



**DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS
TOWNS AND LARGER PARISHES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 10:00am on
Friday 22 November 2019 at Gillingham Town Hall**

Present:	Cllr Johnson	Colehill Parish Council (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)
	Cllr White	Blandford Forum Town Council
	Cllr Cowsill	Colehill Parish Council
	Cllr A Holland	Corfe Mullen Parish Council
	Cllr P Holland	Corfe Mullen Parish Council
	Cllr Potter	Dorchester Town Council
	Cllr Von Clemens	Gillingham Town Council
	Cllr Cordery	Ferndown Town Council
	Cllr Richards	Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council
	Cllr Jones	Sturminster Newton Town Council
	Cllr Dedden	Verwood Town Council
	Cllr Russell	Verwood Town Council
	Cllr K Green	Wareham Town Council
	Cllr V Green	Wareham Town Council
	Cllr Yeo	West Moors Parish Council

Also present: Andrew Woods Speaker – Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue
Cllr Anthony Alford Dorset Councillor

28/19. Election of Chairman for 2019/20

Having been duly proposed and seconded and there being no other nominations, Cllr Turner was elected as Chairman of the Committee for 2019/20.

29/19. Election of Vice-Chairman for 2019/20

Having been duly proposed and seconded and there being no other nominations, Cllr Johnson was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2019/20.

30/19. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Turner	Beaminster Town Council (Chairman)
Cllr Page	Beaminster Town Council
Cllr Stayt	Blandford Forum Town Council
Cllr Lugg	Ferndown Town Council
Cllr Bawden	Lyme Regis Town Council
Cllr Broom	Lyme Regis Town Council
Cllr Burns	Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council
Cllr Andrews	Sherborne Town Council
Trevor Savage	Sherborne Town Council (Clerk)
Cllr Hawkes	West Moors Parish Council
Hilary Trevorah	DAPTC Chief Executive
Kirsty Riglar	Secretary – Towns and Larger Parishes Committee

31/19. Speaker: Andrew Woods, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service on the Safe and Independent Living initiative

The Committee received a presentation from Andrew Woods, a Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) Partnerships team leader for Safe And Independent Living (SAIL) and a retained Firefighter in Gillingham. He outlined the main causes of fire in Dorset and that the SAIL initiative involved visiting vulnerable people in their homes, providing fire safety advice and talking to them about healthy living and lifestyles, as well as signposting to other agencies where appropriate.

DWFRS offered free Safe and Well checks, and the ‘Do you know a CHARLIE?’ campaign focussed on asking carers, both paid and unpaid, to help identify those people who were most vulnerable to the risk of fire. Their data showed that in almost all fatal fires, there is a CHARLIE involved. To be a CHARLIE, a person needs to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Care and support needs
- Hoarding and/or mental health issues
- Alcohol and medication use
- Reduced mobility
- Lives alone
- Inappropriate smoking
- Elderly – 65+

DWFRS provided assistance to vulnerable people in the form of:

- heater loans;
- fire retardant bedding/spray to vulnerable smokers (cheaper than sending a fire engine out to put a fire out!);
- deaf alert technology - providing flashing lights or vibrating under-pillow alerts;
- carbon monoxide monitors; and
- provided group talks and drop-in sessions.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr Woods for his informative presentation and requested that this be circulated to the Committee with the minutes.

32/19. Appointment of representatives on the Executive Committee for 2019/20

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the following appointments were made to represent the Committee on the Executive Committee:-

Cllr Chris Turner (Chairman)
Cllr KD Johnson (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Lindsey Dedden
Cllr Haydn White

33/19. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2019 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendment of minute 19 to:

- (i) delete ‘Cllr Green’, as both Cllrs Keith and Vera Green were present at the meeting and listed as in attendance; and
- (ii) add apologies for absence from Cllr Richards (Lyttchett Minster and Upton Town Council).

34/19. Report from DAPTC Chief Executive

The Committee considered the written report submitted by the DAPTC Chief Executive that predominantly focussed on the motions considered at the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Members expressed their frustration about the lack of attendance at the AGM by a representative of Sherborne Town Council which had resulted in the motion put forward to be debated having to be withdrawn from the agenda. This issue would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in December.

