

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 November 2022 at 7.00 pm, adjourned and reconvened on 5 December 2022 at 6.00pm

Present:-

Cllr N Hedges – Chairman

Cllr T O'Neill – Vice-Chairman (8 November only)

Present: Cllr H Allen, Cllr L Allison, Cllr M Anderson, Cllr S C Anderson, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr J Bagwell (8 November only), Cllr S Baron, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Borthwick, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr N Brooks (8 November only), Cllr D Brown, Cllr S Bull, Cllr R Burton, Cllr D Butler (5 December only), Cllr D Butt, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr E Coope, Cllr M Cox, Cllr M Davies, Cllr N Decent (8 November only), Cllr L Dedman, Cllr B Dion (8 November only), Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr L-J Evans, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr L Fear, Cllr A Filer, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr S Gabriel, Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Haines (8 November only), Cllr P R A Hall, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Howell, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr T Johnson, Cllr A Jones, Cllr J Kelly, Cllr D Kelsey, Cllr R Lawton, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr L Lewis (8 November only), Cllr R Maidment (8 November only), Cllr A Martin (8 November only), Cllr S McCormack, Cllr D Mellor, Cllr P Miles (8 November only), Cllr S Moore, Cllr L Northover, Cllr S Phillips, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice (8 November only), Cllr V Ricketts (8 November only), Cllr C Rigby, Cllr R Rocca, Cllr M Robson (8 November only), Cllr V Slade, Cllr A M Stribley (5 December only), Cllr T Trent, Cllr M White, Cllr L Williams and Cllr K Wilson (8 November only)

26. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors D Butler, C Johnson, C Matthews, S Phillips and A Stribley for that part of the meeting held on 8 November 2022.

Apologies were received from Councillors J Bagwell, B Dion, C Johnson, L Lewis, A Martin, T O'Neill (Vice Chairman), V Ricketts, M Robson, K Wilson for the reconvened meeting on the 5 December 2022.

27. Declarations of Interests

Councillors M Brooke, N Brooks and T Johnson declared for transparency purposes an interest as a Board Member of Bournemouth Development Company in respect of Minute No. 32 (Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees – Audit and Governance Committee 28 July 2022 – Minute No. 117 – Treasury Management Monitoring Report) and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillors L-J Evans and P Hilliard declared for transparency purposes an interest in respect of Minute No. 32 (Recommendations from the Cabinet

and Committees – Cabinet 7 September 2022 – Minute No. 42 – Wessex Fields Site) and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

28. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

29. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chair informed Council that this was the first meeting since the passing of Queen Elizabeth and as a mark of respect asked members to stand for a minutes silence.

The Chair informed Council of the recent passing of two former Councillors, Councillor Sue Anderson from Bournemouth Borough Council and Councillor Brian Clements from Poole Borough Council who had sadly recently passed away.

Councillor M Brooke relayed personal experiences of working with Councillor Brian Clements and Councillor R Lawton relayed personal experiences of working with Councillor Sue Anderson following which Councillors were upstanding for a period of respectful silence.

**Civic Activities**

The Chair took the opportunity to refer to some of the engagements that he had attended since the last Council meeting as detailed below:

- Launch of the Christchurch Rotary “Living Advent Calendar” (the second one) and mentioning BCP Tourism’s continuing support, attending with the Mayor of Christchurch.
- The national Ladies Barbershop Convention at the BIC
- Attended the Christchurch Civic Day at the invitation of the Mayor of Christchurch
- Cllr Nick Geary’s Funeral at Christchurch Priory (in a personal capacity)
- Dorset Police “Change Your Mind” Conference at BU sharing the front row with the High Sheriff and the Chief Constable
- Attended the opening of the new Rehabilitation Centre at the Anglo European University College of Chiropractic in Boscombe
- Conducted the 999 Emergency Services Flag Day ceremony at BCP Civic Offices Bournemouth
- Attended the Commodore’s Reception at the Royal Motor Yacht Club and establishing new connections with a Poole based charity they support
- Opening of the Premier Store Talbot Village
- Attended the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Oratory at The Sacred Heart on Richmond Hill, Bournemouth
- Attended the Queen Elizabeth II Musical Oratory and Battle of Britain Service, Reading a Lesson, at Christchurch Priory
- Attending the Lord Lieutenant’s Awards Ceremony at Kingston Maurward

- BU Graduation Ceremony at the BIC
- The High Sheriff's Proclamation of King Charles III at Dorchester, the Council Offices
- Read the Proclamation of King Charles III at the BCP Civic Offices Bournemouth the same day
- Attended an Afternoon Tea for Schools Appeals Volunteers in the Willows Room, BCP Civic Offices Bournemouth
- Opened the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bournemouth Air Festival, taking the Salute at Beat Retreat and meeting the Flying Tigers who were unable to perform and stage the salute owing to adverse weather conditions.
- Hosted a table for "BCP Heroes" with Head of Corporate Comms Ms Isla Reynolds at the Air Festival
- Attended the "Meet The Pilots" Red Arrows' Association Dinner, accompanying the High Sheriff of Dorset (in a personal capacity)
- Attended the IGBO People's New Yam Festival with the Mayors of Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and Ferndown.
- Attended the BCHA Festival of Wellbeing in Boscombe with the Mayor of Bournemouth
- Conducted the Opening of Jollyes Pet Store in Poole with Harry Redknapp
- Attended a lunch at the RNLI to hear observations about BCP Charity Licensing from Marie Curie and Bournemouth & Christchurch Branch of the RNLI in a private capacity
- Attended the BSO Proms in the Park
- Attended the BSO Mahler Concert
- Many meetings working with the High Sheriffs (past and present) and BU on the Harmony 2 Conference for March 2023 in a semi-private capacity but from a point of my position as BCP Chairman following last year's engagement and involvement.

30. Public Issues

The Chairman advised that as some questions and statements had been carried over from the previously postponed meeting that the questions and statements on this occasion would be heard in the order they were received in rather than questions first followed by statements.

**Public Question from Ian Clark**

I was visiting Hengistbury Head on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. I thought would be a good occasion to go in the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre. I was astonished to find the visitor centre closed & also to see was closed the previous day on Saturday & also on Bank Holiday Monday.

I cannot understand on the busiest weekend of the year why the visitor centre was closed. There would have been a lot of visitors that would have welcomed the information and products in the visitors centre.

Why was the visitor centre not open over the bank holiday weekend.

**Response from Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

I would like to thank Mr Clark for his question,

We endeavour to ensure Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre is open to the public to experience and enjoy as much as possible. Regrettably this Summer owing to marketplace recruitment difficulties and wider staff shortages we have been unable to always keep the visitor centre open as much as we would ordinarily seek to achieve and apologise for any disappointment this has caused.

Working to a rota, those staff directly employed to manage the centre and the wider countryside team who are also based on site, work hard to ensure that closures are kept to a minimum. We are thankful to the volunteers who play a huge role in supporting the centre and keeping it operational and open to the public, however, a member of staff is required to always be on site with them and at times throughout this year this has not been possible.

**Public Question from Daniel Parkin**

Can the leader explain why he told Council on 22 February that a 'detailed report' from KPMG did 'not exist', whereas in fact two reports existed at that stage - a 55-page report with two appendices, dated September 2021; and a second report entitled 'Commercialisation of assets', completed six days prior to the meeting. It would also be good to have an apology from whoever withheld these reports from elected members; had they seen the warnings on page 43 of the first report, re 'SPV borrowing', they might have voted down the budget and a costly fiasco could have been avoided.

**Response from Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council**

The statement I made on 22 February was not incorrect, as the report which existed at that stage was still in development and subject change. The relevant advice from KPMG was included in the content of the Cabinet/Council report.

**Public Question from Alex McKinstry**

Can we have a detailed explanation of how and why the KPMG reports were withheld from councillors in the run-up to February's budget. This came up at the recent scrutiny meeting, and several factors were hypothetically discussed, including a leader's "determination that a draft document should not be released". These reports are clearly not drafts, however; and in any case, I can't see how a leader's determination could take precedence over the rule of law - Section 100F LGA 1972, or the common-law "need to know", which is crucial if councillors are to perform due diligence on a controversial budget.

