

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 July 2025 at 7.00 pm and resumed on 16 September 2025 at 7:00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Adams (16 Sept), Cllr S Aitkenhead (22 Jul), Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr S Bartlett (16 Sept), Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Broadhead (22 Jul), Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown (16 Sept), Cllr R Burton, Cllr J Butt, Cllr P Canavan (22 Jul), Cllr J Challinor, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Clements, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr M Dower (22 Jul), Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards (16 Sept), Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr (22 Jul), Cllr A Filer (22 Jul), Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley (22 Jul), Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr B Hitchcock (22 Jul), Cllr M Howell (22 Jul), Cllr A Keddie, Cllr D Logan (16 Sept), Cllr M Le Poidevin (16 Sept), Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin (16 Sept), Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin (22 Jul), Cllr C Matthews (22 Jul), Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles (22 Jul), Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr R Pattinson-West (22 Jul), Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice (22 Jul), Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts (16 Sept), Cllr C Rigby (16 Sept), Cllr J Salmon (22 Jul), Cllr K Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr L Williams (22 Jul), Cllr K Wilson (16 Sept) and Cllr G Wright

23. Apologies

22 July 2025

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Cameron Adams
Councillor Hazel Allen
Councillor Julie Bagwell
Councillor Stephen Bartlett
Councillor Olivia Brown
Councillor Sharon Carr-Brown
Councillor Bobbi Dove
Councillor Jackie Edwards
Councillor David Flagg
Councillor Marion Le Poidevin
Councillor David Martin
Councillor Margaret Phipps

Councillor Vanessa Ricketts
Councillor Chris Rigby
Councillor Vikki Slade
Councillor Kieron Wilson

16 September 2025

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Hazel Allen
Councillor Julie Bagwell
Councillor Patrick Canavan
Councillor Bobbi Dove
Councillor Michelle Dower
Councillor Duane Farr
Councillor Anne Filer
Councillor Andy Hadley
Councillor Mark Howell
Councillor Rachel Pattinson-West
Councillor Jamie Martin
Councillor Chris Matthews
Councillor Pete Miles
Councillor Margaret Phipps
Councillor Felicity Rice
Councillor Vikki Slade
Councillor Lawrence Williams

24. Declarations of Interests

Councillors Richard Herrett, David Martin and Michael Tarling declared pecuniary interests in respect of agenda item 8e: Enhancement to Pay and Reward Offer, as their partners were Council employees.

Councillor David Martin also declared a pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 8b - Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives Transformation.

The Councillors confirmed that they would leave the Chamber for the duration of the items.

25. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June be approved as a correct record.

Voting: Nem. Con.

26. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman updated Council on her activities since the previous meeting, including attendance at:

- MS Centre event;
- Armed forces week flag raising;
- Growth Expo;
- Srebenica commemoration;
- Elm Academy graduation.

The Chairman announced that it was Graham Farrant, Chief Executive's last Full Council meeting due to his impending retirement. The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his efforts in supporting BCP Council.

27. Public Issues

Public Questions

Public question from Dr Patricia Fanjul

I am a GP working for the 111 Service, supporting Dorset patients and protecting emergency services. For the past 10 years, we are continuing to see an upwards trend in young people suffering with worsening mental health: intentional overdoses, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, depression, panic attacks, eating disorders, sleep disturbances, impaired social interactions. The unequivocal link is smartphones. They suffer from cyberbullying, sextortion, addiction... Additionally, negatively impacts their academic performance and cognitive function. Children are being deprived of a normal happy childhood and development, this will continue impacting their future as adults and their place in society. This is a Public Health crisis and our BPC and Dorset children need you, community leaders, to act now to protect them.

Can the Council provide an update on engagement with local headteachers to support the development of a consistent conurbation-wide approach to ban smartphones in schools in order to safeguard children?

Response from Councillor Richard Burton - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Skills

(Councillor Burton's response was also directed to Emma Chabaani, who had submitted a similar question but was not in attendance.)

Thank you for your question. And also thanks, Emma, for her question. And yes, they do overlap so I will answer both of them.

So, a motion was passed by BCP Council to:

1. Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, urging them to support and champion the Safer Phones Bill. The Bill will come into effect on 25 November.
2. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to all schools within BCP to recognize the efforts that have already been made to protect their students from the potential harm of smartphone usage, and ask schools to review their phone policies to ensure they are in line with

the Bill. All schools will do this in line with their policy review timescales and the publication of the Bill. This will be done to tie in with the beginning of the new school year.

3. Request that the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Education and Skills discuss the requirements of the Bill at the next appropriate Head Teachers briefing. And this took place, on 25 April this year. Further input with Head Teachers is planned for the autumn term.
4. Seek the views of the Youth Parliament to ensure they are being considered when forming any policy. We'll be talking, taking this forward in the autumn term. Public Health and Education are working closely with me as Portfolio Holder for ensure that the requirements of the Bill are able to be delivered. My next meeting with Public Health is later this week.

It's worth noting that the majority of these schools are academies of one form or another. There are several different types of academies. Academies are not controlled by the local authority, which allows them to make decisions independently of the Council. The Council can only offer assistance and advice during my visits to schools, but many of them I do ask about their views on mobile phone usage and raising awareness of the issues.

There are also lots of readily available online resources that will signpost families to the NSPCC, Child Snatch UK, Safer Internet Centres, etc. on our Family Information directory. And there's also the link when you get a written response.

Public question from Barry Smith

When Will BCP council surrender the lease on Scott's Hill Lane playpark to allow Christchurch Town Council to take up a new lease with the freeholder?

As this situation has now been going on for 4 years and the park is falling into dilapidation.

Response from Councillor Sandra Moore - Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Thank you for your question.

At the creation of BCP Council in 2019, the Scots Hill Lane play area had already been closed by the former Christchurch Borough Council.

This site is privately owned, was leased to Christchurch but at LGR BCP inherited this lease from the landlord, together with other parcels of land at Purewell.

I am aware Christchurch Town Council are Interested in taking on the site. There are, however, additional lease assignments and easements which add to the land complexity at this site. Unfortunately, there has been no

agreement with the landlord to terminate the lease while it is tied to other land parcels.

Therefore, sadly, the site remains closed.

While I understand and can appreciate the interest in having this site re-opened, this is not currently possible for very complex legal reasons. Having said that, I can assure you that discussions will continue to try to resolve the situation.

Public question from Daniel Glennon

On June 10th 2025, a landmark study published in the prestigious journal Environmental Health confirmed that glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides cause multiple types of cancer, even at exposure levels currently considered “safe” by the EU. The research was coordinated by the Ramazzini Institute and involved scientists from across Europe, the US and South America.

Given these serious findings, and growing public concern about the health and environmental impacts of glyphosate, will BCP Council now follow the lead of Dorset Council, which has launched a pilot scheme to test safer, non-chemical alternatives?

I urge you to take precautionary action to protect public health, pets, biodiversity and soil health — and to show leadership in moving towards more sustainable land management. Will the Council commit to exploring alternatives, phasing out glyphosate use, and informing the public about where and when chemical spraying takes place?

Response from Councillor Andy Hadley - Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Daniel, Thank you for your question, I appreciate the concerns of residents about chemical spraying. We do also though get regular complaints about a lack of control of weeds.

Details of our weed treatment arrangement and months used, can be found via our website. Weeds, invasive plants and moss | BCP The number of chemical treatments per year has been reduced and harmonised across the three towns to a maximum of only twice per annum where needed. Treatment is not undertaken during strong winds.

Glyphosate is currently a regulated approved herbicide, considered safe to use both in the EU, which reapproved it for use for another 10 years in December 2023, and in the UK until at least 15th December of next year 2026. New research will I am sure influence reapproval.

The use of glyphosate as a weed treatment method is via qualified contractors using topical application only to individual weeds present at the time of treatment rather than broadly spraying areas.

Chemical treatment despite its restricted use remains recognised as the most cost-effective treatment method to manage weed growth and to fulfil

Council statutory duties which include, firstly to ensure the Highway is safe to use and its structural integrity is not adversely affected by vegetation.

And secondly on our Countryside Stewardship Sites, to control certain types of invasive species identified by DEFRA, eg Gaultheria, Rhododendron, Bracken.

Thirdly to respond to Schedule 9 weed species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese knotweed.

On the scale local authorities have to treat, the cost of manual hoeing and other marketed and trialled alternatives make resourcing this largely unviable.

We therefore have to balance our approach, as Dorset Council does, to managing and preventing growth. We continuously review options and our learning alongside other authorities, and equally we do acknowledge the growing number of residents against any kind of treatment/removal programme.

We encourage residents to manually remove weeds from directly outside of their properties to support the community and Council and to reduce the level of treatment required.

Public question from Alex Harman

At the February Full Council meeting, the council addressed the ongoing work by the E&P O&S Committee on how we can reduce our impact in order to mitigate the climate emergency.

The council recognised that the global food supply accounts for 30% carbon emissions and that a low meat, vegetarian or vegan diet is beneficial in terms of carbon footprint and public health.

This topic was originally brought to full council over a year ago, but we are still awaiting a report with solid recommendations from the E&P O&S Committee.

