



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

ANNUAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Monday 23rd May 2022** at The Town Hall, Gillingham, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Paul Harris

Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Cllr Laura Ashfield

Cllr Fiona Cullen

Cllr Rupert Evill

Cllr Alan Frith

Cllr Mick Hill

Cllr John Kilcourse

Cllr Val Potheary

Cllr Graham Poulter

Cllr Donna Toye

Cllr Alison von Clemens

Cllr Barry von Clemens

Cllr Mark Walden

Cllr Roger Weeks

In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins

Assistant Town Clerk, Jill Ezzard

4 members of the public

The following joined the meeting via MS Teams:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

758. To elect the Mayor for the Council Year 2022-2023 and to formally ask the member elected to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office following the election.

It was proposed by Cllr Poulter, seconded by Cllr Hill and unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Sharon Cullingford should be elected as Mayor of Gillingham for the Council Year 2022-23.

Cllr Cullingford duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as the Mayor of Gillingham for 2022-23.

Cllr Cullingford thanked Cllr Harris for his excellent leadership during his Mayoral year.

759. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the Council Year 2022-2023 and to formally ask the member elected to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office following the election.

It was proposed by Cllr Kilcourse, seconded by Cllr Hill and unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Barry von Clemens should be elected as Deputy Mayor of Gillingham for the Council Year 2022-23.

Cllr B von Clemens duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as the Deputy Mayor of Gillingham for 2022-23.

760. To receive apologies for absence.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Gould who was unable to join the meeting for personal reasons.

761. Declarations of Interest: Members are required to comply with the requirements of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 disclosable pecuniary interests.

There were no declarations of interests.

762. To receive questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

There were no questions.

763. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting of the Full Town Council held on 25th April 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 25th April 2022 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

764. To approve payments of £10,000 and over.

There were no payments of £10,000 and over.

765. To receive and approve the list of assets for FY2021/22

The Chairman informed the meeting that this item would be deferred until the meeting of Full Council in June.

766. To receive and consider a list of Earmarked reserves at 31st March 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the list of earmarked reserves, as presented, is approved and adopted.

767. To receive and review the Draft Year End Final Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix A](#)

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Year End Final Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022, as presented, are approved and adopted.

768. Appointment of Committees and Chairman/Deputy Chairman

a. General Purposes

(i) General Purposes Committee members

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the following Councillors should form the General Purposes Committee for the council year 2022-23:

Cllr Laura Ashfield	Cllr Mick Hill
Cllr Fiona Cullen	Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Sharon Cullingford	Cllr Alison von Clemens
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Mike Gould	Cllr Roger Weeks
Cllr Paul Harris	

(ii) General Purposes Chairman.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hill should be Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

(iii) General Purposes Deputy Chairman.

Cllr Harris proposed that Cllr Poulter should be Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Evill.

Cllr Potheary proposed that Cllr Weeks should be Deputy Chairman of the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr B von Clemens.

Eight members voted in favour of Cllr Poulter and seven members voted in favour of Cllr Weeks.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Poulter should be Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

b. Planning Committee

(i) Planning Committee members

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the following councillors should form the Planning Committee for the council year 2022-23.

Cllr Laura Ashfield	Cllr Val Potheary
Cllr Fiona Cullen	Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Sharon Cullingford	Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Mark Walden
Cllr Alan Frith	Cllr Roger Weeks
Cllr John Kilcourse	

(ii) Planning Chairman.

Cllr B von Clemens proposed that Cllr Potheary should be Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Frith.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Potheary should be Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

(iii) Planning Deputy Chairman.

Cllr Potheary proposed that Cllr Evill should be Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Weeks.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Evill should be Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

c. Finance and Policy Committee

(i) Finance and Policy Committee members

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the following Councillors should form the Finance and Policy Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

Cllr Sharon Cullingford	Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Alan Frith	Cllr Alison von Clemens
Cllr Mike Gould	Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Pau Harris	Cllr Mark Walden
Cllr Mick Hill	
Cllr John Kilcourse	

(ii) Finance and Policy Chairman.

Cllr Harris proposed that Cllr Toye should be Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Frith.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Toye should be Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

(iii) Finance and Policy Deputy Chairman.