**Response from Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council**

My decision not to disclose the draft KPMG reports was made on advice and in consideration of the available information at the time. Relevant KPMG advice was included in the written report brought to Cabinet and Council.

### **Statement from Jamie Dunn**

The possibility of injuries in school is always present, so making sure everyone based there are equipped to handle different types of injuries is important. Last year I contacted Cllr Greene and Sarah Rempel respectively asking for support within the BCP community of schools. I introduced Zach Griffiths from the British Red Cross South division. Within six months, a large uptake of bookings have been placed with the BRC and delivered across a number of BCP venues. Further discussions are ongoing on introducing first aid classes within the school day. Let's take the opportunity to lead on such an issue.

### **Public Question from Ian Lawrence**

We're told BCP is our "most efficient Council"- a template. In December Planning proudly announced stopping answering the public for "clearance week" as meeting challenges but suggesting understaffing or low customer service priority. Planning's failed to answer my simple customer service complaint from 22/11/21. Can Cllr Broadhead explain why despite reminders on 11/1/22, 19/4/22, 13/7/22, 16/8/22, 1/9/22 even a 26/4/22 council meeting statement? Is 9 months and counting acceptable to receive an answer from a department which claims, "We aim to provide responses within 20 working days" So far 181. Why this delay? Overworked, inefficient, poor customer service training, leadership?

### **Response from Councillor Bobbie Dove, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services**

Thank you for the question. Mr Lawrence's complaint response has now been issued with an apology with the length of time that it has taken. It was an unacceptable delay for which the Planning Department is truly sorry. In response a review of the complaints process is underway to ensure such delays wherever possible do not happen again.

### **Public Question from Jamie Dunn**

Whilst support for the importance of adding first aid to our school curriculums have been cascaded in such as the likes of my social media posts or tweets, no evidential support has been given to our local schools since.

Can I ask for a detailed response as to why this is and indeed what the educational lead of BCP council is going to do in liaising with the education secretary on bringing First aid onto our Dorset school curriculums?

### **Public Question from Jamie Dunn**

Upton Country Park used to be a free to park destination. If a young family chooses to spend a day at UCP then they are required to pay £6 or more if at least 4 hours are spent. Since my UCP statement was read out in January full council, no correspondence and no prices have chosen to be reviewed. The public are continuing to find other residential roads, namely in Creekmoor, Upton and Hamworthy around the perimeter of UCP.

Can I ask why this continues to be the case and when prices will be reviewed at council level?

**Response from Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

I would like to thank Mr Dunn for this and the other questions he has previously asked regarding parking around Upton Country Park.

The multi award-winning Upton Country Park and Grade II\* listed Upton House is visited by over 600,000 people annually. The 160 acre site is open seven days a week and unlike many large parks and attractions is free to enter, with facilities such as the children's play park, splash fountain and bird hide free for all visitors to enjoy. The Park also supports a range of community programmes, from student work placements, youth volunteers, gardening and conservation groups to works with local schools, colleges, and universities to support education and learning experiences. During school holidays the Park hosts free or low-cost subsidised activities for families.

BCP Council has made significant investment to create a new network of sustainable transport routes, providing safe and environmentally friendly travel alternatives to driving. Upton Country Park can be reached by foot, cycle, train, and bus. Using alternatives to the car reduces carbon emissions and improves air quality and will make significant steps in tackling local and national transport and environmental issues.

The low parking tariffs at the park for those who want to drive still provide excellent value, and regular park users can buy a parking season ticket for the equivalent of less than £1 per week. Following public consultation, car park charges were introduced in 2017 with all monies raised from parking supports Upton Country Park conservation, maintenance, and education programmes and helps to reduce the pressure on BCP Council budgets, allowing for other investments to support local people.

**Public Question from Daniel Parkin**

Mr Broadhead, in August 2021 you stated it was absolutely unacceptable the spilling of sewage off of Boscombe Pier from local water company, and said frankly that you were in a position of saying enough is enough now and you were not taking no for an answer. However, it seems that your words have fallen on deaf ears considering you have not responded at all with this summers continuous dumping of sewage into our sea our rivers. Will you at least issue warning flags/signs when this repeatedly happens again, rather than focus on sale of beach huts and commercialisation of our beaches.

**Response from Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

I would like to thank Mr Parkin for his question.

I do however take exception with his suggestions regarding sewage pumping onto the beach. I have concerns regarding the way the environment agencies predicted water quality alerts are treated and as such I am doing something about it.

Boscombe beach was red-flagged by the RNLI on many occasions this summer as they respond to these Pollution Risk Forecasts produced by the

Environment Agency. These forecasts are based on many factors such as forecasted rain, tide and wind conditions.

The council have for the last 2 years been running a water quality trial in Poole Harbour and Poole lagoon and I believe this technique should now be used in a real-world solution. You may have seen the press release about this. I am aiming to put sensors on Boscombe pier along with measuring equipment next year and using the council's Smart Place Infrastructure will provide real time water quality measurements, we hope that the project will cover more parameters than the EA basic bacteria count, which is a crude measure of quality. It will, more importantly, by providing real time water quality measurements, ensure that red flags for water quality will be based on facts rather than predictions.

I hope this explains what we have been doing about the sewage on the beach perceptions and I now need to refute the claim about "continuous dumping of sewage into our sea at Boscombe".

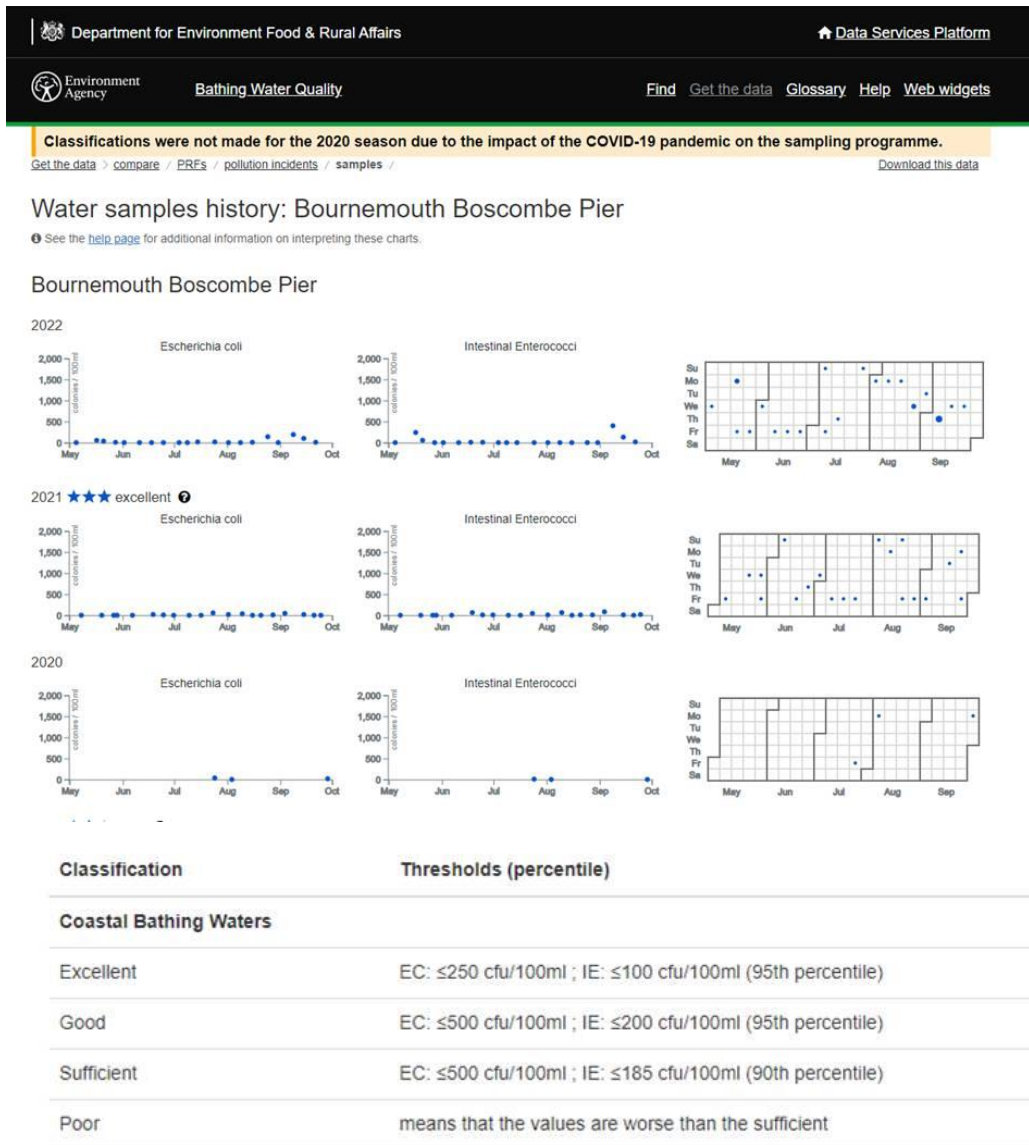
Firstly, people confuse Storm overflows with Surface water outfalls, Surface water outfalls collect the rainwater that falls onto roofs and roads flows into road drains and gullies. This rainwater as well as any other water that enters the drains and gullies then flows through these underground pipes and into the nearest river or the sea. They are not connected to the sewage network. There is one on the west side of Boscombe pier.