The Climate emergency cannot afford to be pushed back and delayed.

Therefore, will the council finally sign the Plant Based Treaty, joining 42 other towns and cities, alongside identifying actions that the council could implement, e.g. encouraging council-run institutions to increase the availability of affordable, local, seasonal, plant-based options and promoting public health campaigns.

Response from Councillor Andy Hadley - Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Alex,

Thank you for your question.

BCP Council recognise the contribution of food production and distribution

to our carbon emissions, and the benefits of reducing meat products in diets.

My Climate team have been preparing a draft position statement and action plan for the adoption and encouragement of plant-based diets within Council operations and the wider BCP area. I understand this will be considered at the next meeting of the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 September 2025.

Our Commercial Services Teams are meanwhile making progress on this area. This does depend on encouraging the public, and working with their demands for purchasing these products. We believe it is important to take the public with us.

Public question from Kenny Gloster

Following the most recent inspection of Bournemouth Oceanarium, BCP Council found that licence conditions were not being met and issued several directives to address welfare concerns. These included inadequate space for a Horsfield tortoise and an enclosure that failed to meet the needs of a water dragon.

Given these findings, can the Council confirm whether Bournemouth Oceanarium is now fully compliant with its licence conditions?

What specific actions or enforcement measures have been taken to ensure that the welfare of all animals at the facility now meets the required legal standards?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl, on behalf of Councillor Kieron Wilson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services

Following the renewal inspection conducted with two State vets and the Council's appointed vet on 24th July 2024, several directives were issued to the business. In response, the business carried out the necessary works and has achieved full compliance with all specified requirements.

Public question from Alex McKinstry

The new electronic voting system worked beautifully in the first half of 3 June's full Council meeting; then, seemingly in the interval, the settings were adjusted so that individual votes were no longer displayed, merely the total numbers "FOR", "AGAINST" and "ABSTAINING". This is a retrograde step, as under the bygone system, residents could see how their councillors were voting simply by way of raised hands, assuming of course that the livestream was working. Can the settings be readjusted so that the display of individual votes by named councillors becomes the default position, both on the screens in the public gallery and on the livestream; and can this be done immediately, given the likely strong interest in several of tonight's items, notably Items 6 and 10?

If this cannot be done, can you explain why not (in thoroughgoing detail)?

Response from Councillor Jeff Hanna - Cabinet Member for Transformation, Resources and Governance

Thank you to Mr McKinstry for his question. I shared his thoughts at our last Full Council meeting, and I can confirm that we are doing exactly as he has suggested.

The new audio-visual conferencing system, which includes the electronic voting, was commissioned only days before the Council meeting in June, so there has been an inevitable learning curve on its complexities, which was evident at our last Full Council meeting.

These have been resolved, and I can confirm that we will be displaying and broadcasting the individual votes of councillors for, against or abstaining on each motion, this evening and at future council meetings.

I am grateful to council officers for introducing cutting edge voting systems to our proceedings.

Public question from Amber Lofthouse

In May 2025, the Government introduced new legislation to raise standards in zoos and aquariums. Given that Bournemouth Oceanarium were found to be non-compliant with minimum licensing requirements during its last inspection, what steps is BCP Council taking to ensure the facility now meets the updated legal standards?

Has the Council issued any new guidance to the Oceanarium in light of the legislative changes? Additionally, when is the next inspection scheduled, and will the Council commit to increased oversight to ensure lasting improvements in animal welfare?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl, on behalf of Councillor Kieron Wilson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services

In response to the Government's introduction of the new Standards of Modern Zoo Practice in May 2025, BCP Council is actively working with the Oceanarium to ensure full compliance by the statutory deadline of May 2027. A follow-up inspection is scheduled for September 2025, aimed at assessing the facility's progress toward implementing the new requirements.

To support lasting improvement and ensure consistent progress, the Council undertakes yearly inspections at the facility and maintains regular communication with the operators. The Council remains fully committed to ensuring oversight of the Oceanarium.

Public question from Angela Hardy

Between 2018 and 2023, 3,506 animal deaths were recorded at Bournemouth Oceanarium including 35% of all animals in 2021 alone.

In one case, 5 Black Goby fish died after becoming trapped in a holding tank, and 4 Clownfish died due to excess gases in the water.

Despite this, the Oceanarium presents itself as a conservation focused facility - yet none of the animals are being prepared for re-introduction to the wild.

What evidence does the BCP Council have that the Oceanarium contributes meaningfully to conservation?

In light of the high mortality rate and lack of genuine conservation outcomes, will the Council review its support for facilities that rely on captivity for entertainment, and instead back alternatives that prioritise in-situ conservation and public education?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl, on behalf of Councillor Kieron Wilson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services

BCP Council's evidence that the Oceanarium contributes meaningfully to conservation is based on findings from its most recent inspection. Specifically, the veterinary inspection report confirmed the facility's compliance with conservation-related requirements.

The Oceanarium has been found to be compliant with all current licensing conditions, including those related to animal welfare and conservation responsibilities. As such, the facility remains licensed by the Council. BCP Council remains committed to ensuring that the oceanarium continues to be evaluated for compliance with requirements of in-situ conservation and public education.

Public question from Mark White

Can you confirm the number of responses recorded from the consultation for the town and parish councils, what does the response rate equate to over the total population of BCP?

How many responses were for the proposal and how many responses were against?

If the consensus is that the public do not want town councils, will you act on this indication and drop this proposal. If not, will you outline the reasons for going against the wishes of residents or will you default to your standard response that consultations are not legally binding, and can ignored meaning just a tick box exercise.

If you fall to your default response and chose to ignore the consultations why chose to ignore this consultation yet act and listen to residents on the response over residents parking, why are you picking and choosing on what you will and won't listen to and act on?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl

The consultation results are currently being validated and checked by officers and the data you have requested is not yet available. The next stage of the Community Governance Review means that the Task and Finish Group will consider the responses and make recommendations to Cabinet and subsequently to Council. The report of the Task and Finish Group will include full details of the consultation results for each area. The

information you have requested will be available at that time.

As I have previously stated, consultation is undertaken to help inform decision-makers and help them reach a decision. I can assure you that, as with all consultations, the results will be taken into consideration but must be balanced against all other relevant factors.

Public Statements

Public statement from Nick Greenwood

I strongly urge the BCP to reconsider its current position regarding the UN Agenda 2030 Guidelines, which advocate for Net Zero policies that could potentially have adverse effects on our local economy. In today's world, a modern economy is deeply reliant on fossil fuels, and this dependency is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Fossil fuels are integral to powering a wide range of vehicles and machinery across numerous sectors such as agriculture, mining, construction, transportation, shipping, aviation, military operations, and emergency services. Additionally, they are essential for the production of critical materials including nitrogen fertilizers, cement, steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and much more.

These products either depend directly on fossil fuel combustion or are derived from oil-based sources. While we recognize the importance of exploring alternative energy solutions, we must prioritize practical and economically viable strategies that ensure our progress and stability in the long run.

Public statement from Susan Lennon

BCP, stop doing consultations and listen to your constituents.

Give full access to public commons for disabled people.

You are selling off Sainsburys car park when it is heaving at the weekends.

Consider using Bournemouth University car park for a park and ride.

Reconsider your decision to stop the Air Show, which could be restarted with backing and modification.

Give the public a voice, and do not silence your own Councillors. We need answers and accountability from our Council. Thank you.

Public statement from Philip Gatrell (read by Chief Executive)

Before departing the Chief Executive should consider:

- Annual rising trends in complaints upheld by the Ombudsman.
- 1989 Act Sections 5 and 5A stipulate the reporting to each Member of Ombudsman decisions against the Council and actual as well as likely contraventions of law. The Constitution's text omits reporting actual contraventions contrary to the Monitoring Officer's correct previous practice. I await her response.
- Sections 5 / 5A designated reports not sent to each Member include:

- Ombudsman's 10 October 2022 decision upholding a complaint later ratified by costly judicial review.
- Contravening 2015 Standing Orders (Amendment) Regulation 2 when failing to convene Full Council meeting authorising Monitoring Officer's dismissal before notice.
- May 2025 information response showing confirmed agency staff tax breaches not notified to Revenue despite my 27 February 2025 public issue.
- 22 April 2025 judicial decision obtained by me regarding Council's Section 10(1) 2000 Act contravention when not providing information in time. Thrice since I have corrected Officers concerning deadlines.

Public statement from Jo Keeling (read by Daniel Butt)

In 2024, BCP Council agreed to sell Wessex Fields land to UHD for £2.163m, insisting no discount had been applied and the valuation had been properly scrutinised. Concerns raised by councillors, public and even the MP were dismissed.

We now learn the Council suppressed a higher valuation and when this was exposed, had to re-agree the sale, this time for around £6m. This confirms that the original deal undervalued the site by nearly £4m. Residents deserve clear answers and accountability. The fact that the original valuation was hidden, the public was misled, and that those who raised legitimate concerns were ridiculed is unacceptable. This is public land, public money and at times of serious financial pressure, such actions undermine public trust.

