

Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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**Notes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Advisory Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Zoom Virtual Meeting Place

**Present:** Ann Weaving Tony Ferrari Lucy Hamilton

**Councillors** Peter Barrow Alex Fuhrmann Jan Bergman

Richard Nickinson David Northam Howard Legg

Graham Lambert Luke Wakeling Trefor Morgan

Michael Frost Jon Orrell Gill Taylor

Kate Wheller Christine James Mark Tewkesbury

Tia Roos David Harris Ken Whatley

Ryan Hope Peter Dickenson Graham Winter

**Officers** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Tara Williams (Parks & Open Spaces Manager)

Ben Heath (Project Officer)

Niki Ayles (Democratic & Administration Officer)

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| AC0053 | **Welcome**  Cllr Weaving welcomed those in attendance.  Jane Biscombe then spoke about the meeting and how it differs from a usual Full Council meeting. Councillors have agreed an enhanced delegation to the Town Clerk as of 05 May 2021. Meeting held under delegated powers are advisory only. Advisory meetings, such as this one, will have notes rather than formal minutes and those notes will be ratified at the next appropriate formal Full Council meeting. |
| AC0054 | **Apologies**  Apologies were noted from Cllr Huckle, Cllr Blake, Cllr Gray, Cllr Kanji and Cllr Brookes. |
| AC0055 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| AC0056 | **Councillor Questions and Updates**  **Cllr Lambert asked the following question:**  “The Dorset Council Air Quality Annual Status Report June 2021 shows annual mean data for the 8 diffusion tube monitoring sites in the Boot Hill area of Rodwell. The guide air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide used is 40 micrograms per cubic metre (microg/m3).    On September 22nd 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) slashed their recommended guideline for nitrogen dioxide from 40 microg/m3 to 10 microg/m3, a 75% reduction [1]. This dramatic reduction reflects the fact that: “there has been a marked increase in the quality and quantity of evidence that shows how air pollution affects different aspects of health.”  The DC data shows that not one observation of nitrogen dioxide levels at the eight Rodwell sites in 2020 was below the new WHO guideline of 10 microg/m3. The lowest figure found was 16 microg/m3 at one site only with the others ranging from 22 to 26 microg/m3. Note that during 2020 the transport system reduced dramatically in volume from April onwards due to the onset of Covid restrictions so figures are likely to be higher in 2021.  WHO also cut their guidelines on atmospheric Particulate Matter (PM) with PM2.5 dropping from 10 microg/m3 to 5 microg/m3 (a 50% decrease) and PM10 dropping from 20microg/m3 to 15 microg/m3 (a 25% decrease).  DC has an automatic system monitoring for both nitrogen dioxide and PM10 at the junction of Rodwell Road and Wyke Road on Boot Hill. This monitoring site has generated no data since 2019 for “technical reasons” thus no data is available for PM on Boot Hill. Pre 2019 figures suggest non-compliance.  Will Weymouth Town Council challenge Dorset Council regarding the non-operation of the automatic air quality monitoring system on Boot Hill and ask Dorset Council about their strategy for improving the air quality for Rodwell residents who are currently exposed to air pollution at levels which are more than twice the latest guidelines issued by the WHO?  1. [www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/who-global-air-quality-guidelines#](http://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/who-global-air-quality-guidelines) “  The Town Clerk explained that the Council is able to raise a motion to request a written report at any point in the meeting, without prior notification. The Town Clerk will liaise with Dorset Council about input into that report, which will be brought back to the next appropriate Full Council meeting. |
| AC0057 | **Town Mayor’s Announcements**  The Mayor has attended several events recently, which are detailed in the agenda documentation.  The Deputy Mayor attended a Civic Day in Bridport which she found very enjoyable, and accompanied the Mayor to Hall and Woodhouse where they presented their Community Fund. |
| AC0058 | **Public Questions**  Cllr Louie O’Leary, Dorset Council, had submitted the following question which was read out by the Town Clerk:  “Weymouth town council has mooted the possibility of taking on the land north of Littlemoor (where 500 houses are due to be built) as part of the town council area. If included as part of the town it would likely be included as part of Littlemoor. The full details of this development are not known and will not be until it’s built. But if this area is more affluent that the existing littlemoor area (even if only on paper) then it could schew current demographics and statistics that could hide some of the deep rooted issues on the estate. The only thing done to try and gauge the opinion of Littlemoor residents on this was an online poll I conducted which 75% opposed this becoming part of Weymouth. This however is not a scientific poll. Will Weymouth Town Council consult the people of Littlemoor on this issue?”  