The storm overflow at Boscombe Pier operated 3 times in this bathing season (15th May to 30th Sept) for a total of 1 hour 22 minutes during heavy storms. These are the pipes that take the overflows from the treatment plant 500 metres out to sea before releasing a mixture of sewage and a lot of rainfall. Whilst I would rather there were no storm overflows this is certainly not Wessex Water continuous dumping of sewage into our sea this summer.

So, the Boscombe pier area is not covered with sewage that has been pumped out continuously through the summer!

The preliminary results on water quality testing are looking good. The EA are yet to publish the final classifications for the 2022 Bathing Season but based on the spot sample data, they are looking very good for BCP. The classification results are usually published in November, although in the last few years there have been delays due to Covid, so I'm not sure of the exact timescale for this.

I have some comprehensive Bathing waters data - sample history, taken by the Environment Authority and will give you the information as part of the written answer, and from the data presented for 2022, it looks as though there was only one sample taken which didn't achieve Excellent status, on 8th September. All the samples achieved Excellent for EColi, obviously this data need to go through the EA/Defra QA process but I believe that the 2022 classification for Boscombe Pier may well be Excellent, as it was in 2021.



**Public Question from Soo Chapman**

Planet Earth has become a crime scene. Mother Nature is being sacrificed to the deadly industries that have lied to us about their destructive capabilities for fifty years. We watch in horror as the Global Incineration Event destabilises our only home and note that Pakistan is demanding climate reparations from rich carbon- polluting countries.

Resource wars, hunger, extinctions, further loss and damage must be avoided. Project Drawdown and behaviour change must start now. When will BCP's overdue Public Information Programme inform, motivate and incentivise all citizens to protect and value the biosphere, without which we will not survive?

**Response from Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport**

At BCP Council we are committed to our goals of net zero for the Council by 2030 and the BCP Area by 2050, or earlier. We have to ensure we use our budgets as wisely as possible. Over and above what information is



already communicated to the general public, we prioritise action over information campaigns at this point in time so that we can demonstrate a direct contribution of our activities towards our own and the BCP Area's GHG emission reduction targets. In the past two years we have utilised our budgets to help leverage significantly more money from central government, including utilising £150k from our Green Futures Fund to receive £1.9M from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce energy use in our buildings, saving over 200 tonnes of carbon per year, and we utilised £120K from the climate budget to assist 600 local homes to receive over £2M in energy cost savings on their bills and reduce over 1,000 tonnes of carbon annually.

**Statement from Julie Redman (Read out of Graham)**

Bounce Back Challenge Fund awarded 109 grants totalling £3million. Applications were initially assessed by Dorset Growth Hub who recommended a grant amount to award. 14 applications rejected by Dorset Growth Hub received grants totalling £470,000. 39 applications who the Dorset Growth Hub recommended received grants totalling £640,000, were actually given grants totalling £2million. One example, Bournemouth 7's, £15,000 recommended, awarded £70,000. Their profit in 2021 was more than half a million pounds. 211 businesses went without financial support because Cllr Broadhead and the Economic Development Team gave 53 applicants a total of £1.8 million more than Dorset Growth Hub recommended.

**Statement from Philip Stanley (Read out of Graham)**

Urban planning today will affect the wellbeing of future generations. Building endless flats and tall buildings with token small green spaces will create densely packed environments leading to a lack of ecosystems. There should be more natural elements within the built environment such as green roofs and designing buildings that mimic patterns found in nature. Far too often developers sit on planning applications, and they cut down too many trees without replacing all of them.

**Public Question from Phil Hanchett**

Following a recent study in Chichester Harbour it was found that derelict glass fibre boats do not biodegrade; rather they degrade into strands that can cause cancer in aquatic organisms and become part of the food chain in the form of microplastics. Would BCP support BeachPeople's second campaign, called BADBOATS, by assisting either with the collection of, or the disposal of, the derelict glass fibre boats sunk and beached around Poole Harbour? BeachPeople intend to work with BCP and PHC to effect a permanent solution to this problem, prevention being better than cure. For more info please see:

<https://beachpeople.club/index.php/campaigns/derelict-boats>

**Response from Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

I would like to thank Mr Hanchett for his question and I'm glad the work we have done together on Kite beach is coming to fruition.

The short answer is a qualified YES, we are very keen to support the campaign in relation to sunken boats in the Harbour's as we agree with Mr Hanchett and the BeachPeople that these are an ecological and environmental hazard and need to be removed. For those areas of the shoreline that are council land and used by us, we will work with the BeachPeople to develop a method for removal, this includes the greenspaces controlled by Environment, and beaches controlled by Destination and Culture. However, there are areas which, whilst council land is leased to other users, and we may not be able to assist with.

**Statement from Phil Hanchett**

Re. BeachPeople's application to have Whitley Lake, Sandbanks designated as a bathing water:

The data collection phase is now complete and the report has been submitted to Defra. Numbers exceeded 400 on several occasions. Defra asked for further detail on what facilities there are that promote bathing and Councillor Mark Anderson provided detail to BeachPeople on BCP's future plans; Version 2 of the report was then sent to Defra. If Defra accept the application has merit then it will now go out to national consultation – major stakeholders include BCP and PHC. BeachPeople thanks Cllr Mark Anderson for his continual support.

**Public Question from Roger West to the Chairman of Council**

Muslim Soldiers in the First World War

Members,

I was shocked to learn that 100,000 Muslim Soldiers died serving France in the First World War. I don't know the comparable figures for the Muslim Soldiers who were recruited into the British Army during this time: it must have been enormous.

This building was a hospital for Indian soldiers in 1914/15 whose faiths were Muslim, Hindu or Sheik.

We must acknowledge our debt to the Muslim soldiers. Our Hindu Prime Minister must ensure those of other faiths are also given the respect they deserve.

**Response from Councillor David Kelsey**

It is my intention that we should have a blue plaque on this building, and that will be done at the earliest possible time and once this building is fully open and running so that we can invite members of the muslim community along to see that plaque opened. It is also my intention to include the ANZAC forces on that plaque as it wasn't just muslim soldiers that were hospitalised here it was also many from the ANZAC community and I feel that it is only right that we have both mentioned on the same plaque. That

will be done at the earliest opportunity as soon as the building is fully refurbished and reopened to the public.

**Statement from Daniel Parkin**

In a recent livestream, the auditor from Grant Thornton, intimated concerns around a CIL payment of £330,000 to BCP Council relating to the Durley Car Park Development.

The auditor raised matter as unable to identify where these receipts had been distributed. He further stated he was unable to investigate further, as investigative limits £790,000. I am guessing this is because it would be uneconomic for his firm to investigate.

I ask the Section 151 officer to provide further details of where this money was directed, by way of an announcement / notice of clarification on the BCP website.

**Statement from Adam Sofianos**

In last month's Audit Committee, councillors agreed to exclude proposed changes which would have restricted public participation in council meetings.