We support UHD's aims but this highlights deep concerns about transparency, scrutiny and integrity in decision-making at the highest level. I urge councillors to ensure that proper accountability follows.

Public statement from Paul Spector

I appeal to you — not just as Councillors, but as human beings — to act with courage, compassion, and a spirit of loving kindness toward *all* people in the Mideast.— and it's precisely now that your leadership matters most. For 30 years, Bournemouth and Netanya have been twinned in friendship — two beautiful seaside towns, perched on cliffs, welcoming people who long to live in peace and dignity. That bond was never about politics - but about humanity.

If we allow anger and division to dictate decisions, we abandon the very values we claim to uphold. Instead, let us lead. Let's show that *Bournemouth stands for peace, coexistence, and mutual respect.*

Don't let hatred tear apart what took decades to build. BCP should be remembered for strength, fairness and be known -not for capitulating to hostility, but for honouring peace, connection, and shared humanity.

Let light shine between our two towns.

Public statement from Stephen White

For almost 30 years the twinning of Bournemouth and Netanya has yielded countless benefits to both towns. It is inequitable and counterproductive to punish the citizens of Bournemouth and Netanya. Inequitable because the pain and suffering is caused not by Israel but by Hamas terrorists callously using Gazan civilians as human shields. Counterproductive because as the responsible adults in the room we should be fostering cooperation and peace-building. The citizens of Netanya are no more responsible for the actions of the Israeli Government in Gaza than the citizens of Bournemouth are responsible for the disastrous actions of the last two British Governments in Afghanistan.

Please, no more talk of detwinning. No gesture politics. Let's get the two towns working together to build bridges. And let's be proud of twinning - replace the missing road signs as soon as possible.
Please vote against this motion.

Public statement from Elizabeth Glass (read by Chief Executive)

In 2019 the council declared a climate and ecological emergency, and committed to making BCP Council carbon neutral by 2030. This was done without any mandate from the residents and no cost analysis appears to have been done.

Since then I note that council services have worsened and council tax has increased.

I have searched on the BCP and UK100 websites for the evidence/proof of said climate emergency and can find none. Council, please put the evidence that you used to commit to spending vast amounts of taxpayers' money on net zero policies, on the BCP website.

Public statement from Siobhan Mitchell (read by Carey Walden)

We, the volunteers at the Bournemouth and Poole Repair Café, endorse this Motion.

Every month members of our community bring their broken items to us and we repair what we can, keeping everything from lawnmowers to coffee machines to clothes from being thrown away and added to the mountains of waste in landfills.

We happily volunteer our time and share in the joy when an item is restored or repaired to go on to be used over and over again.

But sometimes we cannot repair items because they are built in a way that prevents repair, with built-in obsolescence or parts are no longer available. Sadly, those items are added to the 2326.54 tonnes of electrical waste that BCP Council processes every year.

We call on you as our councillors to endorse this Motion and by doing so encourage the creation of local skilled jobs, increase efficiency and reduce waste.

28. Petition: 'End Council Support for Netanya Twinning'

The lead petitioner, Feda Sahahien, introduced the petition to Council as follows:

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the Council to take all measures within its power to cease support for the twinning relationship with Netanya, Israel, including but not limited to:

- Supporting any official or unofficial visits, exchanges, or cultural programs linked to the twinning;
- Promoting or endorsing any materials or signs related to the twinning, and consequently, remove all signs, plaques, and promotional materials related to the twinning from council-controlled spaces;
- Providing any financial or logistical support to Netanya or its representatives.
- Disclose all council expenditures related to the twinning and commit to full transparency moving forward.

Taking this action will allow the council to demonstrate its commitment to upholding human rights, equality, and peace.

Justification:

Netanya is a city in Israel that supports and benefits from the ongoing occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. At a time when Israel is carrying out a genocide in Gaza, continuing this twinning sends the wrong message. Ending council support reflects our community's commitment to human rights, equality, and peace.

After asking questions to elicit additional information from the lead petitioner, Council moved to the debate.

A motion was moved by Councillor Kate Salmon and seconded by Councillor Joe Salmon which read as follows:

"Council notes the content of the public petition presented at its meeting of 22 July 2025 and resolves to:

- 1. Suspend all support for the Bournemouth–Netanya twinning arrangement with immediate effect until Council decides otherwise;*
- 2. Remove existing road signs and anything else within the Council's control that refers to the twinning within the public realm (including online), within two months of this resolution; and*
- 3. Instruct the Leader and Chief Executive to write, within four weeks, to the Mayor of Netanya and the Chair of the Bournemouth-Netanya*

twinning association confirming the Council's suspension of civic support until circumstances allow the matter to be reviewed."

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Richard Burton and seconded by Councillor Lawrence Williams which amended the motion to read as follows:

"Council:

- 1. notes the content of the public petition presented at its meeting of 22 July 2025 and notes also that it is not the role of the Council to support or condemn matters occurring in the region;*
- 2. notes that the Council does not currently have any involvement in the Bournemouth-Netanya twinning arrangement, other than the management of the current signage, which has been susceptible to unauthorised damage and removal; and*
- 3. Council resolves to take no view on the appropriateness of the twinning arrangement, and therefore neither wishes to promote the twinning nor to criticise it. Therefore, BCP Council will not remove signage, but it will also not fund replacing signage that has otherwise been removed."*

Cllr Kate Salmon did not accept the proposed amendment, and Council moved to debate on the proposed amendment. A motion for a recorded vote was moved, seconded, and lost. Council moved to vote on the amendment.

The motion was carried, and Council moved to the debate and vote on the substantive motion.

Voting: F31: A15 (12 abstentions)

The Motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED: - That Council

- 1. notes the content of the public petition presented at its meeting of 22 July 2025 and notes also that it is not the role of the Council to support or condemn matters occurring in the region;**
- 2. notes that the Council does not currently have any involvement in the Bournemouth-Netanya twinning arrangement, other than the management of the current signage, which has been susceptible to unauthorised damage and removal; and**
- 3. resolves to take no view on the appropriateness of the twinning arrangement, and therefore neither wishes to promote the twinning nor to criticise it. Therefore, BCP Council will not remove signage, but it will also not fund replacing signage that has otherwise been removed.**

Voting: F30:A15 (14 abstentions)

29. Standards Committee 8 July 2025 - Minute No. 8 - Annual Report on Code of Conduct Complaints

The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Adrian Chapmanlaw, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED: - that the Annual Report of the Standards Committee be noted.

Voting: Nem. Con.

30. Recommendations from Cabinet - 16 July 2025

Agenda items 7- 8g were determined separately as set out below

30.1 **Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 27 - Financial Outturn 2024/25**

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

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED: - that Council approves the revised funding strategy for the Poole museums capital schemes which, subject to Audit and Governance Committee approval, will mean an increase in the approved prudential borrowing of £1.3m.

Voting: Nem. Con.

31. Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 28 - Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives Transformation

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor David Brown, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

**RESOLVED: - that Council
(b) approves the request for the release of the remaining £1.11m funding that was previously agreed to allow the Fulfilled Lives Programme to reach completion and realisation of the benefits.**

[Recommendation (a) was resolved by Cabinet.]

Voting: Nem. Con.

Councillor K Rampton left 21:08

Councillor Filer left 21:11

Council adjourned from 21:11 to 21:30

31.1 Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 30 - Poole Civic Centre - Soft Market Testing

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

An amendment to the recommendation was moved by Councillor Sue Aitkenhead and seconded by Councillor Pete Miles, so that it read:

“that Council considers the freehold disposal of the whole of the former Poole civic offices to MCR Property Group for £5.25m along with reconsidering the possibility of selling the site minus the vertical slice, deferring the final decision to the full council meeting scheduled for 14th October 2025, to allow the following to take place:

- 1. That officers present a fully costed comparison of the viability of retaining the vertical slice, with the viability of leasing it under the terms offered or any further terms that may be negotiated before the sale is agreed.*
- 2. That recommendations to full council are based on clear evidence and information is provided to explain what alternative options were considered and why they were rejected.*
- 3. That the Charter Trustees of Poole are formally consulted on the recommendation and alternatives considered and invited to give their response in time for the October meeting.*
- 4. That the above information is provided in a timely manner and published well in advance of the October meeting to allow meaningful scrutiny and open democratic discussion, recognising the strength of local feeling about the Civic Centre, the heritage it represents, and the need for transparent decision-making in relation to assets of such civic and symbolic importance.*
- 5. That the possible outcomes of the current Local Governance Review are fully considered when assessing the viability of keeping or leasing the vertical slice, particularly as the establishment of a Town or Parish Council may have direct implications for the future civic use of the building, including as a democratic meeting place for local councillors.”*

Following debate on the proposed amendment, a motion for a recorded vote was moved, seconded, and lost.

Council moved to vote on the proposed amendment. The motion was lost.

Voting: F24: A28 (4 Abstentions)

Following debate on the original motion, a proposal for a recorded vote was moved, seconded and agreed by Council.