One Member raised the issue of mobile phone reception being patchy and very poor in some areas of Dorset which made it difficult for Councillors. Additionally, it was noted that the Ambulance Service now used mobile phone signal to record health signs and update records and therefore poor signal could make this very difficult for them. Another Member reported that she had applied for a Smart Meter but had been told that this would not work without a mobile phone signal.

Resolved that the Executive Committee be requested to investigate how the DAPTC can lobby to achieve mobile phone coverage across the whole of Dorset, given the need for this for use by the Ambulance Service and in order to have smart meters installed in properties.

35/19. Dorset Council update

Cllr Alford, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services (including contact and relationships with Town and Parish Councils) provided an update from Dorset Council. His report is attached as the Appendix to these minutes.

Feedback from those Members present was that communications from Dorset Council were weak. Concern was expressed that there was a lack of understanding of the demographics of Dorset; that most people live in the east and yet consultation meetings in the east were often omitted or organised at the last minute. This meant that often Councillors representing towns and parishes in the east of the County did not get the chance to attend events. It was felt that this needed to be addressed.

36/19. Towns and Larger Parishes Committee – Chairman's report

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman reported that he represented DAPTC on the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and there was to be a seminar on domestic abuse on 25 November which he will attend.

There was a brief discussion about the Dorset Council contacts list. There was a difference of opinion about whether all councillors should have access to the list, rather than just the Town or Parish Clerks. Cllr Von Clemens said that if he needed to talk to an officer, he spoke to his Unitary Councillors and they contacted the relevant person directly.

37/19. NALC Report

Cllr Dedden, as NALC representative, reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 11 December 2019. However, due to strike action by guards on South Western trains she may not be able to attend. However, she would provide a report on the NALC AGM held in October and circulate this via the Secretary.

38/19. Members' updates

Verwood

- The Town Council had written to the local MP, Secretary of State and Councillors about the proposed National Park. It was suggested that Members check to see if their council was listed as a supporter; Corfe Mullen was - and was not a supporter!
- There was currently one vacancy which it was hoped to fill in December.
- A fantastic Remembrance Day service was organised by the Clerk.
- The Mayor's reception and Christmas Extravaganza would be held on 7 December.
- The Town Council was not happy with the Highways Department for organising a diversion that was not necessary. Additionally, street signs ordered had not been delivered.

West Moors

- "Westival" in July went well.
- Consultation was currently taking place on a future skatepark.
- For Remembrance Day, someone came from Hamworthy to take the salute as the soldiers at the army base had gone.
- A Youth Carol Service was coming up.
- The Council would be co-opting to fill a vacancy soon; this had been advertised on Facebook.
- In response to a query as to experience of being a Quality Council, some Members said that they either are or had been but the benefits were minimal.

Lytchett Minster and Upton

- Remembrance Day went well.
- A Christmas Parade would be held on 6 December.
- A few councillors had resigned but it was planned to co-opt more.
- The Town Council was annoyed with Highways Department who had no objection to a planning application for nine flats with no parking, in addition to an application from Aldi in a difficult road position.

Gillingham

- A recent planning application by Aldi was turned down but then granted at appeal.
- There was frustration that Highways Department staff did not know the area; a proposed scheme was objected to by the Town Council as it would not work. Highways then agreed with the Council.
- The Town Council was to fund a youth worker at the local youth club.
- £10,000 had been committed to ensure the continuation of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Ferndown

- The Town Council still did not have a Town Clerk but the remaining staff were doing a fantastic job.
- The Barrington Centre was in flux with all staff TUPE transferred across to the Town Council,
- On 13 December the Christmas lights would be turned on.
- Difficulties were being experienced getting youth workers for the youth club.
- The Town Council currently had its highest number of elected Councillors which was very positive.

Blandford

- The result of the latest neighbourhood plan inspection was awaited.
- The Remembrance Day service was held at 3pm because Blandford Camp had theirs at 11am.

Corfe Mullen

- New allotments have now replaced the originals.
- The Parish Council had established a Climate Emergency working group.
- A working party had also been established to look at dropped kerbs and street signs working party.
- A Fingerposts working party to focus on repairing and replacing had also been established.

Wareham

- A Climate Change working party had been established and the Town Council aimed to become a plastic free town.
- Lights in the Town Hall and Corn Exchange were to be changed to LED.

