



**DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS  
TOWNS AND LARGER PARISHES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of meeting held at 10:00am on Friday 14 June 2019  
at St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall**

Present:	Cllr Turner	Beaminster Town Council (Chairman)
	Cllr Johnson	Colehill Parish Council (Vice-Chairman)
	Cllr Page	Beaminster Town Council
	Cllr Cordery	Ferndown Town Council
	Cllr Lugg	Ferndown Town Council
	Cllr Gale	Gillingham Town Council
	Cllr Von Clemens	Gillingham Town Council
	Cllr Broom	Lyme Regis Town Council
	Cllr Dedden	Verwood Town Council
	Cllr Russell	Verwood Town Council
	Jan Sebire	Verwood Town Council (Assistant Clerk)
	Cllr Yeo	West Moors Parish Council
	Cllr Huckle	Weymouth Town Council
	Cllr Bartlett	Wimborne Minster Town Council

Also present: Kirsty Riglar Secretary – Towns and Larger Parishes Committee

**11/19. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Stayt	Blandford Forum Town Council
Cllr White	Blandford Forum Town Council
Cllr Dean	Chickerell Town Council
Cllr Cowsill	Colehill Parish Council
Cllr Holland	Corfe Mullen Parish Council
Cllr Potter	Dorchester Town Council
Cllr Richards	Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council
Cllr Andrews	Sherborne Town Council
Trevor Savage	Sherborne Town Council (Clerk)
Cllr Lacey	Sturminster Newton Town Council
Cllr Bonfield	Swanage Town Council
Cllr Green	Wareham Town Council
Cllr Hawkes	West Moors Parish Council
Cllr Harris	Weymouth Town Council
Cllr Butter	Wimborne Minster Town Council
Hilary Trevorah	Chief Executive – DAPTC
Stephen Hill	Dorset Council
John Sellgren	Dorset Council

**12/19. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2019 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### **13/19. Report from DAPTC Chief Executive**

The Committee noted the written report from the DAPTC Chief Executive that reminded Members of the letter recently sent to all member councils by the Chairman of the DAPTC. The report also provided updates on the progress of the resolutions from the 2018 AGM and training and events for 2019. In particular, the Committee welcomed the updates on the AGM resolutions and the views received from NALC.

In relation to the planning training offered, it was noted that this provided a comprehensive picture of the planning regime and the revised National Planning Policy Framework but the Committee considered that there was value in this also providing a perspective on planning relevant to the role of parish councils. In view of the large number of newly elected councillors across Dorset, it was felt that it would be beneficial to provide an update on how planning was undertaken locally.

Members also noted that the DAPTC website was difficult to navigate and that it did not appear that the newsletters were uploaded, which would be useful.

### **14/19. Dorset Council update**

In the absence of a representative from Dorset Council, no update was received. The Committee agreed that having a senior officer present at DAPTC committee meetings to act as a conduit between Dorset Council and local councils and provide up to date information was vital, particularly at the present time when there was a great deal of change in arrangements and personnel as the new Council established itself. The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the attendance by Stephen Hill of the Dorset Councils Partnership over the past few years and undertook to write to him on behalf of the Committee.

It was noted that in her report the DAPTC Chief Executive had stated that she was holding discussions with senior officers of Dorset Council but no information was provided about the content of these. The Committee considered that this was important to ensure that parish and town councils were kept updated on developments.

Those Members present who were also Dorset Councillors provided an update from their perspective. The frustration of knowing who to contact about issues was shared but it was acknowledged that the officer structure was in a state of flux and this would not settle for some months.

The Committee noted that Dorset Council had declared a Climate Emergency and discussed initiatives that local councils could progress to contribute towards addressing this. These included:

- (i) lobbying for the inclusion of renewable energy policies in emerging Local Plans;
- (ii) committing to being a Bee Friendly council by leaving small strips of public land uncut;
- (iii) providing electric vehicle charging points in public car parks;
- (iv) becoming a plastic-free town or village; and
- (v) working with local schools and other community groups on eco projects.

### **15/19. Towns and Larger Parishes Committee – Chairman's report**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Huckle, representative of the new Weymouth Town Council, to the meeting. It was noted that all of the newly created town and community councils in Dorset had become members of the DAPTC.

### **16/19. NALC Report**

Cllr Dedden reported that the most recent NALC meeting was held on 13 March 2019. Her report would be circulated to the Committee after the meeting. She drew particular attention to the reappointment of Charlotte Eisenhart as Head of Member Services and the various initiatives promoted by NALC during the recent elections.

The next NALC meeting would be held on 9 July 2019, resulting in the date of the South West Conference being changed.