Council moved to vote on the motion:

For:

Cllr M Andrews	Cllr A Hadley	Cllr L Northover
Cllr D Brown	Cllr J Hanna	Cllr F Rice
Cllr S Bull	Cllr E Harman	Cllr J Richardson
Cllr R Burton	Cllr R Herrett	Cllr P Sidaway
Cllr A Chapmanlaw	Cllr P Hilliard	Cllr P Slade
Cllr B Chick	Cllr B Hitchcock	Cllr M Tarling
Cllr J Clements	Cllr S Mackrow	Cllr T Trent
Cllr M Cox	Cllr A Martin	Cllr O Walters
Cllr L Dedman	Cllr C Matthews	Cllr C Weight
Cllr M Earl	Cllr S McCormack	
Cllr M Gillett	Cllr S Moore	
Cllr C Goodall	Cllr B Nanovo	

Against:

Cllr S Aitkenhead	Cllr P Cooper	Cllr G Martin
Cllr S Armstrong	Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson	Cllr J Martin
Cllr J Beesley	Cllr M Dower	Cllr P Miles
Cllr P Broadhead	Cllr G Farquhar	Cllr A-M Moriarty
Cllr J Butt	Cllr D Farr	Cllr K Rampton
Cllr P Canavan	Cllr M Howell	Cllr T Slade
Cllr E Connolly	Cllr A Keddie	Cllr G Wright

Abstentions:

Cllr J Salmon	Cllr K Salmon	
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RESOLVED: - that Council approve the freehold disposal of the whole of the former Poole civic offices to MCR Property Group for £5.25m. After completion of the sale, MCR Property Group will enter discussions with the Poole Charter Trustees or any future Town Council regarding the terms of lease of the vertical slice. The terms of this offer are set out in confidential Appendix C1 and C2.

Voting: F33:A21 (2 Abstentions)

Cllr Rampton returned 21:30

31.2 Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 31 - Roeshot Nursery, Land Disposal

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

RESOLVED: - that Council

- (a) note the confidential minutes and the recommendations of the Cross-Party Asset Disposal Working Group meeting held on the 13 June 2025.**
- (b) Approve the freehold disposal of the whole former nursery site to Meyrick Estate for the sum of £850,000 on an unconditional basis (Option 1) and on such terms to be approved by the Chief Financial Officer, also acting in his capacity as Corporate Property Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

31.3 Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 34 - Enhancement to Pay and Reward Offer

The Cabinet Member for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Following debate it was:

RESOLVED: - that Council

- (a) agree the additional costs associated with enhancing the proposed Pay and Reward offer;**
- (b) agree the additional savings proposals outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure the cost implications of the proposal remain consistent with the February 2025 endorsed Medium Term Financial Plan;**
- (c) agrees the details of the enhanced offer shown in Appendix 4 and 5 that will form the basis of the signed collective agreement with our recognised trade unions; and**
- (d) approves the recommended implementation date of 1 December 2025 (in accordance with the timeline set out in appendix 7.)**

Voting: Nem. Con.

Councillor C Weight left 22:44

Councillors R Herrett, M Tarling, D Martin, T Slade & M Howell left 22:45

Councillor J Butt & K Rampton left 22:47

Councillor K Rampton returned 22:50

Councillors R Herrett, Cllr M Tarling and Cllr D Martin returned 22:55

31.4 Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 35 - Our Place and Environment: Cross-Pavement Electric-Vehicle (EV) Charging Trial

The Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED: - that Council agrees

(a) the introduction of a trial cross-pavement Electric Vehicle charging solution with charging gullies being set into the footway;

(b) that charging gully installations will need to comply with the criteria set out in Appendix 1; and

(c) that a policy for the installation of charging gullies be developed following the outcome of the trial.

Voting: Nem. Con.

31.5 Cabinet 16 July 2025 - Minute No. 36 - Transport CIL 2025/26 to 2027/28 - Port of Poole Bridges Programme

The Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED: - that Council

(a) agrees that the £6m of strategic CIL allocated in principle to Transport is invested in the Port of Poole Bridges Programme;

(b) Delegate delivery of the Port of Poole Bridges Programme to the Service Director for Customer and Property in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Mitigation, Energy and Environment; and

(c) Both (a) and (b) are subject to receiving the subsequent endorsement of the Director of Finance based on the availability of the necessary cash.

Voting: Nem. Con.

32. Amendments to the Constitution arising from the Standards Committee

Councillor J Salmon proposed that the meeting be adjourned for resumption on a new date. This was seconded and Council moved to the vote:

The motion was lost.

Voting: F17:A28 (3 abstentions).

The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Adrian Chapmanlaw, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED: - that

The Council's Constitution be updated to include the Officer Code of Conduct at Part 6.

Article 8.4 of the Council's Constitution be amended to insert the following provision

8.4.1 – Standards Committee

No Councillor shall sit as a member, or where applicable, as a substitute member of the Standards Committee unless they have completed all training deemed essential and promoted via the Councils Learning Management and Cyber Security training platforms

To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to take all steps necessary to ensure the Council's Constitution remains up to date in respect of these recommendations

Voting: F42: A0 (7 abstentions)

Councillor C Weight left 23:08

Councillor C Weight returned 23:13

33. Members' Allowance Scheme

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

An amendment to the recommendation was moved by Councillor E Connolly on behalf of Councillor S Bartlett to amend recommendation (b) vi as follows:

“Chair of Audit & Governance Committee - £9,000 [£12,087]”

Councillor M Earl accepted the proposed amendment and Council voted to carry the motion.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Following debate on the substantive motion, it was:

RESOLVED:- that Council considers the attached report and Appendix 1 and its recommendations and adopts the proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances for BCP Council as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, subject to any amendments Council may wish to agree, with a commencement date of 6 May 2025.

Voting: F34: A13 (2 abstentions)

Councillor M Earl moved that the meeting be adjourned and resumed as early as practicably possible This was seconded and agreed by consensus.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Meeting adjourned 23:57.

34. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10

Resumption of meeting: 16 September 2025.

Council was advised that five motions had been received on this occasion.

REPAIR AND RE-USE INITIATIVES

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor R Herrett and seconded by Councillor E Harman.

This Council notes:

The UK is the second highest producer of electronic waste per capita in the world. Repair and reuse is central to achieving a truly circular, less wasteful, economy. They help to tackle climate change and achieve our net zero ambition, reduce living costs for UK households and create green skilled jobs. There is strong public support for further repair and re-use initiatives, and for manufacturers to enable spares and repairs to be easily accessible, affordable and installable.

This Council believes:

We should be responding to increasing public demand for repair services and skills, advocating for a return to a strong UK fixing economy and championing reuse to give products a second life. Repair should be a thriving sector of our economy. Where products are designed to be durable and easily repairable by default and in which manufacturers actively support their products for as long as possible. A future where products are given a second life through reuse, repair is the easiest option for everyone when something breaks, and recycling is saved for the very end of a product's useful life.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Endorse the Repair and Reuse Declaration;

- b) Support the Bournemouth Repair café and other organisations promoting Repair and Reuse across the BCP area through access to networks and space, and funds where available;
- c) Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and Energy and Climate change asking that they support the Repair and Reuse Declaration and examine measures that the government can take to further repair reuse in manufacturing, training in repair skills and supporting the community.

Council debated the motion, during which Councillor R Burton declared a personal interest as he was a Trustee of a charity concerned with waste and recycling.

Councillor D Brown also declared a personal interest as he was involved in the trade of vintage items.

Following debate, Council moved to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: that:

This Council notes:

The UK is the second highest producer of electronic waste per capita in the world. Repair and reuse is central to achieving a truly circular, less wasteful, economy. They help to tackle climate change and achieve our net zero ambition, reduce living costs for UK households and create green skilled jobs. There is strong public support for further repair and re-use initiatives, and for manufacturers to enable spares and repairs to be easily accessible, affordable and installable.

This Council believes:

We should be responding to increasing public demand for repair services and skills, advocating for a return to a strong UK fixing economy and championing reuse to give products a second life. Repair should be a thriving sector of our economy. Where products are designed to be durable and easily repairable by default and in which manufacturers actively support their products for as long as possible. A future where products are given a second life through reuse, repair is the easiest option for everyone when something breaks, and recycling is saved for the very end of a product's useful life.

This Council resolves to:

- a) **Endorse the Repair and Reuse Declaration;**
- b) **Support the Bournemouth Repair café and other organisations promoting Repair and Reuse across the BCP area through access to networks and space, and funds where available;**

- c) **Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and Energy and Climate change asking that they support the Repair and Reuse Declaration and examine measures that the government can take to further repair reuse in manufacturing, training in repair skills and supporting the community.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

VACANT SITES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Original Motion:

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules:

This Council notes:

- The escalating need for affordable and social housing across the BCP area, with many residents in housing stress or on long waiting lists;
- The growing number of vacant and underused sites including:
 - The long-neglected Sydenham's timber site,
 - The derelict Old James Brothers scrapyards, and
 - The stalled former Power Station development land.These sites have remained undeveloped for years, blighting the area, attracting anti-social behaviour, and contributing nothing to local housing need or community wellbeing.

