butler voted against the above decision.
Councillors Duane Farr, Laurence Fear and Chris Rigby abstained from the above decision.

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

Item 6g - Cabinet 24 June 2020 - Minute no 195 – Disposal of land at Southbourne Crossroads

This item was restricted by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Leader of the Council presented the recommendations. Councillors were advised that Southbourne Crossroads had been declared surplus and was marketed for sale, and that the recommendations sought agreement of the sale price. A Ward Councillor commented on the need for consultation.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2020 relating to the above were approved.

Voting – Agreed

Councillors Stephen Bartlett and Diana Butler voted against the above decision.

Councillors Julie Bagwell, Daniel Butt, Eddie Coope, Malcolm Davies, Felicity Rice and Ann Stribley abstained from the above decision

Councillors then agreed to move into public session.

24. Appointment of Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer for BCP Council

The Leader of the Council 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. The Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition who had been involved in the recruitment process supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 that Council confirms the appointment of Ms Susan Zeiss, as the Council's Monitoring Officer and Director of Law and Governance.

Voting: Unanimous

25. Notice of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 13

Councillor Mellor put on record a level of disappointment that he had in needing to bring forward this motion having been advised at different points by senior Officers that the revised budget would be coming to Council as a full budget paper which would have given Councillors the right to debate it and suggest an alternative budget.

The Council was advised of the following motion proposed by Councillor Drew Mellor and seconded by Councillor Mohan Iyengar:-

“As an opportunity for BCP Council to display a cross party consensus in leading the conurbation out of Covid-19 on behalf of all residents, Council requires Cabinet to consider the proposals set out in the Conservative Group’s budget reset paper at the next Cabinet meeting.”

Councillor Mellor outlined the reasons for bringing forward the motion due to the proposed change in the budget as a result of the pandemic and the opportunity to work together to achieve a solution. Members in considering the motion discussed the available opportunities to comment on and scrutinise the budget, referred to the document circulated prior to the Council meeting and the level of detail provided. The Leader of the Council reminded Councillors of the balanced budget which had been agreed in February 2020. She explained the approach being undertaken by other Councils and that the budget gap was changing on a daily basis due to the pandemic. Opposition Members explained that the purpose of the motion was to allow all Members ideas to be considered. A Portfolio Holder indicated that he was always happy to discuss and consider ideas from Councillors. Councillor Mellor highlighted the need for all Members to be part of the debate.

RESOLVED that the above motion be carried.

Voting – Agreed

Councillor Tony Trent abstained from the above decision.

26. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor Mike Cox

Can I please ask the responsible Cabinet Member to review Hedgerow management. After recent cutbacks by the Council in Purewell the scene left behind was one of devastation.

Whilst I accept there was some cutting back required for safety reasons the mechanical flailing left a scene of destruction with twigs and splintered

wood scattered everywhere to say nothing of it occurring in the middle of the bird nesting season.

There must be a better way of looking after our environment such as leaving areas for wilding and the planting of wildflower beds on the road verges.

Response from Councillor Felicity Rice, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

The works at Purewell were purely operational as the vegetation had started to grow out into the pavement to such an extent that it forced pedestrians close to the road, creating an urgent safety issue.

A tractor mounted flail was used due to the length and thickness of the vegetation which inevitably causes some split ends, which will green up very quickly. Please be assured that staff checked for bird nesting prior to carrying out the work.

The Council, through the Environmental Services Parks team are working towards a new approach to verge management in order to enhance the natural regeneration of wildflower meadows over a managed and sustained period of time. This was outlined in a paper brought to Cabinet in March, 'Grass Cutting, Wildflower & Grassland Habitat Management Policy'

This outlines a range of activities to promote wildlife including changes to mowing regime, frequencies, denitrification via cut & collect to promote natural wildflower development and the seeding and development of additional annual wild flower meadows.

This year's reduction in grass cutting due to operational restriction imposed on us through Covid -19, has also highlighted how wildlife & wildflowers can take advantage if we are prepared to change our normal working practices.

Question from Councillor Simon Bull

How is the council addressing the perceived, and indeed actual, lack of ethnic diversity within the workforce at all levels, what measures, such as anonymizing job applications before shortlisting, are currently in place?

Response from Councillor Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council

The Strategic Equalities Leadership Group is setting up a working group to review how the Council will ensure effective and long term inclusivity and engagement with our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff, residents and visitors. The group will involve a range of council and community representatives and particularly focus on understanding the barriers to achieving a more diverse workforce. It is expected that the working group, along with the Strategic Equalities Leadership Group, will hold the council

to account by monitoring progress against our People Strategy and our Equality and Diversity commitments.