The following response was provided by Cllr Luke Wakeling:  “The Community Governance Review is a Dorset Council process.  Dorset Council will be producing a draft order in the new year, which will go out to public consultation.  Weymouth Town Council would not seek to duplicate a Dorset Consultation which might confuse people.    The Community Governance Review is governed by guidance by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.  The guidance states that communities expand with new housing developments, which can lead to anomalous boundaries.  The Community Governance Review is the time to review boundaries and correct both historical anomalies and prepare for known developments in the near future.    It is impossible to survey residents that don’t yet live in the area, and it would be wrong to speculate on the future residents of any new development.  As a community, both Weymouth and Littlemoor should be welcoming and neighbourly to new residents, as we are one large community.  This new development is a huge investment in the Littlemoor area, and all parties should work constructively to get new local employment opportunities and new community facilities  (such as a skate ramp), as part of the new development.    For residents of Littlemoor and wider Weymouth, there is a benefit to welcoming all these new developments into Weymouth.  Weymouth Town Council provides a number of big-ticket items for the whole town - the beach,  public toilets, parks, events such as fireworks & Christmas lights.  These things benefit the whole town, both for residents and by bringing visitors to the area, and creating jobs and economic activity.  By bringing the new developments on the edges of Weymouth into the Town Council area, these new residents who will benefit from being part of Weymouth, contribute to the cost of these items. Spreading the costs across more people,  helps keep the Town Council precept bill lower for both current and new residents.    Weymouth Town Council will be debating and agreeing initial suggestions to Dorset Council at the next full council on 19th October.  Dorset will publish a draft proposal for public consultation in due course.”  It was requested that Officers send Cllr O’Leary the Council’s response following this meeting.  Members of the public who wish to ask a question are asked to email it through to [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) prior to the meeting and it can go on the agenda. Members of the public are able to attend the meeting and ask their question, or Officers can ask a question on their behalf. Questions raised during the meeting on social media would not be addressed at the meeting. |
| AC0059 | **Cemetery Management Policy**  Tara Williams introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation.  Cllr Hope highlighted that the Cemetery Management Policy had been discussed at length by the Services Committee, which had made a further recommendation that the Policy be reviewed when the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy comes back for consideration. However, this does not appear to have been added to the policy and he would therefore like to see that recommendation being added this evening.  Cllr Hamilton asked whether burial spaces can be re-used in WTC run cemeteries as she understood that there is different practice and regulation compared with church cemeteries. Cllr Hamilton also asked how new areas for cemetery space are identified. Tara Williams responded that, after a period of time, WTC can re-claim pre-purchased graves from purchasers and re-use them. Once the period of time where WTC can re-claim burial spaces arrives, that is what will happen. With regards to interments, there can be a double internment into a grave.  With regards to the identification of new areas for cemetery spaces, DC and WTC do not have to find burial space, however WTC may wish to do so. WTC has also been exploring areas, but to no avail.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted by a majority of 23 in favour, with 1 abstention, for the Cemetery Management Policy to be reviewed when the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy comes back for consideration.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted by a majority of 23 in favour, with 1 abstention, to agree to recommend to the Town Clerk that the Cemetery Management Policy in Appendix A is adopted for immediate use. The policy will be reviewed when the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy comes back for consideration. |
| AC0060 | **Draft Decarbonisation Strategy & Updated Action Plan**  Ben Heath and Cllr Harris introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation.  Cllr Harris reminded Members that Scopes 1 and 2 focus on things that WTC is responsible for. Scope 3 however relates to the wider public and therefore is more difficult to achieve. Within Scope 3 is waste from the beach, including clearing and disposal. The CEE group has held various meetings to look at the problem and has spoken to DC and their depot but, unfortunately, most of the waste generated is contaminated because most have come from food products. The CEE group has looked at what can be done with litter bins to help resolve the problem but, as yet, there is no solution.  Cllr Lambert added that any Member wishing to join the CEE group would be most welcome.  Cllr Wheller felt that the best way to effect cultural change is through children, who are very clued up with regards to climate change, and suggested that WTC offer presentations and visits to all Weymouth primary schools.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted by a majority of 20 in favour, with 4 against, to recommend to the Town Clerk that the Decarbonisation Strategy, the Decarbonisation Action Plan, and the mitigation actions as detailed within the plan are adopted with immediate effect. |