This Council believes:

That speculative land banking is unacceptable in the face of a housing crisis. That there is a duty to local residents to use all available means to bring these sites forward for affordable housing development, in line with Labour's policy of delivering social and council homes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Undertake an urgent audit of all vacant or stalled development sites across BCP;
2. Assess each site's potential to deliver affordable housing, with a published report outlining options and obstacles;
3. Use all available legal, planning and enforcement tools –including compulsory purchase powers where justified – to persuade developers and landowners to act; and
4. Press central government for stronger powers to deter land banking and support councils to deliver genuinely affordable homes for local people.

Altered Motion:

Councillor P Cooper moved an amendment to the motion so that it read as follows:

This Council notes:

- The escalating need for affordable and social housing across the BCP area, with many residents in housing stress or on long waiting lists;
- The growing number of vacant and underused sites including:
 - The long-neglected Sydenham's timber site;
 - The derelict Old James Brothers scrapyard, and
 - The stalled former Power Station development land.

These sites have remained undeveloped for years, blighting the area, attracting anti-social behaviour, and contributing nothing to local housing need or community wellbeing.

This Council believes:

- That speculative land banking is unacceptable in the face of a housing crisis;
- That there is a duty to local residents to use all available means to bring these sites forward for affordable housing development, in line with Labour's policy of delivering social and council homes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Undertake an urgent audit of all vacant or stalled development sites across BCP;
2. Assess each site's potential to deliver affordable housing, with a published report outlining options and obstacles and, for each Council owned site detail:
 - a. The amount of capital currently authorised;
 - b. The amount of capital expended to date;
 - c. The loans taken out;
 - d. The loan interest paid to date.
3. Use all available legal, planning and enforcement tools –including compulsory purchase powers where justified – to compel developers and landowners to act; and
4. Press central government for stronger powers to deter land banking and support councils to deliver genuinely affordable homes for local people.

In moving this amendment, Councillor P Cooper agreed and moved, and Councillor E Connolly seconded, a further amendment as circulated to Councillors by the Leader of the Council, which amended the motion to read as follows:

This Council notes:

- The escalating need for affordable and social housing across the BCP area, with many residents in housing stress or on long waiting lists;
- The growing number of vacant and underused sites including:
 - The long-neglected Sydenham's timber site;
 - The derelict Old James Brothers scrapyard, and
 - The stalled former Power Station development land.

These sites have remained undeveloped for years, blighting the area, attracting anti-social behaviour, and contributing nothing to local housing need or community wellbeing.

This Council believes:

- That speculative land banking is unacceptable in the face of a housing crisis;
- That there is a duty to local residents to use all available means to bring these sites forward for affordable housing development, in line with Labour's policy of delivering social and council homes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ask the Housing Strategy Steering Group to review the Council's Housing Strategy and ensure targets are being met to meet present and future need and deliver on the priority actions identified over the next 18 months including:
 - Reviewing the Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy to deliver new social and affordable rented homes
 - Regeneration of key sites; Winter Gardens, Holes Bay
 - Increasing joint working with registered providers to deliver new social and affordable homes
2. Ask the appropriate scrutiny committee to consider options and obstacles to housing delivery and to decide areas of focus that are realistic and will lead to housing delivery rather than wasting resource writing 7500 reports and, for each Council owned site and agree what is needed for effective scrutiny through the scrutiny process.
3. Note that the council uses all available legal, planning and enforcement tools – including compulsory purchase powers where justified – to persuade developers and landowners to act.
4. Ask the Leader to write to central government asking for stronger powers to deter land banking and support councils to deliver genuinely affordable homes for local people.

Council agreed to accept the proposed amendment and moved to debate the substantive motion.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Following debate, Council moved to the vote where it was:

RESOLVED: That:

This Council notes:

- The escalating need for affordable and social housing across the BCP area, with many residents in housing stress or on long waiting lists;
- The growing number of vacant and underused sites including:
 - The long-neglected Sydenham's timber site;
 - The derelict Old James Brothers scrapyard, and
 - The stalled former Power Station development land.

These sites have remained undeveloped for years, blighting the area, attracting anti-social behaviour, and contributing nothing to local housing need or community wellbeing.

This Council believes:

- That speculative land banking is unacceptable in the face of a housing crisis;
- That there is a duty to local residents to use all available means to bring these sites forward for affordable housing development, in line with Labour's policy of delivering social and council homes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ask the Housing Strategy Steering Group to review the Council's Housing Strategy and ensure targets are being met to meet present and future need and deliver on the priority actions identified over the next 18 months including:
 - I. Reviewing the Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy to deliver new social and affordable rented homes;
 - II. Regeneration of key sites; Winter Gardens, Holes Bay;
 - III. Increasing joint working with registered providers to deliver new social and affordable homes
2. Ask the appropriate scrutiny committee to consider options and obstacles to housing delivery and to decide areas of focus that are realistic and will lead to housing delivery rather than wasting resource writing 7500 reports and, for each Council

owned site, and agree what is needed for effective scrutiny through the scrutiny process.

- 3. Note that the council uses use all available legal, planning and enforcement tools – including compulsory purchase powers where justified – to persuade developers and landowners to act.**
- 4. Ask the Leader to write to central government asking for stronger powers to deter land banking and support councils to deliver genuinely affordable homes for local people.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

MANAGING SEASONAL PARKING PRESSURES

Original Motion:

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules:

This Council notes:

- The concerns raised by residents and stakeholders regarding the recent BCP Council parking consultation, which proposed parking restrictions for large numbers of residents without prior engagement, notice or with input from Ward Councillors and other key stakeholders;
- The recurring seasonal pressures on local parking infrastructure, ongoing issues of illegal, dangerous and inconsiderate parking experienced on busy days, particularly near the beach and other public open spaces;
- The importance of tourism to the area and regional economy alongside the need to protect residents from the impact of that tourism;
- That available car parking space does not meet demand at peak times in the year;
- The challenges in enforcing poor parking, due to both the Council's limited resources and national limitations such as on parking fines;
- The growing number of people living in vehicles, including van dwellers, near public open spaces, which can exacerbate seasonal pressures on parking, on top of year-round pressures on parking experienced in some residential areas.

This Council recognises:

- The need to explore alternative methods to tackle illegal and inconsiderate parking at peak times of year;
- The financial and operational challenges BCP Council faces, including limited resources, and that parking enforcement alone is insufficient to manage complex, evolving parking pressures;

- That visitors arriving in BCP after driving long journeys can find limited opportunities on arrival to park conveniently and appropriately in a way that benefits residents;
- That a more joined-up, forward-looking strategy is needed, with solutions developed collaboratively, reflecting the views of all communities and maintaining fairness;
- That the motion on developing a Community Pact with van dwellers, previously supported by this Council, will be discussed at the Environment and Place Overview Scrutiny Committee in September, including identifying designated stopping points for van dwellers, which should help alleviate the additional pressures from people living in vehicles.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Ask the Overview & Scrutiny Board to undertake a review of the recent parking consultation, with the aim of improving future engagement processes. This review to include feedback from residents, business owners, tourism representatives and other stakeholders;
- b) Undertake a feasibility study for a Park & Ride scheme, either during peak months or as a permanent arrangement, working in partnership with local transport providers.
- c) Develop a Seasonal Parking Strategy that assesses both parking provision and seasonal demand and explores;
 - I. Temporary use of suitable vacant or underused council-owned land to meet short-term seasonal demand;
 - II. Liaison with the Police around greater enforcement against illegal and antisocial parking and explore other enforcement options;
 - III. Improved signage directing visitors away from congested roads and warning of the risk of fines, clamping and being towed;
 - IV. Greater use of preventative measures such as temporary physical barriers to areas with recurrent dangerous parking e.g. that restricts emergency vehicles access;
 - V. Updating parking restrictions in popular areas such as Boscombe Overcliff Drive, such as removing overnight parking;
- d) To lobby Government again on increasing parking fines to levels that will deter illegal and inconsiderate parking, or to provide alternative support to tackle the challenges of seasonal tourism.

Altered Motion:

Cllr E Connolly proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor A-M Moriarty, so that it read as follows:

This Council notes:

- The concerns raised by residents and stakeholders regarding the recent BCP Council parking consultation, which proposed parking

restrictions for large numbers of residents without prior engagement, notice or with input from Ward Councillors and other key stakeholders;

- The recurring seasonal pressures on local parking infrastructure, ongoing issues of illegal, dangerous and inconsiderate parking experienced on busy days, particularly near the beach and other public open spaces;
- The importance of tourism to the area and regional economy alongside the need to protect residents from the impact of that tourism;
- The challenges in enforcing poor parking, due to both the Council's limited resources and national limitations such as on parking fines;
- The growing number of people living in vehicles, including van dwellers, near public open spaces, which can exacerbate seasonal pressures on parking, on top of year-round pressures on parking experienced in some residential areas.