BCP Council's People Strategy and its Equality and Diversity Action Plan include a number of actions that aim to celebrate diversity and put in place measures that will establish a more representative council workforce. Our current recruitment and selection policies are fair and robust but it is recognised they do not currently deliver a workforce that is truly representative of our communities and that we could do more. We therefore need to look at how we can improve the way in which we attract, retain and develop staff from different ethnic groups in order to deliver a more representative workforce at all levels of the organisation.

There are a number of actions that we plan to take:

- We are establishing more accurate data on our workforce diversity, we have inherited incomplete equalities data so we will address that in order to provide us with the most accurate picture of our workforce from which we can measure change over time
- We are reviewing all HR policies and this will include consideration of anonymization of personal data for shortlisting purposes
- We will introduce unconscious bias training which will be mandatory for all employees
- We will improve and target our communications, including those related to our recruitment activity, to more effectively reach potential candidates from BAME communities who may have deselected themselves as potential BCP Council employees (possibly due to imagery, marketing, social media and the recruitment channels we use)
- We will use the Council's Equalities Champion's Network to build employee groups to better represent minority groups
- We will design and develop a BCP Council Talent and Succession process that can support and accelerate the development of lesser represented employees

Question from Councillor from Diana Butler

Why has an "Experimental Traffic Regulation Order" been used to close Poole Quay for 18mths to motor vehicles, without prior consultation with the public, all Councillors, motorbike event supporters and people with disabilities?

Response from Councillor Andy Hadley, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure

Thank you for your question Councillor Butler.

On 9th May, the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps made an announcement urging Councils to consider pinchpoints, and locations to assist with social distancing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular, given the restrictions on travel by public transport to encourage walking and cycling. This required Local Authorities to follow an accelerated process of

4 weeks to commence work, and 8 weeks to complete temporary measures. This precluded the consultation processes that we are all used to.

So I wrote to all 75 BCP Councillors on 10th May inviting suggestions for widening pavements, giving protected space for cycling, and low traffic neighbourhoods. This was also shared through the Leader's Facebook Live sessions.

We were not advised until 27th May that BCP Council had an indicative award, based on 2011 public transport to work census journey data, of £280K.

We have had over 1,000 suggestions from members of the public and Ward Councillors, and the officers prioritised 14 schemes based on pavement width and congestion risk. The lower section of Poole High Street and Poole Quay scored highly and was therefore included in the list of priority proposals to the Department for Transport.

The confirmation of the funding granted to us by the Department for Transport was on the 25th June, of £315K recognising a good submission (13% uplift).

The Government guidance proposed the use of an Experimental Traffic Regulation order, which involves 7 days advance notice, but we did additionally write out to many stakeholders. Making the change starts the consultation process, which will be reviewed in the months ahead.

- An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken.
- The disabled parking bays by Sea Music are being re-provided across the road with full width bays.
- New Motorcycle bays have been marked at the roundabout, and once events are restarted, the road will be opened for the events like bike night
- We met with a number of the businesses in the week leading up to the change to hear their concerns, and officers made changes to the scheme in response to this.
- We now have a live consultation, available over the next 6 months, and by using the Experimental route, we can adjust the scheme in that time, although material changes would reset the 6 month clock.
- The legislation gives us 18 months before an Experimental TRO has to either be reverted, or replaced by permanent measures, including that consultation.

Members of the public can provide feedback via our website
<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/Council-and-Democratic/Consultation-And-Research/Consultations/Poole-Quay-Experimental-Traffic-Regulation-Order.aspx>

Councillor Butler asked a supplementary question relating to the 18-month period for the experimental order and in particular if the impact on businesses and motorbike events had been taken into consideration for the

short, medium and long term. The Portfolio Holder reported that as referenced in his response he would expect that there would be a review after six months and confirmed that all events had been cancelled to the end of August and when they restart we would accommodate special events on the Quay as before.

Question from Councillor Chris Rigby

This meeting marks a full year since we voted almost unanimously to declare a climate and ecological emergency, and six months since the publication of the draft action plan.

Could I please ask the portfolio holder for environment and climate change to provide an update on what actions have been undertaken in relation to the deceleration and draft plan, and also what plans are in place for creating the citizens assembly on this topic.

Response from Councillor Felicity Rice, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Many thanks for your question.

Overall, I am pleased to say that in the past year, the Council has been commended by both the Local Government Association and the Association for Public Service Excellence, for our response following our climate and ecological emergency declaration. We are also one of 5 UK towns and cities praised as global climate leaders by carbon disclosure charity CDP and we are on their 'Cities A-List'.

