

Jill Haynes, Dorset Council Chalk Valleys Ward

Report to the parish council May 2024

Dear Clerks, parish councillors and residents please find my rather brief report for May.

At the Dorset Council elections on 2nd May 2024 Councillors were elected to represent their ward for a 5 year term. (Future terms will revert to 4 years)

82 Councillors represent wards in the Dorset Unitary council and at this election there was a high number of new councillors (33) to the role. Each councillor represents roughly 3700 people.

There was also a change in administration with the Liberal Democrats taking the controlling majority on the council. Seats were taken as follows:

Liberal Democrats	42
Conservatives	30
Green party	4
Independents	4
Labour	2

The month of May has been a mass of induction and information meetings to get councillors up to speed not only on what the council does (some 360 service areas) but also for some completely new IT systems and ways of working remotely. As well there has been mandatory training in areas such as licensing and Planning. There has been a full council meeting to agree roles such a Chairman of full council and committees as well as members of Cabinet and their responsibilities. There have been no other formal committee meetings until training has been completed.

The budget for the first year of this new council was set and agreed by cross party support at the February 2024 full meeting of the council. It is possible that the new regime may have policy changes to bring forward which could make changes to the budget but these will have to go through a process of Overview Committee, Cabinet and possibly full Council, so any changes are not likely to happen until the Autumn.

With no decisions being made I have nothing further to report at this time and apologise for the rather dry nature of my report.

Best wishes Jill