But in a rather hurried outcome, the most controversial proposal was missed.

This would remove the public's ability to have an Officer deliver a question on their behalf. This discriminates against workers, carers and others who cannot physically attend public meetings. Above all, it directly discriminates against disabled and neurodiverse people.

This may leave Council in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

This is an appalling prospect.

I urge Councillors to support an amendment to avert this discriminatory act.

31. Petition - Public No Confidence Vote on BCP Leadership

**The Chairman set out the process for dealing with the petition as set out in the Constitution.**

**Ian Lawrence the petition organiser provided council with background relating to the submitted petition and reported that the petition was being presented on behalf of 2066 valid signatories.**

**Council was advised that the petition requested that:**

**"We Council Tax payers have lost all confidence in BCP Council's leader and deputy and we call on them to resign now"**

**In presenting the petition Mr Lawrence read out his submitted statement.**

Statement from Ian Lawrence

It's time BCP's Leader and Deputy stepped aside when Levelling-Up Secretary says "some councils abuse a loophole to do dodgy deals which

only benefit consultancy and accountancy firms".

Stop semi-bankruptcy, government bailouts, external reviews, overspending, tripling debt, hidden reports and prioritising extravagant vanity projects over failing children's services and exploding needs.

Stop voters bankrolling FuturePlaces private consultancy despite risk, conflicts of interest, zero transparency and accountability.

Stop scandals with press making BCP a laughingstock & Tories labelling Council "dodgy". Thousands of voters have lost confidence in Council's leadership. Prepare to restore transparency and integrity in 8/11/22's e-petition leadership debate.

**The Chairman asked Members to raise any questions of clarification.**

**A number of questions were raised of Mr Lawrence to which he responded, and following which Council debated the petition in detail.**

Following a lengthy debate a proposition was made to move to the next item of business, this was seconded and upon being put to council received more than half of members voting in favour and was therefore carried.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9.10 pm reconvened at 9.27 pm

32. Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees (Agenda Items 7 c, d, e and i refer)

**Item 7c – Audit and Governance Committee 28 July 2022 – Minute No 117 – Treasury Management Monitoring Report**

Councillor Beesley, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on Treasury Management Monitoring Report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the Council is required to approve any changes to the prudential indicators.

In debating the item some members expressed concern with regards to increasing borrowing.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (d) approves the revised prudential indicators set out in the table 9 of the report ('Revised Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity');**

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

Voting: 36:33 2 abstentions

Councillor Farquhar requested that his vote against the recommendation be recorded.

Councillors M Brooke, N Brooks and T Johnson declared for transparency purposes an interest as Board Members of Bournemouth Development Company in respect of this item and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

**Item 7d – Cabinet 7 September 2022 – Minute No 42 – Wessex Fields Site – University Hospital Dorset Link Road**

Councillor Broadhead, Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented the report on Wessex Fields Site – University Hospital Dorset Link Road and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were provided with an update on the progression of the master planning and wider redevelopment of Wessex Fields and in relation to this were advised that approval was now sought for additional budget allocation from the Futures Fund for the new link road due to construction industry inflation and an enhanced design based on completing more of the consented road scheme.

A proposition was made to move into exempt session in order to discuss the confidential appendices, this was agreed with no dissent and the following resolution was read out by the Chairman of Council:

**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 they involve 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.**

Comprehensive discussion took place with several members expressing concerns with regards to the increased costs against those budgeted for.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (a) approved the budget increase as detailed in Confidential appendix A; and**
- (b) approved this is funded from the council's Futures Fund.**

At the request of the required number of members Council then took a recorded vote which was carried as follows:

For – 39

Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Norman Decent	Cllr Mohan Iyengar
Cllr Mark Anderson	Cllr Bryan Dion	Cllr Toby Johnson
Cllr Sarah Anderson	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Andy Jones
Cllr Julie Bagwell	Cllr Beverly Dunlop	Cllr Jane Kelly
Cllr Steve Baron	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr David Kelsey
Cllr John Beesley	Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Bob Lawton
Cllr Derek Borthwick	Cllr Laurence Fear	Cllr Drew Mellor
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Cllr Anne Filer	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Nigel Brooks	Cllr Sean Gabriel	Cllr Roberto Rocca
Cllr Daniel Butt	Cllr Mike Greene	Cllr Mike White
Cllr Judy Butt	Cllr Nicola Greene	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Eddie Coope	Cllr May Haines	Cllr Tony O'Neill
Cllr Malcolm Davies	Cllr Peter Hall	Cllr Nigel Hedges

Against – 31

Cllr Lewis Allison	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Margaret Phipps
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Dr Felicity Rice
Cllr Mike Brooke	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Lisa Lewis	Cllr Mark Robson
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Rachel Maidment	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Andy Martin	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Simon McCormack	Cllr Kieron Wilson
Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Pete Miles	
Cllr L-J Evans	Cllr Sandra Moore	

Abstentions – 1

Cllr Paul Hilliard
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Councillor P Hilliard declared an interest in this item for transparency purposes and refrained from voting thereon.

Councillor L J Evans declared an interest in this item for transparency purposes.

#### **7e – Cabinet 7 September 2022 – Minute No 45 – Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Implementation**

Councillor M Greene, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport presented the report on the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Implementation and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Council approval to accept and invest the indicative grant award of £8.9m from the Department for Transport (DfT) to deliver it's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) over the next 3 years.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) Subject to confirmation of an award Council accepts the £8.9m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for the period 2022/3 and 2024/5 from the Department for Transport; and**
- (b) Delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan be delegated to the Service Director for Transport and Engineering in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport.**

Voting: Nem.Con

**7i – Cabinet 26 October 2022 – Minute No 74 – Children’s Services Pay Review**

Councillor White, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People presented the report on the Children’s Services Pay Review and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the report recommended a salary offer for social work staff and managers within Children’s Services which is competitive with those being offered by neighbouring authorities who are rated good or outstanding and where we are experiencing the loss of our current staff.

Members spoke in support of the report and of the importance being able to recruit and retain staff.

**RESOLVED that Option 5, as outlined in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

33. Update on role of the Health and Wellbeing Boards in the Integrated Care System

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Leisure 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 the report updated Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on how the Board could develop its role and purpose as the Integrated Care System evolves. It summarises new national guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards on their ongoing responsibilities. In addition, a brief summary of key points from the recent joint development session is presented, including recommendations for how boards should operate from the Local Government Association.

**RESOLVED that Full Council approve an addition to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board so that it becomes the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the BCP Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.**

Voting: Unanimous

34. Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies

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 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Council was asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies following Councillors Jackie Edwards and

Andy Jones leaving the Conservative Group to be unaligned, and the result of the by-election in the Highcliffe and Walkford Ward.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 of this report be approved;**
- (b) the number of seats on each committee, as set out in Table 2, be approved;**
- (c) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 3 (to follow), be approved;**
- (d) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking account of the membership as detailed in Table 4 (to follow), be approved;**
- (e) the allocation of seats to each political group on the outside bodies as detailed in Table 5 (to follow), be approved;**
- (f) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 6 (to follow), be approved; and**
- (g) Subject to (b) and (f) above the Council is requested to approve the appointment of unaligned Members to any Committees, Boards and Outside bodies.**

Voting: Unanimous

35. Homes for Ukraine Tariff

The Portfolio Holder for People and Homes 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.

Council was advised that BCP council claims a tariff of £10,500 per person for those who have arrived in the area via the Homes for Ukraine refugee resettlement scheme.

In relation to this Council was advised that the financial regulations require full council agreement for acceptance of these funds, as well as agreement to spend these funds in line with the published grant conditions from government.