This Council recognises:

- The need to explore alternative methods to tackle illegal and inconsiderate parking at peak times of year;
- The financial and operational challenges BCP Council faces, including limited resources, and that parking enforcement alone is insufficient to manage complex, evolving parking pressures;
- That a more joined-up, forward-looking strategy is needed, with solutions developed collaboratively, reflecting the views of all communities and maintaining fairness;
- That the motion on developing a Community Pact with van dwellers, previously supported by this Council, will be discussed at the Environment and Place Overview Scrutiny Committee in September, including identifying designated stopping points for van dwellers, which should help alleviate the additional pressures from people living in vehicles.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Ask the Overview & Scrutiny Board to undertake a review of the recent parking consultation, with the aim of improving future engagement processes. This review to include feedback from residents, business owners, tourism representatives and other stakeholders;
- b) Undertake a feasibility study for a Park & Ride scheme, either during peak months or as a permanent arrangement, working in partnership with local transport providers;
- c) Develop a year round Parking Strategy that assesses provision, fairness, use, need and seasonality, including all available measures, with due awareness for the financial implications. To include but not be limited to:
 - i. Temporary use of suitable vacant or underused council-owned land to meet short-term seasonal demand;

- II. Liaison with the Police around greater enforcement against illegal and antisocial parking and explore other enforcement options;
 - III. Improved signage directing visitors away from congested roads and warning of the risk of fines, clamping and being towed;
 - IV. Greater use of preventative measures such as temporary physical barriers to areas with recurrent dangerous parking e.g. that restricts emergency vehicles access;
 - V. Updating parking restrictions in popular areas such as Boscombe Overcliff Drive, such as removing overnight parking.
- d) To work with the government, on the trial for higher parking fines, assessing the impact. To further assess strategy in conjunction with data collected in the parking consultation. To continue lobbying government and MP's for permanence if appropriate;
 - e) Encourage all Councillors to complete the current government consultation on fairer funding highlighting the challenges seasonal pressures places on all local agencies.
 - f) Write to all of the BCP area MP's, asking that they support the early day motion on releasing the report into pavement parking, the consultation for which closed in November 2020.
 - g) Ask TAG to support this work;
 - h) That this is brought to Environment and Place for further scrutiny.

Council agreed to the proposed amendment without debate.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Council moved to debate on the substantive motion, where it was:

RESOLVED: That:

This Council notes:

- The concerns raised by residents and stakeholders regarding the recent BCP Council parking consultation, which proposed parking restrictions for large numbers of residents without prior engagement, notice or with input from Ward Councillors and other key stakeholders;
- The recurring seasonal pressures on local parking infrastructure, ongoing issues of illegal, dangerous and inconsiderate parking experienced on busy days, particularly near the beach and other public open spaces;
- The importance of tourism to the area and regional economy alongside the need to protect residents from the impact of that tourism;
- The challenges in enforcing poor parking, due to both the Council's limited resources and national limitations such as on parking fines;

- The growing number of people living in vehicles, including van dwellers, near public open spaces, which can exacerbate seasonal pressures on parking, on top of year-round pressures on parking experienced in some residential areas.

This Council recognises:

- The need to explore alternative methods to tackle illegal and inconsiderate parking at peak times of year;
- The financial and operational challenges BCP Council faces, including limited resources, and that parking enforcement alone is insufficient to manage complex, evolving parking pressures;
- That a more joined-up, forward-looking strategy is needed, with solutions developed collaboratively, reflecting the views of all communities and maintaining fairness;
- That the motion on developing a Community Pact with van dwellers, previously supported by this Council, will be discussed at the Environment and Place Overview Scrutiny Committee in September, including identifying designated stopping points for van dwellers, which should help alleviate the additional pressures from people living in vehicles.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Ask the Overview & Scrutiny Board to undertake a review of the recent parking consultation, with the aim of improving future engagement processes. This review to include feedback from residents, business owners, tourism representatives and other stakeholders;
- b) Undertake a feasibility study for a Park & Ride scheme, either during peak months or as a permanent arrangement, working in partnership with local transport providers;
- c) Develop a year round Parking Strategy that assesses provision, fairness, use, need and seasonality, including all available measures, with due awareness for the financial implications. To include but not be limited to:
 - I. Temporary use of suitable vacant or underused council-owned land to meet short-term seasonal demand;
 - II. Liaison with the Police around greater enforcement against illegal and antisocial parking and explore other enforcement options;
 - III. Improved signage directing visitors away from congested roads and warning of the risk of fines, clamping and being towed;

- IV. Greater use of preventative measures such as temporary physical barriers to areas with recurrent dangerous parking e.g. that restricts emergency vehicles access;**
 - V. Updating parking restrictions in popular areas such as Boscombe Overcliff Drive, such as removing overnight parking.**
- d) To work with the government, on the trial for higher parking fines, assessing the impact. To further assess strategy in conjunction with data collected in the parking consultation. To continue lobbying government and MP's for permanence if appropriate;**
 - e) Encourage all Councillors to complete the current government consultation on fairer funding highlighting the challenges seasonal pressures places on all local agencies.**
 - f) Write to all of the BCP area MP's, asking that they support the early day motion on releasing the report into pavement parking, the consultation for which closed in November 2020.**
 - g) Ask TAG to support this work;**
 - h) That this is brought to Environment and Place for further scrutiny.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

STANDING UP FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Councillors S Armstrong, G Martin and A-M Moriarty declared personal interests as they worked for organisations involved in delivering teaching or other services to children with SEND. The Councillors left the room at room at 20:20.

Original Motion:

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules. Councillor K Salmon moved the motion, which was seconded by Councillor S Bull:

Council notes that:

1. Following assurances from government that a permanent solution to the SEND funding crisis would be found this financial year, BCP Council is already having to borrow c.£60m to plug the gap between Government grant and our High Needs spending in 2025/26, placing an extra interest burden of £7.5m on budgets and services this and subsequent year.
2. There was no announcement on SEND reform as part of the Spending Review, other than that this would now come later in the year. Instead, the statutory "DSG override" that keeps the deficit off local-authority balance sheets has been extended for a further two

years, offering no long-term solution to spiralling costs and leaving BCP Council in an increasingly precarious financial position.

3. The Leader of BCP Council has recently written to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting an urgent amendment to the financial arrangements around the DSG deficit, in order to prevent the council from imminent financial collapse.
4. Research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the London School of Economics clearly states that the UK government's two-child benefit cap is dragging an ever-increasing number of children into poverty, and that this has a detrimental effect on their development and life chances.
5. Professional bodies including Adoption UK, Beacon House and Kinship warn that the dramatic cuts made to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) in April 2025 are already having a devastating impact on vulnerable care-experienced children.
6. Local parents and carers tell us that assessment waits, placement shortages and post-permanence support cuts are harming children's education, wellbeing and family stability.

Council believes that:

1. Every child - irrespective of family income, order of birth or route to permanence - deserves timely assessment, appropriate support and the chance to thrive.
2. Long-term structural under-funding cannot be fixed by short-term borrowing that simply shifts the cost onto council tax-payers.
3. Our five constituency MPs have a critical role in securing fair national funding and legislative change, and they must hear directly from the families affected.

Council resolves to:

1. Convene, within three months, a public roundtable hosted in an appropriate venue and invite:
 - All 5 of our conurbation's MPs;
 - Parents and carers of children with SEND;
 - Adoptive parents and special guardians;
 - Children and young people with SEND and/or who are care experienced.

The MPs will be asked to set out the actions they will take in Parliament and to report back to Full Council with what steps they are taking to get concrete solutions from Government.

2. Instruct the Leader of the Council and political group leaders to draft a joint letter to the Chancellor and the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care, calling urgently for;
 - a funded plan to write off historic DSG deficits and provide sustainable high needs funding going forward;
 - removal of the two-child cap in Universal Credit and Child Benefit to reduce child poverty;

- immediate restoration of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund to pre-April 2025 levels and index-linking thereafter, with funding confirmed for multiple years ahead.
3. Ask the Chief Executive to work through the LGA to explore collective legal or lobbying options should Government continue to fail to act on the DSG deficit.

Councillor S Carr-Brown moved an amendment, circulated to Council, which amended the motion to read as follows:

Council notes that:

1. Following assurances from government that a permanent solution to the SEND funding crisis would be found this financial year, BCP Council is already having to borrow c.£60m to plug the gap between Government grant and our High Needs spending in 2025/26, placing an extra interest burden of £7.5m on budgets and services this and subsequent years.
2. There was no announcement on SEND reform as part of the Spending Review, other than that this would now come later in the year. Instead, the statutory “DSG override” that keeps the deficit off local-authority balance sheets has been extended for a further two years, offering no long-term solution to spiralling costs and leaving BCP Council in an increasingly precarious financial position.
3. The Leader of BCP Council has recently written to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting an urgent amendment to the financial arrangements around the DSG deficit, in order to prevent the council from imminent financial collapse. Most of our local MPs have worked tirelessly in Westminster to raise the profile of the SEND funding crisis and advocate for local families.
4. Research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the London School of Economics clearly states that the UK government’s two-child benefit cap is dragging an ever-increasing number of children into poverty, and that this has a detrimental effect on their development and life chances.
5. Professional bodies including Adoption UK, Beacon House and Kinship warn that the dramatic cuts made to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) in April 2025 are already having a devastating impact on vulnerable care-experienced children.
6. Local parents and carers tell us that assessment waits, placement shortages and post-permanence support cuts are harming children’s education, wellbeing and family stability.