### **17/19. Members' updates**

#### Weymouth

- Following the elections in May, the new Town Council had met and its committees were starting to meet.
- Of the 29 councillors, 12 had previous experience as members of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and 6 were also members of Dorset Council.
- Provision had started to be made to establish a reserve of £0.75M over a period of three years but some councillors were concerned that this would not be achieved. Dorset Council had therefore been asked if it would underwrite the Town Council in case of an emergency.
- Most officer posts had now been filled.
- The Climate Emergency was on the agenda for the next full Council meeting.

#### Wimborne

- There was growing upset about the replacement of broken paving slabs with patches of tarmac by both Dorset Council and utilities companies.
- The Town Council had decided to explore the development of a neighbourhood plan.
- The transfer of assets from former East Dorset District Council were ongoing.
- The Town Council had one vacant seat following the recent elections.
- The Wimborne Folk Festival had taken place on the previous weekend and had brought an estimated £1.02M into the town.

#### Ferndown

- The operator of the Barrington Centre had indicated that they no longer wished to operate the facilities and the Town Council now needed to consider taking this on. This would result in an increase in the precept to cover the costs but the loss of this facility would be detrimental to the town. This was therefore of great concern to the Town Council.
- The refurbishment of the King George V Pavilion was complete and it was hoped that it would be up and running soon.
- Phase 2 of the King George V project would now commence, including the replacement of all children's play equipment, renovation of tennis courts and replacement of the wheel park. The Town Council had £160,000 put aside for this phase.
- The Fete in the Field would be held on 22 June.

#### Verwood

- Discussions were ongoing about the refurbishment of the play areas within the town, with the next in scope being the teenage play area in Three Legged Cross.
- The possibility of the construction of a Lidl store, together with a 90 space car park, was causing concerns locally, particularly in relation to the impact on local shops, the loss of mature trees and traffic issues. However, a planning application had not yet been submitted for consideration by the Town Council.
- Sixteen councillors had been elected unopposed at the recent elections and co-optees were being sought to fill the two remaining vacant seats. A 'surgery' to attract

prospective new councillors had proven to be successful. All of the Dorset Councillors for Verwood were members of the Town Council.

#### Beaminster

- The new play area was nearly finished and planning was underway for a skatepark.
- The community bus continued to be a success building up a regular clientele and with services now running on Saturdays between 8am – 7pm between Bridport and Crewkerne. Income for the year had totalled just over £6,000 in fares and donations and as a single rural concessionary bus, 70% of concessionary fares could be claimed back. The service was therefore now self-funding.

#### West Moors

- Nine councillors had been elected at the recent elections allowing retention of the General Power of Competence.
- The transfer of assets from the former East Dorset District Council was not yet complete.
- There was concern locally that Dorset Council had put up signs for a permissive path on a route onto which the diversion of a footpath had been in train for 5/6 years. The Parish Council had now submitted the forms and fee for the diversion to Dorset Council.
- The fourth annual Westival would be held shortly. This was a day of music and fun and grew year on year.

#### Gillingham

- The Town Council had established a partnership with HMP Guys Marsh and a lot of the plants for the town's parks were being grown and assets such as benches repaired by prisoners. This was proving to be a very successful link between the prison and the local community.
- North Dorset no longer met its five year housing land allocation and Gillingham was being targeted for large developments, which was causing grave concern to the Town Council and residents.
- A board had been formed for the Community Land Trust and a further public meeting would be held during the following week.
- Only one ward was contested at the recent elections and there had been five vacancies, despite two public engagement days. However, all seats had now been filled through co-option.
- The Town Council was now looking at the major refurbishment of its second largest play area.

#### Lyme Regis

- The recent election had been contested and six new councillors had been elected. However, following a resignation, there was likely to shortly be a by-election.
- A project for the installation of lighting in the Lister Gardens was progressing.
- There continued to be an issue with pedlars in the town.

#### Colehill

- A new clerk was now in post and doing a good job.
- Despite a successful open day, the number of candidates standing in the recent elections had been disappointing. The election had been uncontested and one councillor had immediately resigned. There were currently three vacancies which it was hoped would be filled by co-option.
- Permission had been given to install a projector and screen in the Memorial Hall.
- The transfer of assets from the former East Dorset District Council had stalled due to legal capacity issues.

- Consideration was being given to installing some items of adult exercise equipment in Oliver's Field.
- The Parish Council had been in discussion with Wimborne Minster Town Council and developers about names on the war memorial being used for street names in a new development. Whilst the names of people were not promoted for street names, it was argued that the centenary of the end of World War I was a significant enough reason to use local family names.

**18/19. Date and venue of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday 6 September 2019, possibly hosted by Gillingham Town Council.

The meeting closed at 11:50am.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr Chris Turner  
Chairman