We have also had national recognition that we have redesigned the Wessex Fields development site so that the focus is fundamentally switched towards sustainable and healthy forms of transport, which is of course, particularly relevant given the enthusiasm from the Bournemouth Hospital to enable their staff to be healthy, and for the whole population to be able to breathe cleaner air.

We have a long list of actions which is available on our climate action page, however a few actions to mention are:

- Incorporating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals throughout our Corporate Strategy.
- The development the Decision Impact Assessment tool enabling all projects, decisions and policies to be assessed against sustainability criteria.
- Fundamental change by incorporating Sustainable Procurement in the Council's new Financial Regulations.
- Climate change presentations to staff and Councillors by Al Gore's Climate Reality Project
- Purchasing green electricity from renewable sources for all our buildings and streetlights, saving over 7,000 tonnes of carbon

dioxide each year, whilst at the same time looking at opportunities to develop our own renewable energy sources in the longer term. Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed at Council Depots and an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle and road sweepers are to be trialled.

- 691 households have been referred into the Local Energy Advice Partnership, generating carbon savings and £770,000 in energy bill reductions.
- Schools have been engaged through the Council's Leave Only Footprints, and the Youth Parliament is leading campaigns on environmental issues. There was a planned Young People's Summit that was due to be held in June, however this will now be held as a series of virtual events throughout the summer.
- An internal Climate Action Champions Network is being launched on the first anniversary of the Declaration to engage all staff in making carbon reductions.
- The council funded a Beryl Bike scheme for key workers during the pandemic, with 1000 essential journeys made by Beryl Bike. The council has been successful in its recent £280k bid for the Government Emergency Active Travel grant, which has been mentioned in national transport workshops.
- Staff have been surveyed on their pandemic homeworking experiences to aid introduction of 'New Ways of Working' to decrease commuting and work travel

You also asked about the Citizens Assembly. A citizen assembly is where a randomly selected proportion of society is brought together, to understand in depth, discuss and debate various aspects of climate change action. By involving a cross section of society, and allowing time for informed decision making, it is similar to the process of Jury Duty, which is recognised around the world as one of the best ways of making important decisions. Originally planned for May 2020, this has been postponed until safe to convene the required sample of residents at a venue over multiple days.

Our community engagement campaign, has also been delayed but this will now be launched at the end of July. This will gather the views of residents on climate change, the proposed actions they would prioritise and the actions they would be prepared to undertake themselves to reduce.

A report detailing all our actions and emission reductions since approval of the draft Action Plan will be presented to Council in December.

As a consequence of Covid 19, we have all seen the dramatic changes that our society has been through and although many of these changes have been forced upon us in a negative way, a YouGov survey found that only 9% of the population wanted life to 'return to normal' after lockdown, citing cleaner air, more wildlife and stronger communities. Lockdown was hugely different for everyone, however many of the aspects that the public appreciated during lockdown, were all in keeping with actions on tackling the climate and wildlife crisis. It presents an opportunity for us all to

imagine a different future, and we know now that dramatic change is possible, but we need to take charge of that change and manage it in a positive and active way.

Question from Councillor Nigel Brooks

In September 2013 the preceding Councils of Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset commissioned and received a ***‘Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show-people Accommodation Assessment’*** from Opinion Research Services.

The report concluded that extra pitches were required in each of the 5-year bands from 2013 to 2028.

Every year since 2013 residents have seen summer incursions of Travellers onto Council owned land across the conurbation resulting in disruption, anti-social behaviour, and extensive waste resulting in an ever-increasing cost to the Council.

The vast majority of travellers are law-abiding citizens but illegal sites often give an unfair, negative image of their community and cause distress and misery to those who live nearby.

What action is BCP Council going to take to put in place ‘Transit Sites’ to tackle the annual influx of travellers to our area?

Response from Councillor Felicity Rice, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

The planning needs for transit provision in the future will be reviewed as part of the evidence for the emerging BCP Local Plan. The current evidence, set out in the 2017 Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show-people Accommodation Assessment, concludes that the need for transit provision should be monitored overtime looking at the numbers of unauthorised incursions and considered against an approach on ongoing management measures. The GTTAA study will be updated to support the BCP Local Plan to consider this issue further and will link up with the ongoing work of the cross party Member Working Group, which was restarting this month, that will continue to consider how best to address this issue for the BCP area.

Councillor Brooks indicated that he appreciated the work being done to address this ongoing matter, asked that this issue was not kicked into the long grass and that Councillors see some positive options on how we can tackle this issue. The Portfolio Holder reported that she takes this aspect of her portfolio very seriously and the Cabinet wants to lead on this work and that she appreciated Councillors support.

The meeting ended at 10.22 pm

CHAIRMAN