Council believes that:

1. Every child - irrespective of family income, order of birth or route to permanence - deserves timely assessment, appropriate support and the chance to thrive.

2. Long-term structural under-funding cannot be fixed by short-term borrowing that simply shifts the cost onto council tax-payers.
3. Our five constituency MPs have a critical role in securing fair national funding and legislative change, and they must hear directly from the families affected.

Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader to convene, as soon as practicable, a public roundtable hosted in an appropriate venue and invite:
 - All 5 of our conurbation's MPs;
 - Parents and carers of children with SEND;
 - Adoptive parents and special guardians;
 - Children and young people with SEND and/or who are care experienced.

The MPs will be asked to set out the actions they will take in Parliament and to report back with what steps they are taking to get concrete solutions from Government.

Councillor P Cooper seconded the proposed amendment, which was accepted by Councillors K Salmon and S Bull.

Councillor R Burton moved an amendment to the substantive motion to add a requirement to 'invite the appropriate minister'. This was accepted by Councillors K Salmon and S Bull, so that the relevant section of the motion read:

Council resolves to:

2. Ask the Leader to convene, as soon as practicable, a public roundtable hosted in an appropriate venue and invite:
 - All 5 of our conurbation's MPs;
 - Parents and carers of children with SEND;
 - Adoptive parents and special guardians;
 - Children and young people with SEND and/or who are care experienced;
 - The appropriate minister.

Council approved the proposed amendments.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Councillor R Burton then moved a second amendment, seconded by Councillor S Moore, to remove 'and/or who are care experienced' so that the relevant section read as follows:

Council resolves to:

3. Ask the Leader to convene, as soon as practicable, a public roundtable hosted in an appropriate venue and invite:
 - All 5 of our conurbation's MPs;
 - Parents and carers of children with SEND;
 - Adoptive parents and special guardians;
 - Children and young people with SEND and/or who are care experienced;
 - The appropriate minister.

The proposed amendment was not accepted by Councillors K Salmon or S Bull, and Council moved to debate the proposed amendment.

Following debate, Council moved to the vote, where the motion was carried:

Voting: F:28 Ag:15 (9 abstentions).

Following debate on the substantive motion, Council moved to a vote where it was:

RESOLVED:

Council notes that:

1. **Following assurances from government that a permanent solution to the SEND funding crisis would be found this financial year, BCP Council is already having to borrow c.£60m to plug the gap between Government grant and our High Needs spending in 2025/26, placing an extra interest burden of £7.5m on budgets and services this and subsequent years.**
2. **There was no announcement on SEND reform as part of the Spending Review, other than that this would now come later in the year. Instead, the statutory "DSG override" that keeps the deficit off local-authority balance sheets has been extended for a further two years, offering no long-term solution to spiralling costs and leaving BCP Council in an increasingly precarious financial position.**
3. **The Leader of BCP Council has recently written to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting an urgent amendment to the financial arrangements around the DSG deficit, in order to prevent the council from imminent financial collapse. Most of our local MPs have worked tirelessly in Westminster to raise the profile of the SEND funding crisis and advocate for local families.**
4. **Research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the London School of Economics clearly states that the UK government's two-child benefit cap is dragging an ever-increasing number of children into poverty, and that this has a detrimental effect on their development and life chances.**

5. Professional bodies including Adoption UK, Beacon House and Kinship warn that the dramatic cuts made to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) in April 2025 are already having a devastating impact on vulnerable care-experienced children.
6. Local parents and carers tell us that assessment waits, placement shortages and post-permanence support cuts are harming children's education, wellbeing and family stability.

Council believes that:

1. Every child - irrespective of family income, order of birth or route to permanence - deserves timely assessment, appropriate support and the chance to thrive.
2. Long-term structural under-funding cannot be fixed by short-term borrowing that simply shifts the cost onto council tax-payers.
3. Our five constituency MPs have a critical role in securing fair national funding and legislative change, and they must hear directly from the families affected.

Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader to convene, as soon as practicable, a public roundtable hosted in an appropriate venue and invite:
 - All 5 of our conurbation's MPs;
 - Parents and carers of children with SEND;
 - Adoptive parents and special guardians;
 - Children and young people with SEND.
 - The appropriate minister.

The MPs will be asked to set out the actions they will take in Parliament and to report back with what steps they are taking to get concrete solutions from Government.

Voting: F:50 Ag:0 (2 abstentions)

Councillors S Armstrong, G Martin and A-M Moriarty returned 21:00.

PREVENTING ILLEGAL PARKING IN THE BCP COUNCIL AREA

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 of the Meeting Procedure Rules, proposed by Councillor R Herrett and seconded by Councillor M Earl.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.13, the proposer and seconder named above requested permission to withdraw this motion.

Council agreed to the requested withdrawal.

Voting: Nem. Con.

Council adjourned 21:01.

Council resumed 21:12.

35. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor P Cooper

Re. Carters Quay

Whilst welcoming the examination of the background to this development by the Audit & Governance Committee it is also necessary to move forward. Therefore, could the Leader ensure that local Councillors are kept fully involved and informed on the progress in resolving the outstanding issues? Also, will the Leader ensure that such updates are communicated effectively to offer reassurance to residents and avoids misinformation and disingenuous commentary?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl

I can provide reassurance that officers are working on finding a resolution and will bring a report forward later this Autumn. I will ensure the need to consult ward councillors over the next few months before we make any decisions.

Question from Councillor A-M Moriarty on behalf of Councillor P Canavan

As creative industries, financial services and clean energy are all included as priority sectors in the Government's industrial strategy what steps are being taken to take advantage of this in BCP?

In particular, the newly created Coastal Energy Partnership and the Dorset Clean Energy Supercluster create the potential for growth, jobs and bringing down energy bills across our region. These initiatives could unlock significant investment, create green jobs and transform our region into a clean energy powerhouse.

Can the portfolio holder outline how this administration is intending to help maximise this opportunity across our conurbation?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl, on behalf of Cllr A Hadley, Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Councillor Canavan,

Much of the detail of how we achieve the growth jobs and energy bill stability/reduction is mapped out in our LEAP, which Council considered prior to the adjournment.

The Coastal Energy Partnership is a strong collaboration to support this, built on earlier sharing of experience and knowledge amongst partners, and includes the Universities and Bournemouth and Poole College. The College in particular is gearing up for sharing skills to support clean energy jobs, and Councillor Hadley was pleased to be involved in the launch of their new Green Energy Centre.

We are also grateful for help and support from our local MPs, both to date, and going forwards in promoting the value of investment in clean energy for our Region.

We hope to grow skills and attract investment to the priorities you identify, and with partners through the Coastal Energy Partnership to build and promote a vision to maximise this opportunity.

Question from Councillor S Bartlett

All of the signs that specify a cycling speed limit of 10 mph on Bournemouth promenade have been removed and replaced with signs that say “No cycling 10am – 6pm July & August. Pedestrians have priority. Maintain courteous Speed”

Would the Cabinet Member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations advise what the courteous speed is and how it is enforced?

Also, would the Cabinet member also advise why the original signs were removed and the cost of replacing them.

Response from Councillor R Herrett, Cabinet Member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations

The byelaw information signs relating to fires, BBQs, dogs, and cycling, have recently been updated and harmonised across our area. Previous signage was often outdated, inconsistent or incomplete.

Byelaws related to cycling on the seafront do not specify a maximum speed, the limit of which may depend on the weather, promenade conditions, visitor numbers, and a cyclist's ability or equipment.

There are times when traveling at 10 mph on the promenade may be considered too fast, and as bikes are not fitted with speedometers, it is impossible for a cyclist to know their exact speed.

The new signage advises cyclists to maintain a courteous speed, which allows them to take into account the conditions, and apply consideration for other promenade users. The signs are clearly visible across the seafront, acting as a point of reference and enable the Seafront Rangers to enforce and advise visitors as required. Due to their proximity, they are easily pointed to.

The cost of purchasing 325 new information signs and housings was £10,800. About £33 per sign, they cover 10 miles of seafront.

Anecdotally, despite much improved weather this summer, I, and the leader received much less in the way of correspondence on cycling on the prom this summer than last.

Supplementary Question from Councillor S Bartlett

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that a 'courteous' speed is somewhat subjective, as courteous speeds interpreted by some people, could be 30 miles an hour or even in excess. So we see a range between just a few miles an hour and 30 miles an hour on the seafront, which is possibly unenforceable with signs.

Response from Councillor R Herrett, Cabinet Member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations

As noted, you can't tell the speed on a bicycle, and applying a speed limit is nigh on impossible. 30 miles an hour would equate to the fastest ever average speed. So I'm not sure we're going to say that's on the seafront unless it's motor driven and those bits of equipment are illegal anyway.