Council was further advised that as the number of Ukrainian guests already in BCP is estimated to be around 523 in the year 2022/23 this involves a projected grant income of £5,491,500, and that this report sets out the purpose of the grant, the requests for acceptance of the funds, the authorisation to spend the funds and the delegation of future decisions on spending against this income.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) The council accepts receipt of the grant monies claimed in line with the funding conditions set out by central government, and in compliance with financial regulations within the BCP constitution;**



- (b) **The council agrees that the funding received can be spent in line with the funding conditions set out in Homes for Ukraine local authority tariff payment grant determination No. 31/6205 (England);**
- (c) **The council agrees the decision to allocate £1,098,000 of the projected income to incentivise move on for refugees into the private rented sector; and**
- (d) **The council agrees to delegate the decisions on spending this tariff funding to the Director of Housing and/or the Section 151 officer for BCP Council.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor M Brooke declared an interest in this item and refrained from voting on the recommendations thereon.

A proposition was made to adjourn the meeting to a further date to deal with the rest of the business, upon being put to the vote the proposition was carried with voting 51:9 (11 abstentions).

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 pm and reconvened at 6.00pm on 5 December 2022.

36. Questions from Councillors

**Question from Councillor Vikki Slade**

Initial indications suggest that the visitor numbers for the 2022 Air Festival have been strong and it was great to see some new features introduced such as the bi-plane / sunseeker boat race. I am sure that in the coming months lessons will be learned to make future events more inclusive, more environmentally friendly and to bring more new ideas. I hope that the Portfolio Holder will take the opportunity to listen carefully to local residents and businesses and include ideas to improve the event wherever they come from.

One popular feature that people missed this year was Air Festival TV. People told me that they enjoy seeing the cockpit images on the big screen, seeing the unarmed combat while sat on the beach waiting for night air and watching interviews with pilots throughout the event. Can the portfolio holder please explain why the council decided not to include this element of the Air Festival this year?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places, Councillor Dunlop**

The Air Festival was once again very well attended in 2022 with high visitor numbers and an economic impact estimated to be close to £50m over the 4 days supporting our £1.2 billion tourism economy and 18,000 local tourism jobs. I am at a bit of a loss as to what Councillor Slade means by lessons will be learned, we've got two accessible viewing areas, we've got two

accessible car parks and we have a mix of facilities along the promenade to ensure no one is excluded.

Our sustainable action plan will grow and be developed over the coming years as we continue to reduce waste, promote reusable water fills, encourage people to travel sustainably and use the platform to educate on the environment.

Our events team are continually developing this event and this year saw the return of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) marquee welcoming local companies to showcase their work and inspire the next generation, alongside the engaging Dorset Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster conference bringing 150 STEM companies together on the first day.

Regarded as one of the best air shows in the UK, we continue to increase our land and sea content to showcase the destination and in turn providing additional footfall for our businesses at the end of the summer; boosting the local economy.

We work closely with a variety of business partners such as the Destination Management Board, Town Centre and Coastal BIDs, the Chamber of Commerce and Hospitality.

Air Festival TV has not operated for the a few years since the contract ended, this year we were delighted to work with our community radio partner Hot Radio alongside our festival commentators to provide ‘on-air’ commentary for those watching further afield and out to sea and we will be looking at ways of providing enhanced live streaming for 2023.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Slade**

Can you please tell me why we decided not to take advantage of the free to the council Air Festival TV which has been provided for years up until the pandemic, there hasn't been a full air festival since but I am afraid you didn't answer the question about why we didn't have air festival TV because last time I heard you can't actually watch the cockpit from Hot Radio.

### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places, Councillor Dunlop**

As I said the contract expired and one of the problems with air festival TV was that the operator relies on advertising to cover their cost and the advertising was going off along the seafront and was conflicting with the broadcast of the air festival commentary, so while we were in mid commentary flow you'd have adverts popping up along the seafront. I have been asked this question once or twice before triggered directly by the people who run the contract, and what I say now is what I said then we are happy for anyone to approach us to offer an air festival TV facility that can be provided to people who have accessibility problems and I absolutely support that, what they have to be able to do though is to find a way of providing it so that it doesn't clash with the commentary along the seafront.

### **Question from Councillor Howell**

“In the 13-15 High Street Planning Committee item on 4<sup>th</sup> October, I requested that a condition be introduced to prevent residents of the new development being granted Zone A parking permits. The Head of Planning said this could be achieved by section 106 agreement but the transport officer said this was unnecessary because the transport department could already decide to exclude developments from the permit scheme. As a consequence, no condition was proposed by committee members.

1. Is allowing residents of new developments that have been constructed with reduced or no parking to apply for Zone A permits in conflict with the Council’s climate change policies?
2. Given that there are approximately 285 Zone A spaces but 467 permits in issue, at what point will it become unfair on existing Zone A permit holding residents to issue more permits?
3. Does the transport department have an enforceable policy which allows it to exclude specific developments from the Zone A scheme?
4. Please give examples in the Zone A area where this policy has been exercised?
5. If it has not been exercised, will the Portfolio Holder instruct the transportation department to start excluding new developments from the scheme?”

### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport, Councillor Mike Greene**

I shall try to answer all parts of the question together.

Where development takes place within a Controlled Parking Zone such as Poole Town Zone A, the Local Planning Authority is able to impose an informative on planning approval which reserves the right for the Council to deny parking permits to future occupiers.

This aligns with the Council’s climate change policy but is, in my opinion, more relevant to the limited parking space available and our wish to reduce or limit congestion and car-based travel within our highly accessible town centres.

An example of when where this option was exercised by the Local Planning Authority is when planning was granted for No. 1 High Street. The planning informative states:

Informative: The applicant should note and inform future residents that they may be excluded from being able to purchase permits associated with parking permit schemes controlled by the Council in the area. This is to reduce the impacts from the development due to the low levels of car parking provision being proposed.

Whether the Council chooses to decline applications for parking permits in these situations is likely to depend on occupancy levels rather than the actual number of permits already granted and the total number of spaces available.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Howell**

The Portfolio Holder only referred to Planning then, my question specifically referred to the transport officer saying they have the right to already do that, so I would like clarification as to if there isn't anything imposed as a condition in the way that the Portfolio Holder mentioned does the transport department have the enforceable policy able to do that as that what the transport officer specifically said to the Planning Committee in that case.

And also in that example that the Portfolio Holder mentioned he used the word may and not will, so could he say whether that actually has been enforced on No. 1 High Street?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport, Councillor Mike Greene**

I wasn't at the Planning Board in question, however as I understand it the informative is always included in those elements and therefore there was no need for a condition. Councillor Howell is absolutely right that it gives the Council the right but not the obligation to decline, my personal feeling is that we would almost always refuse to grant those permits apart from in exceptional circumstances, and in the case of No. 1 High Street I did specifically check that out and yes I've been told that we have not granted any permits on No. 1 High Street whether or not they have been requested.

**Question from Councillor Mike Brooke to the Leader of the Council**

Did Cllr Mellor vote for the Climate and Ecological Emergency motion that was put before Full Council on 16th July 2019. Yes or No?

**Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Drew Mellor**

Yes

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Mike Brooke**

I need to ask why is it then that the issue of climate change and ecological emergency which should be at the centre of every strategic priority of this council lacks any discussion in the Big Plan which is this administrations bible and which also had not been presented to a Scrutiny Committee or to Full Council?

**Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Drew Mellor**

I would like to focus on action and not words and what this administration has done is to immediately put back in the money that had come out of the climate budget, then we've doubled it and then we've made it permanent, then we put forward a £20m green futures fund. This council now and this administration is delivering on climate because it is absolutely at the centre of what we believe and you are going to continue to see that through now to May and beyond.

**Question from Councillor Andy Jones**

This year has seen a sharp increase in the number of complaints that I've dealt with regarding people sleeping in campervans overnight especially in roads in the Boscombe Overcliff area although I am aware this is also an issue elsewhere in BCP. Unfortunately under existing legislation there has been very little that the Police or Council Officers have been able to do to tackle this with some campervans being left parked up for weeks or even months on end. One way to tackle this is through the introduction of a PSPO which other Councils have done. Can the Portfolio Holder assure my residents that such a measure is going to be pursued, and if so, the time frame for a public consultation and subsequent implementation?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Councillor Bobbie Dove**

As you know one of the first measures that Councillor Mellor put in to place as Leader was to introduce a summer response so that residents, visitors and businesses are fully supported during the high demand days our amazing area experiences.