Sturminster Newton

- There were now no banks in the town following closures.
- The Remembrance Day service had gone well.
- The Town Council had ongoing issues with the Highways Department as it was considered that they said no to everything.
- The Council was experiencing some difficulties at the moment.

Dorchester

- A rat-run was to have humps and signs put in to reduce the speed of traffic.
- The Heritage Day had been successful.
- Christmas Cracker Night would be held on the first Thursday in December, including late night shopping.
- Climate Change – the heating in the Corn Exchange was to be replaced with Biomass and the Town Council was buying 2 new electric vehicles.
- Affordable housing being built by a Community Land Trust on old tennis courts near the Borough Gardens.
- Approval to demolish old buildings and build 100+ new houses had been given for the former Dorchester Prison site.

Colehill

- The Remembrance Day parade went well.
- The Chair's reception was a success as always.
- Climate Change Working party had been set up and had a big action plan.
- The land asset transfer from the former East Dorset District Council had still not taken place; signature changes were now required.
- There were two vacancies on the Parish Council due to resignations.
- A constructive meeting had been held with Paul Hutton from the Parking Services Team at a junction where there was often dangerous parking, with a view to encouraging enforcement officers to visit and ticket if necessary.
- Some CIL money was going to be used for putting in a bus shelter near Canford Bottom, in addition to possibly paying for an extra day of the community bus (number 88).

39/19. Date and venue of next meeting

It was noted that dates for meetings in 2020 would be circulated in due course. It was suggested that the venues include Weymouth and Colehill.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Gillingham Town Council for their hospitality and complimented them their excellent venue and council chamber.

The meeting closed at 12:50pm.

Signed _____ Date _____

Cllr KD Johnson
Vice-Chairman

Dorset Council Update - Thursday 21st November 2019

Council plan

Consultation on the Council Plan continues to 20th December.

It has 5 priorities:

- Economic growth • Unique environment • Staying safe and well • Strong, healthy communities • Suitable housing.

The Council Plan outlines proposed activity to achieve these priorities, all contributing towards making Dorset “a great place to live, work and visit”.

Dorset Town & Parish Council Climate Emergency Advice Seminar

This event was held on November 19th.

Relationship between Dorset Council and Town and Parish Councils

With the agreement of town and parish councils, we are looking to develop a framework (or Charter) that describes the way that we will work together in the common interest of all our residents. The first round of workshops has now finished. For those town and parish councils that have missed them an electronic survey will start shortly. There is likely to be a new round of workshops in the New Year.

Purdah

During the election period, the Council is not allowed to issue any publicity that seeks to influence the way in which people may vote. During Purdah the Council cannot quote or feature councillors in any publicity. Being a Parliamentary election and not a local election, it is business as usual for Dorset Council’s services and plans

Brexit

Following advice from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Brexit planning has been put on hold. It is expected to resume in early January.

Fly-tipping

The incidence of fly-tipping is a common complaint. Recently a Weymouth resident was sentenced to 14 months’ imprisonment after being found guilty of multiple offences, including four environmental crimes (two for fly-tipping and two for failure to contain waste) Dorset Waste Partnership does take action against fly-tipping where it can and this is its first case when someone has been sentenced to imprisonment for fly-tipping.

Ofsted

Ofsted inspectors have recently had a look at Dorset Council’s arrangements for children in need and those subject to child protection plan. The inspection found that children are increasingly benefiting from stronger and more consistent relationships with their social workers and parents better understand the changes they need to make and are supported to make those changes.

Economic growth strategy

Dorset Council’s new Economic Growth Strategy has been designed to achieve sustainable economic growth. During November and December the Economic Development team are holding a series of Business Breakfast events where they’ll be sharing details about the

vision and strategy for achieving economic growth and asking businesses for their views and input. Representatives from businesses of all sizes and industries are invited to attend.

Guides about housing problems

Dorset Council has launched two new guides to help homeowners, tenants and landlords. The first is a practical step-by-step guide to tackling damp, condensation and mould issues. The second guide explains how to resolve on-going safety or repair issues with rented homes. They can be downloaded from the Dorset Council web site.

Cllr Anthony Alford - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services, Dorset Council – Eggardon ward