| AC0061 | **External Audit Report**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation.  Members praised the work of Officers and Councillors who have worked so hard to ensure that the Council is run legally and efficiently.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the clear audit report received from PKF Littlejohn (Appendix D) which contains no recommendations for actions needed. |
| AC0062 | **Return to face-to-face meetings**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation.  We are continuing to see a decline in cases in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole this week. However, cases in Dorset have risen this week and are above the South West average, although they remain below the England average.  If a Councillor does not attend any formal meetings of the Council to which he or she is a member of within a six month period, or have apologies formally approved at said meetings, that Councillor automatically ceases to be a Councillor under the Local Government Act 1972, S 85 (1) and (2).  The last formal meeting of the Council where attendance was possible, and apologies formally approved was 24th June 2021. For that reason, it is necessary to hold a formal, face-to-face Full Council meeting before 24 December 2021.  A lively debate was held regarding the advantages and disadvantages of returning to face-to-face meetings, given that the Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over.  Cllr Hope highlighted that if several Officers contract Covid at a face-to-face meeting there will be several Officers isolating and not undertaking their duties, and suggested that meeting agendas be reviewed in order to try and reduce the number of Officers in the Council Chamber should face-to-face meetings resume.  The Town Clerk explained the staff are currently returning to the office. If face-to-face meetings are resumed, consideration will need to be given to undertaking lateral flow tests before each meeting, maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, ventilation and possibly operating a one-way system. This will help protect staff, Councillors and members of the public. Agendas can also be reviewed in order to streamline the number of Officers in the meeting room.  Cllr Wakeling proposed that from 20th October 2021 face-to-face Committee meetings should resume (Services, Finance & Governance, Planning & Licensing, Human Resources, Appeals), but that Full Council meetings should remain virtual until the New Year. A face-to-face formal Full Council meeting will be required before 24th December 2021.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Northam  Members voted by a majority of 20 in favour, with 2 against and 1 abstention, to agree a return to face-to-face Committee meetings (Services, Finance & Governance, Planning & Licensing, Human Resources, Appeals) from 20th October 2021, but for Full Council meetings to remain virtual until the New Year. A face-to-face formal Full Council meeting will be required before 24th December 2021.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Ferrari  Members voted by a majority of 20 in favour, with 1 against, that at the next formal face-to-face Full Council meeting, the delegation to the Town Clerk will be extended for a period of four months. This will be put on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting and the delegation will relate to Full Council meetings only.  Cllr Roos did not take part in the vote.  Cllr Harris explained that any Councillor can make a proposal at any Full Council meeting that face-to-face Full Council meetings resume. This will be included as a Standing Item on future Advisory Full Council meeting agendas.  Cllr Taylor and Cllr Morgan left the meeting at 8.36 pm. |
| AC0063 | **Information Items**  Cllr Jan Bergman provided a verbal update regarding the discussions held over the last year about the possibility of resuming a passenger ferry service between Weymouth and Guernsey. Condor Ferries will be undertaking a feasibility study over the next 3 months and WTC and DC will support this study as necessary. Cllr Bergman will report back to Full Council on completion of the study.  An additional Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th October 2021 to discuss the boundary review. Members who were unable to attend the recent briefing are asked to read the papers carefully prior to the meeting.  Cllr David Northam reported that the next Neighbourhood Planning walkabouts are scheduled for Saturday 9th October and Sunday 17th October at 10.00am, starting at Redlands Community Sports Hub. This is an opportunity to talk about what might take place in certain areas.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items.  The meeting closed at 8.48 pm. |