We could always stand at the end of the pier giving news interviews whilst calling a major incident, blame others and hit headlines but Councillor Mellor felt there was a more adult way of leading the council and with that less reputational damage, so as is true with everything this administration has done we always strive to do our best and bring out the very best outcomes for those who live, work and visit BCP.

So during our 2022 summer response we immediately recognised that the by laws around overnight camping in particular were insufficient to deal with this matter effectively and as we would all like so following the emails which you and I have exchanged over the summer which I must thank you I immediately put forward consideration for a PSPO on this area to officers in September and as everything that I have said we have hit the ground running.

Officers including the council's legal team have spoken to other authorities and have been gathering evidence to consider a range of issues that the council could include in a PSPO.

A report will be coming to Cabinet in December to seek approval to launch the 4 week public consultation and following this there will be consideration of all of the options available to us to tackle incidents such as illegal camping and other issues such as wild fires resulting in a final paper with recommendations for our coastal and open green spaces.

I am optimistically hopeful that this will be returned to Cabinet early in 2023 to ensure that any PSPO can be implemented in time for the summer season.

**Question from Councillor George Farquhar**

Could the Leader confirm that a decision has been taken to cease indoor bowls at the Bournemouth Indoor Bowls facility in Kings Park from 1 April 2023?

Given previous assurances that the Towns Fund would be used to redevelop Boscombe and provide health & wellbeing facilities at the centre what is the future for sports and education provision there?

Can the Leader clarify if this is part of a disposal of assets and if so what steps will be taken to allow the transfer of these assets to the Community to run themselves?

By way of information to inform the reply. The CEO has already been approached by Members of the club and had a positive response to Asset Based Community development and has offered to set up a meeting with the Community Development Team at BCP, has that meeting taken place or is it planned to do so?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Leisure, Councillor Jane Kelly**

A decision has been taken to pause the bowls service from April 2023 the reasons for this are several.

Club membership at Bournemouth Indoor Bowling Club (BIBC) has been declining over the last few years despite discussions with the club and with the investment put into the building to try to increase the participation levels. Also it could be noted that participation with this sport nationally has decreased over the last few years.

But that doesn't mean to say that the people that are using it currently aren't important, they very much are.

With the rising costs associated in maintaining the offer we have taken the decision to pause the bowls service from April 2023 whilst we consider the longer-term use of the bowls area. We understand this is disappointing for the club, but we will continue to support them via arranging significant reductions with memberships at other clubs in Christchurch and Poole, as well as to organise taster events at those venues, many members are already members at these other clubs and so are aware of them already.

The Skills and Learning courses will continue on the first floor.

When the leasehold was purchased by the authority via the Boscombe Towns Fund we agreed that the indoor bowls service would continue for a minimum of 12 months, we have honoured this agreement but unfortunately we now have to make this decision for the reasons outlined to pause the service from April 2023.

As you will be aware there are two other indoor bowls facilities in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, one in Christchurch near the very successful 2 Riversmeet leisure centre, the East Dorset Indoor Bowls Centre and there is one by the Dolphin Centre in Poole, they both have the capacity to accept and welcome new members.

We cannot continue to operate the building at a loss under the current cost of living pressures and the adjustments we are having to make to the budget to arrive at a balanced position for next year, we have currently commissioned a specialist consultancy company to undertake a review of the BIBC facility and service. This review will determine the demand of indoor bowls across BCP and recommend further options for the use of the bowls area based on the demographic and needs of the local residents to the facility.

The BIBC facility is an integral part of the leisure portfolio of BCP Council the objective remains to develop the facility into a thriving leisure asset and maximise its potential for the benefit of the local community and wider demographic as per the original proposals agreed upon purchase via the Boscombe Towns Fund. The building is in no way considered to be disposable and every effort will be made to bring it back to life as soon as possible.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor George Farquhar**

Will we see any movement on what has been outlined by the Portfolio Holder before March 31st 2023?

### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Leisure, Councillor Jane Kelly**

Its really useful that the club is staying open during the winter so that when it does close for a while it will be an opportunity to start playing at an outdoor bowls club.

There are constant conversations going on currently between officers and representatives of the members, there have also been meetings with the wider number of the members with our leisure officers and all sorts of options and ideas are being discussed. Its being discussed as to whether the current committee would be able to run the facility, I don't know what the outcome of those are going to be, I haven't yet seen the report from the company. There is an awful lot going on and so the answer is yes but we don't know the outcome as yet.

### **Question from Councillor Mark Howell**

Did the Council consider providing a temporary space for Poole Museum to continue to engage the public during its renovation? If so, why did this not proceed? If it was considered too expensive, what was the estimated cost?

### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places, Councillor Beverly Dunlop**

A pop-up was considered and explored but decided against, aside from the cost of the lease and favourable terms and high fit out and running costs the pop up would principally end up being a café and a shop with limited value in terms of engagement and a better solution is being developed.

The museum will now have an outreach programme so that we can engage with more of the community during the closure period to promote the museum, this will be called 'Museum on the Move', it's a travelling museum and is supported by the heritage lottery fund and the projects in early days but I would be more than happy to chat further with Councillor Howell as it comes together and go through that with you.

**Question from Councillor Andy Jones**

Earlier this year the Echo ran a story about vehicles parking in cycle lanes with the one in Christchurch Rd in Boscombe being its primary focus. The cycle lanes in this section of road are regularly abused with numerous vehicles ignoring the No Waiting and No Loading restriction at will, day and night. Needless to say this is causing much anger and frustration to those who wish to cycle through this area but are unable to do so due to the obvious danger posed by these vehicles. Whilst I appreciate that the Council's CEOs are doing all that they can to tackle those who park illegally, they cannot be there all day every day. Will the Portfolio Holder therefore commit to introducing camera enforcement to deal with this problem as other Councils are now doing, and if not, advise how he proposes to address this problem moving forward as more and more cycle lanes are implemented across BCP?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport, Councillor Mike Greene**

We are continually looking at ways to improve the road network for all users and recently we took the opportunity of resurfacing works to upgrade cycling facilities in this area by converting some advisory cycle lanes to mandatory.

The Council only has powers to enforce certain parking restrictions by camera. These include mandatory cycle lanes where a waiting restriction such as a double yellow line also exists, so some of those on Christchurch Rd in Boscombe would now qualify when they didn't before.

Generally, it may be useful to know that where the Council currently carries out enforcement of, for example, keep clear markings at schools, using both fixed cameras and a camera car, the fine income does not cover the costs of the enforcement work. Fixed cameras are particularly costly compared with the fine revenue collected.

There may, though, be the opportunity for an occasional visit from the camera car when it is not in use elsewhere, subject to other priority demands, and I have asked officers to look into this.

The Council can also enforce the waiting restrictions on this route using its civil enforcement officers. The Council has been working to build up the capacity of its civil enforcement team and will continue to regularly patrol this route in an effort to keep it clear.



**Question from Councillor George Farquhar**

The residents and visitors need confirmation that the vital service provisioned by the Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lifts will continue to be provided to the residents and visitors in the years ahead. And what this Administration is doing to prevent the possibility of the Cliff Lift closure.

There have been concerns raised by residents with me, that the Fishermans Walk Cliff Lift has serious issues including the chassis needing much work and repairs to keep it operational.

Can these concerns be confirmed or denied.

Can we seek further confirmation that there will be funds and resources repairs and ongoing maintenance made available to ensure this valuable community asset continues to be in service for the community and visitors.

In particular there is a demographic with accessibility needs, that would be denied access to the beach should the vital service close.

The Cliff Lifts also provide a revenue stream and serious consideration should be increased by extending the hours of operations until dusk.

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place, Councillor Mark Anderson**

I would like to thank Cllr Farquhar for his question.

The cliff lifts are historic parts of the seafront infrastructure and do provide an essential service, they are also subject to ongoing maintenance and repair. They operate primarily during the warmer months and are now closed for the winter. There are no plans to close the facility permanently.

However, recent condition assessments have high-lighted potential issues with the electrical switch gear and lift cab chassis at Fisherman's lift.

Officers are currently exploring the options and costs related to these and aim to bring forward recommendations prior to Christmas and following on from that I hope the repair and maintenance of the lifts and associated works should be taking place in the spring, so services can resume as normal in the warmer weather.