But we do enforce, we do stop people. We've seen it, in videos, caught accidentally. And, as I say, it is about courteous speed. And we are reliant on people to apply those rules as they see fit and apply that courteous speed. Sometimes that's too fast, even at ten miles an hour. A speed limit isn't not going to make a difference to the people doing 20 and 30 along there, even if the speed limit is 10mph.

Question from Councillor S Armstrong

It is becoming increasingly evident that short-term lettings and Airbnb are having significant and multifaceted impacts on our local economy, community, and housing market. These impacts include a strain on housing supply, increased antisocial behaviour, and pressure on council services such as rubbish collection. Hoteliers and other accommodation providers are particularly affected, as they adhere to strict regulations and incur substantial costs to ensure guest safety, unlike many short-term lets which exploit tax loopholes and avoid business rates.

Given the current housing crisis, it is deeply concerning that the council appears slow to act on these matters. Therefore, I would like to ask Cllr Herritt directly:

Will the council form a cross-party and cross-sector task group to assess the impact of short-term lettings and Airbnb, identify short-term solutions, and propose regulatory actions similar to other areas? If not, why not?

When will the council initiate a short-term let register to list all short-term rental properties, ensuring they align with national requirements and support local enforcement?

What measures are being taken to ensure compliance of short-term lets and when will zoning rules be implemented to regulate these lets?

What steps are being taken to improve collaboration between the council and the hospitality industry to address any disconnect and ensure that businesses of all shapes and sizes are included?

The current situation urgently needs to change to support local businesses, and prevent further hotel closures, which lead to increased antisocial behaviour and additional pressure on council resources. And we need to address ever increasing gaps in the housing market.

Response from Councillor R Herrett - Cabinet Member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations

Councillor Armstrong, thanks for your question. I am regularly in contact with members of the hotel and tourist trade, and recognise the challenges they face, the availability of University accommodation is at a significant high, and private providers are seeking to use short term letting to bolster income in the summer, Air BnB's are a fantastic way to utilise spare space, or an extra room, but is also a great example of where technology has overtaken regulation.

The Council is currently undertaking a stock condition survey to understand the demographic of properties in the conurbation, to include the number and locations of holiday lets.

Holiday lets are a vastly unregulated premises type and as it stands, no primary legislation can be used to regulate them. Our Public Protection teams will respond to issues relating to holiday lets to include enforcement on noise and ASB. Where appropriate, our waste team will also engage around commercial waste provisions.

The Portfolio Holder for Regulation has lobbied the MPs for more robust legislation in relation to these property types, and the results of the stock condition survey will support the understanding of issues and needs around this.

I am supportive of the formation of a working group but is likely best this is taken to Overview and Scrutiny as a scrutiny request, where they have the resource and governance to do so, and can hopefully find the time to do the deep dive required. Brighton and Hove council have done a very good report and summary of a lot of the issues in a report that could form the basis for that work, I'm happy to circulate to all councillors should they wish to have it.

Supplementary question from Councillor S Armstrong

I really welcome the fact that you recognize the challenges that are being faced across the sector. And I appreciate the challenges as well. It is a fact that we are missing that important enforcement legislation, but our residents can't wait for Westminster, we do need to take some action. So I would like further information about what else can be done to try and speed this up.

Response from Councillor R Herrett - Cabinet Member for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations

I spoke with Councillor Armstrong earlier this week about just this matter, and I believe we're looking to get a date in the diary to discuss just that, so I would be happy to do so.

Question from Councillor P Cooper

Can the Cabinet member for Planning explain why planning application notices are still routinely placed in inaccessible or inappropriate locations – such as high lampposts or railings, where they are prone to being blown away, torn off by passers-by, or left unreadable due to small print and complex information.

These practices significantly hinder public awareness and engagement, particularly amongst residents with visual impairments or mobility issues.

Given the administration's commitment to listening to the communities it serves, what steps will be taken to ensure that planning notices are displayed in a more accessible, visible, and inclusive manner, so that all residents have a fair say and an opportunity to engage with developments that may impact on their neighbourhoods?

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl

Thank you Councillor Cooper. Officers display notices in prominent locations. By their very nature Site Notices are displayed so that people can view and read the notice. Officers do their best to display the notice in an area where it is visible and often erect multiple notices for one site.

Officers always try to place the site notice as close to the application site as possible, but clearly that is somewhat dependent on there being a lamp post or some other piece of street furniture nearby. In most cases, we can

normally put the site notice up very close to the application property but we need to ensure notices are visible within the public realm.

In terms of putting up the notices, the officers use string to affix the site notices securely, and they are printed on waterproof paper. It means that, yes, they can be ripped down if someone really, really wants to. And if you do see one that has disappeared, then I think it's important to raise that with Planning. But they are pretty much the most sturdy that they can be. In terms of the amount that we have to put up and the cost of actually putting them up and taking them down, I think that they are sufficient and proportionate.

The font size used on the site notice itself is standard and has not changed for many years, and it is legible. Clearly, the Council cannot be accountable for a site notice being ripped down through anti-social behaviour. It should be noted that legislation only requires the erection of one site notice and there is nothing to state we must ensure it has remained in situ for the statutory 21 days.

Officers take pictures of site notices once they are put up and upload them onto the planning site. And what I would suggest is that, if you see one on the planning site and then see it's disappeared, then it might be worth contacting the planning officer just to let them know about that.

Supplementary question from Councillor P Cooper

That doesn't really answer the question in terms of residents walking in the streets when they're really busy and they don't access the internet. There are still serious issues where people say, well, I didn't know that was going to happen. I don't think you've really answered the question in terms of accessibility and inclusion.

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl

I think that what you're saying is that residents have come to you and said, there's a planning application, but I didn't know anything about it. That doesn't necessarily mean that the site notice hasn't been visible or hasn't been there. In fact, I would say look at the planning site and see where the planning notices were. What I would also suggest is, in my ward where I have a contentious planning application or something that I feel concerned about, I actually put out letters to my residents to tell them about it and invite them to come and make representations at committee, and I think it's really important as Councillors that we do our bit as well, rather than just relying on officers to make sure residents are aware.

Question from Cllr S Armstrong

In light of the possible local government reorganisation through the community governance review within BCP, could the Leader of the Council provide assurances regarding neighbourhood plans and areas?

Specifically, what guarantees can be given to ensure that all the work done in East Cliff and Springbourne to designate an area for a Neighbourhood Forum and subsequently develop a neighbourhood plan will be preserved and respected?

Additionally, what actions will the Leader take to urge the government to continue funding the development of neighbourhood plans, given the recent decision to withdraw such funds?

The government has indicated that while direct funding for neighbourhood plans is being withdrawn, they will ensure that local planning authorities are 'appropriately funded' for aspects such as neighbourhood plan examinations and referenda.

How will this decision affect ongoing neighbourhood plans, and will the council still support their development? If so, what will this support look like?

Response from the Leader of the Council - Councillor M Earl

Thank you, Councillor Armstrong.

On 16 July 2025, Cabinet formally designated the East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum as a 'qualifying body' for five years to develop a neighbourhood plan within the approved area. I'm really pleased that it is now designated, and that no other organisation may be designated for that neighbourhood area until it is withdrawn. This does not affect the existence or creation of other community groups to operate in the area.

As a result of the Spending Review in June 2025, MHCLG has now withdrawn new grants or technical support to neighbourhood forums/town/parish councils. This is published on the national community group network 'Locality'. This means that new neighbourhood planning forums will no longer be able to access the £10,000 grant funding that was previously offered to help towards the cost of procuring evidence to support their neighbourhood plans. We are aware that a number of MPs have raised concerns about the implications for communities, which may struggle to raise funds to support evidence gathering activities.

We understand that existing commitments will continue to be funded by MHCLG only until March 2026. On 19 June 2025, the Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook MP stated that "The government remains of the view that neighbourhood plans can play an important role in the planning system" despite government financial support ending for forums. MHCLG have confirmed that LPAs will continue to be compensated for their neighbourhood planning functions i.e. the ability to claim the funding element when issuing a decision statement to proceed to a referendum.

BCP Council has a statutory duty to advise and support neighbourhood forums through the process and stages of preparing their neighbourhood plans and will continue to do so in accordance with its Statement of

Community Involvement.

In terms of council funding though, I do have a solution which works well in other areas of the country to fund and support the creation of the type of plans, ensuring residents can take control of their own destiny and create the neighbourhood that they want to see, and that is working with your local town or parish council. If only we had one.

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

Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive, advised that the following urgent decisions had been taken since the previous meeting:

1. Acceptance of Additional Environment Agency Grant Funding - Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme (Decision taken by the previous Chief Executive);
2. Appointment of Interim Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer;
3. Decision by Director of Operations: Replacement tele-handler.

37. Recruitment of Corporate Director of Wellbeing

The Leader introduced the report which sought Council approval to appoint Laura Ambler to the position of Corporate Director of Wellbeing, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and statutory requirements.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the appointment of Laura Ambler to the position of Corporate Director of Wellbeing.

Voting: F:43 Ag:0 (3 abstentions)

The 22 July meeting ended at 11.57 pm
The 16 September meeting ended at 9.42 pm

CHAIRMAN