I would also like to thank Cllr Farquhar for the suggestion about longer opening hours and whilst too late for now, I will take it up with officers with a view to seeing if it is feasible next year.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor George Farquhar**

What consideration will be given to the disability act and those that have accessibility needs to ensure that this facility and that act is taken into consideration with the reports that come back for the viability of the repairs of the electric system and the chassis?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place,  
Councillor Mark Anderson**

Councillor Farquhar's comments will be taken on board, just before the meeting I was talking to the chief operating officer about the lift and about the funding and so I am very much aware of wanting to make sure its operating and we were discussing making sure the funds were available and how we were going to use them.

**Question from Councillor Vikki Slade**

What additional budget is being provided to the Elections Team ensure that they have the additional equipment and additional staff needed to deal with Voter ID changes that are coming in for the local elections in 2023 and to provide for the needs of those with additional privacy needs. What additional work is being undertaken by the Elections Team to ensure that residents are aware of the changes, and to ensure that residents without existing Photo ID are not disenfranchised?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and  
Regulatory Services, Councillor Bobbie Dove**

The Council has recently received confirmation of the funding allocation from the government for the additional burdens due to be brought in by the Elections Act 2022 for elections in May 2023 and there is a supplementary Justification Led Bid process for further funding if required and DLUHC have confirmed that they will fully fund these new burdens. The secondary legislation with the detail of the Act, has just recently been laid before parliament and is awaiting approval which is called the Voter Identification Regulations 2022 and DLUHC have confirmed there will be funding for additional polling station staff, privacy screens and mirrors for each polling station, along with additional office staff/Call Centre staff to deal with the enquiries in the applications process.

At this time the Elections team have been advised that there will be a national website which will allow applications for the Voter Authority Certificate and this should be live in Mid-January 2023. It is planned that our publicity/communications will go live at the same time and will advise of the process and requirements. This is also the proposed timeframe for the Electoral Commission national campaigns.

Locally, our Elections and Communications teams have been proactive and have already been discussing a communication strategy, which will complement the general and targeted national publicity being proposed by the Electoral Commission on these new measures. This will be firmed up once the detail which we require, is confirmed in the secondary legislation we are waiting for.

Other work streams also include engagement with Equality, Diversity & Inclusion team and the Community Engagement/Participation Officers, to formulate the proposed consultation with older age groups, disability groups, vulnerable residents or for those whose first language is not English. Thus ensuring all information/literature and web site information is

accessible to all so that every eligible person within the conurbation is clear about the new system and support to ensure that democracy is still upheld by being able to vote on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Vikki Slade**

I still have two additional concerns, one is around you mentioned older people and those with disabilities but we know that its young people that aren't voting and in the main the list of items that are allowed for voting for young people is very much more restrictive than for older people. What is being done particularly around the under 30s and what assurance can you give us that people will be able to access this support in their own community and not be required to the main towns as that is very difficult for some people to do, particularly young people without their own transport.

### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Councillor Bobbie Dove**

The details have only come out in the last few days so the engagement team are working with all the consultations to make sure we engage with everyone that we need to, vulnerable older people but age is a protected characteristic and that includes younger people to.

37. Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees (Agenda Items 7 a, b, f, g, h and j refer)

### **Item 7a – Cabinet 27 July 2022 – Minute No 30 – Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy**

Councillor Broadhead, Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented the report on Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were informed that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area, and that CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development.

In relation to this Members were advised that BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy, and that this report and accompanying appendices are looking to harmonise these legacy approaches to deliver a single policy approach to be implemented across the charging authority area, and that these policy changes will be implemented as part of the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.

Further to this Members were informed that internal auditors have reviewed the current CIL processes and identified a series of actions, and that the response to these actions is set out in the report, with many actions already implemented or in the process of being implemented through the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.

Councillor J Butt proposed an additional recommendation to be included at (d) to read:

***(d): "Acceleration of the timescale to consult on and propose a new charging schedule within 2023 that meets better the needs of local communities"***

The proposer and seconder agreed that they were content to include this within the existing recommendations.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (a) approved the proposed BCP CIL Instalment Policy;**
- (b) approved the proposed BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy;**
- (c) approved the BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement; and**
- (d) approved the acceleration of the timescale to consult on and propose a new charging schedule within 2023 that meets better the needs of local communities.**

Voting: Nem.Con (2 abstentions)

Councillors M Greene and N Greene declared interests in this item and refrained from voting thereon.

#### **Item 7b – Cabinet 27 July 2022 – Minute No 33 – Youth Justice Service – Annual Youth Justice Plan**

Councillor White, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People presented the report on Youth Justice Service – Annual Youth Justice Plan and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services, and that the report summarised the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23.

**RESOLVED that Full Council approved the Annual Youth Justice Plan.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Dr F Rice left the meeting at 7.19pm

#### **7f – Cabinet 28 September 2022 – Minute No 53 – Finance Strategy Update Report**

Councillor Mellor, Leader of the Council presented the Finance Strategy Update Report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the report provided the first response to the recommendations of the Finance Update and further to this included an update on the Financial Strategy and proposals to prudently position the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24.

Members were informed that there had been a long and detailed debate at the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (d) pending the presentation of new viable business cases, remove from the Capital Programme the debt commitments to the Winter Gardens and Cotlands developments; and**
- (e) release the earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.**

Voting: Nem.Con (19 abstentions)

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

**7h – Cabinet 26 October 2022 – Minute No 64 – Finance Strategy Update Report**

Councillor Mellor, Leader of the Council presented the Finance Strategy Update report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the report demonstrated that the Council had made further good progress in prudently positioning itself to deliver and set out how it would achieve a balanced budget for 2023/24.

Members were informed that there had been a long and detailed debate at the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (f) approved £1.9m of investment in 2022/23 in a specific transformation workstream in Children’s Services as set out in appendix A; and**
- (g) approved the further release of earmarked reserves as set out in appendix C.**

Voting: Carried

**7g – Cabinet 28 September 2022 – Minute No 57 – BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy**

Councillor Dove, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services presented the report on the BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members were advised that the report summarised the Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025, including priorities, strategic principles, approach, objectives and key performance indicators.

In relation to this Members were informed that as a statutory partner of the Community Safety Partnership that the Council is required to adopt the strategy.

**RESOLVED that the BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor T Trent joined part way through the debate and therefore did not participate in the discussion or voting thereon).

**7j – Audit and Governance Committee 27 October 2022 – Minute No 148 – Review of the Council’s Constitution**

Councillor Beesley, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report on the Review of the Councils Constitution and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

In presenting the report Councillor Beesley highlighted that it had been requested that recommendation (h) be brought back to the Constitution Review Working Group for further consideration, and with that in mind therefore advised that recommendation (h) would be deferred pending further review.

Members expressed concern with regards to recommendation (i) and access to documents and in relation to this a proposition was made to remove this recommendation by Councillor Bartlett, this was seconded by Councillor Slade. Upon further discussion it was agreed that (i) would also be sent back to the Constitution Review Working Group for further consideration.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) in relation to Issue 1 (Powers of Head of Paid Service in relation to contracted workers), no changes be made to the Constitution;**
- (b) in relation to Issue 2 (Standing to speak at Council and associated etiquette), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rule 13.4 (page 4-49) and the insertion of a new Procedure Rule 6 (Duration of meetings) (page 4- 37), be approved;**
- (c) in relation to Issue 3 (Process for interpretation of Procedure Rules), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rule 21 (page 4-54), be approved;**
- (d) in relation to Issue 4 (Questions by Councillors at Council Meetings), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rules 11.7 (page 4-42) and 13.5 (page 4-49), be approved;**
- (e) in relation to Issue 5 (Arrangements for voting from the public gallery), no changes be made to the Constitution;**
- (f) in relation to Issue 6 (Categories of officers falling within the definition of senior officers), the proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the Appeals Committee and the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (pages 3-19 and 3-19), be approved;**
- (g) in relation to Issue 7 (Thresholds/Levels of Financial Delegation), no changes be made to the Constitution;**
- (h) in relation to Issue 8 (Public participation – Public Questions, Statements and Petitions), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rules 12 (pages 4- 42 to 4-48), be referred back to the Constitution Review Working Group for further review;**

- (i) in relation to Issue 9 (Access to documents – Overview and Scrutiny Committees), the proposed amendment to the existing Procedure Rules 24.3 (page 4-17), be referred back to the Constitution Review Working Group for further review;
- (j) in relation to Issue 10 (Prevent Channel – Statutory functions), the proposed amendment to Part 2, Article 12 (Decision Making) (page 2-25), be approved;
- (k) in relation to Issue 11 (Co-opted and other non-Councillor members of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee), the proposed insertion of paragraph 6.7.3 to Part 2, Article 6 (page 2-14) and Part 3A, paragraph 4.5 (page 3-13), be approved;
- (l) in relation to Issue 12 (Planning process governance issues), no changes be made to the Constitution;
- (m) in relation to Issue 13 (Voting by Councillors), the proposed insertion of paragraph 18.1 to existing Procedure Rule 17 (page 4-53), be approved;
- (n) in relation to Issue 14 (Attendance of councillors at meetings), no changes be made to the Constitution;
- (o) in relation to Issue 15 (Lead Members on Scrutiny), Part 2, Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny), paragraph 6.4.2 (page 2- 13) be amended to read:- “Lead Members of the Cabinet may not be a member of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.”
- (p) in relation to Issue 16 (Eligibility for election of office), the proposed insertion of paragraphs 2.5 and 2.5 to existing Procedure Rule 2 (pages 4-36 and 4-37), be approved;
- (q) in relation to Issue 17 (Planning Committee Delegations), the proposed insertion to Part 3A, paragraph 2.4 (page 3- 9), be approved;
- (r) any necessary and consequential technical and formatting related updates and revisions to the Constitution be made by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with powers delegated.

Voting: Nem.Con (7 abstentions)

The meeting adjourned at 8.16 pm and reconvened at 8.33 pm

Councillors M Haines and R Maidment left the meeting at 8.16 pm.

38. Notices of Motion in accordance with Procedure Rule 9

**A – Decarbonising Transport**

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor A Hadley and seconded by Councillor G Farquhar:

**In order to meet our climate emergency declaration, we will work to decarbonise the transport network in the BCP area in order to meet**

**the government's NetZero Strategy. In order to do this we will aim to meet the government's vision of 50% of journeys within the BCP area to be done by walking, scooting or cycling by 2030, as per the government's 'Decarbonising Transport. A Better, Greener Britain 2021 report'.**

A request was made to make reference to public transport within the motion and following discussion and the support of the proposer and seconder the motion was amended to read as follows:

**'In order to meet our climate emergency declaration, we will work to decarbonise the transport network in the BCP area. In order to do this we will aim to get to 50% of journeys within the BCP area to be done by walking, scooting, cycling or public transport by 2030, in the spirit of the government's 'Decarbonising Transport. A Better, Greener Britain 2021 report'.**

At the request of the required number of members Council then took a recorded vote which was carried as follows:

For - 55

Cllr Hazel Allen	Cllr Lesley Dedman	Cllr Andy Jones
Cllr Lewis Allison	Cllr Bobbie Dove	Cllr Jane Kelly
Cllr Mark Anderson	Cllr Beverly Dunlop	Cllr David Kelsey
Cllr Sarah Anderson	Cllr Millie Earl	Cllr Bob Lawton
Cllr Marcus Andrews	Cllr Jackie Edwards	Cllr Marion Le Poidevin
Cllr Steve Baron	Cllr L-J Evans	Cllr Simon McCormack
Cllr Stephen Bartlett	Cllr George Farquhar	Cllr Drew Mellor
Cllr John Beesley	Cllr Laurence Fear	Cllr Sandra Moore
Cllr Derek Borthwick	Cllr Anne Filer	Cllr Lisa Northover
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Cllr David Flagg	Cllr Susan Phillips
Cllr Mike Brooke	Cllr Sean Gabriel	Cllr Chris Rigby
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Mike Greene	Cllr Vikki Slade
Cllr Simon Bull	Cllr Nicola Greene	Cllr Ann Stribley
Cllr Richard Burton	Cllr Andy Hadley	Cllr Tony Trent
Cllr Daniel Butt	Cllr Peter Hall	Cllr Mike White
Cllr Judy Butt	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Cllr Lawrence Williams
Cllr Eddie Coope	Cllr Mark Howell	Cllr Nigel Hedges
Cllr Mike Cox	Cllr Mohan Iyengar	
Cllr Malcolm Davies	Cllr Toby Johnson	

Against – 1

Cllr Diana Butler
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Abstentions – 4

Cllr Duane Farr	Cllr Karen Rampton
Cllr Margaret Phipps	Cllr Roberto Rocca



## **B – Clean Up Governance on Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council**

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor M Earl and seconded by Councillor V Slade:

### **1. Council resolves to:**

- a. Instruct officers to bring a report to Audit & Governance that reviews Part 5 on Financial Regulations - Appendix 1 EX10 'Appointment of Consultants' of the Constitution with a view to reducing the threshold at which relevant Service Directors and Corporate Directors approve spend without a business case in place;**
- b. Amend the constitution so it states that cabinet members cannot hold directorships of council related businesses; c.**
- c. Invite the LGA or appropriate body to consider the constitution and make recommendations, particularly relating to governance, in conjunction with officers and members;**
- d. Instruct officers to bring a report to council by March 2023 on options for alternative governance structures in BCP Council rather than a Leader, Cabinet & Cabinet Plus system.**

### **2. Council asks:**

- a. That the Leader considers the appropriateness of holding both the position of Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder responsible for the finance of this council.**

An amendment was proposed by Councillor M Iyengar in relation to recommendation 1(a), this was seconded by Councillor J Butt, a copy of the amendment was circulated to all Councillors and is set out below:

- a. Instruct officers to bring a report to Audit & Governance that reviews Part 5 on Financial Regulations - Appendix 1 EX10 'Appointment of Consultants' of the Constitution with a view to ~~reducing the threshold at which relevant Service Directors and Corporate Directors approve spend without a business case in place;~~ **introducing a regular monitoring of consultancy spend across the council, including the right to challenge before contract commitments are made.****

Following lengthy discussion the motion including the amended wording was put to the vote with each recommendation being voted on separately the amended recommendation at 1(a) was carried and all other recommendations fell with voting as follows:

Voting: 1(a) Nem.Con (1 abstention)  
1(b) 24:37 (2 abstentions)  
1(c) 23:31 (7 abstentions)  
1(d) 24:33 (3 abstentions)  
2 (a) 28:30 (3 abstentions)

The meeting was adjourned at 10.45pm and reconvened at 10.55pm

Councillors H Allen, J Beesley, E Coope, B Dunlop, D Flagg, K Rampton, C Rigby, R Rocca and A Stribley left the meeting at 10.45 pm.

### **C – White Ribbon Accreditation**

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor L-J Evans and seconded by Councillor V Slade: -

**‘BCP Council explores options to become a White Ribbon Accredited organisation ([www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations)) by forming a working group, completing the necessary training, developing an Action Plan and paying the appropriate Accreditation Fee to White Ribbon UK.’**

**RESOLVED that Council supports the motion.**

Voting: Unanimous

### **D – Local Authority Funding for Respite Care**

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor M Brooke and seconded by Councillor V Slade: -

**‘That BCP Council writes to His Majesty’s Government to seek enhanced funding for Local Authorities for the provision of additional Short Breaks for parents of children with disabilities, due to the proven preventative benefits on parental mental and physical health and on parental couple relationships, citing research by York University into the health of mothers of children with serious illness, Pro Bono Economics on the impact of respite on parental mental health, and Bournemouth University and Julia’s House on the impact of respite on parental relationships.’**

**RESOLVED that Council supports the motion.**

Vote: Unanimous

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

The Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution, advised Members of the following urgent decisions taken:

- Appointment of Independent Chair of BCP FuturePlaces Ltd
- Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS)
- Appointment of Non-Executive Directors of BCP FuturePlaces Ltd

The meeting ended at 11.20 pm

CHAIRMAN