Cllr Harris proposed that Cllr Walden should be Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr B von Clemens.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Walden should be Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

d. HR Committee

(i) HR Committee members

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the following Councillors should form the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

Cllr Sharon Cullingford
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Paul Harris

Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Barry von Clemens

(ii) HR Committee Chairman.

Cllr Toye proposed that Cllr Harris should be Chairman of the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Frith.

Cllr Walden proposed that Cllr B von Clemens should be Chairman of the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Cullen.

Six members voted in favour of Cllr Harris and eight members voted in favour of Cllr B von Clemens. The Chairman did not vote.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr B von Clemens should be Chairman of the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

(iii) HR Deputy Chairman.

Cllr Harris proposed that Cllr Toye should be Deputy Chairman of the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr B von Clemens.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Toye should be Deputy Chairman of the HR Committee for the Council year 2022-23.

769. To determine the Appointments to Other Organisations and Outside Bodies 2022-23.

A draft list of appointments was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix B](#).

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership has asked the Town Council for a member to join the board and asked for a volunteer.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mark Walden should represent Gillingham Town Council on the board of the Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the list of appointments, as amended, is approved and adopted.

770. To receive, consider and adopt the following standing committee reports:

a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 are approved and adopted.

b) Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 25th April 2022 and Monday 9th May 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 25th April 2022 and Monday 9th May 2022 are approved and adopted.

c) HR Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2022 are approved and adopted.

d) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022 are approved and adopted.

771. To review and agree the following documents.

a) Code of Conduct

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Code of Conduct, with an amended date, is approved and adopted.

b) Financial Regulations

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Financial Regulations, as presented, are approved and adopted.

c) Standing Orders

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders, as presented, are approved and adopted.

772. To receive and consider a Health and Safety Report.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

773. To receive and note the Councillor attendance record for meeting from 27th May 2021 – 17th May 2022.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix C](#).

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Evill who has achieved a 100% attendance record for 2021–2022. The report was noted.

774. To receive and approve the draft transfer of the proposed LEAP and LAP at Barnaby Mead and witness the signatures of Cllr Harris and Cllr Poulter.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix D](#).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the draft Transfer of the proposed Barnaby Mead LEAP and LAP be approved.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that that Councillors Harris and Poulter be authorised to sign the Transfer on behalf of the Council, their signatures to be witnessed by the Town Clerk and that the Town Clerk be authorised to complete the Transfer.

775. To receive and consider reports from sub-committees and task and finish groups, as follows:

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group

Cllr Toye, Lead Member, informed the meeting that the Souvenir Programmes were currently being distributed and all arrangements for the Jubilee Weekend are being finalised. Cllr Toye thanked the event organisers and members of the Task and Finish Group for their work.

776. To receive and consider written reports from outside bodies, if available, for consideration and approval:

a) Gillingham Town Team

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix E](#).

The report was noted.

b) Town Meadow Group

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix F](#).

The report was noted.

777. To receive and note reports from Dorset Councillors, if available.

Dorset Council agenda and minutes are available to view [here](#)

A report from Cllr Belinda Ridout was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix G](#).

The report was noted.

Cllr Potheary informed the meeting that she has been elected Chairman of Dorset Council for the Civic Year 2022/2023. Members congratulated Cllr Potheary on her appointment.

778. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. Note: Members are advised that inclusion of any item is at the Chairman's discretion and that a Council cannot lawfully decide upon any matter which is not specified in the summons (agenda).

A Mayor's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix H](#).

The report was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm

Annual Council – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 767

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022
Report by Debra Edwards – RFO**Agenda item no. 9 Earmarked Reserves**

A staff workshop and a Council workshop were held on the 18th and 19th May 2022 respectively to determine the reserves required at the year end.

The list of the final Earmarked reserves is included in the main accounts pack (Agenda item 10) on pages 23a to 23e.

Total Earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022 - £343,995

Agenda item no 10. Draft Year End**Page 1 - Income**

Total Actual income received for the year was £985,944 against the budget of £970,005.

Precept for the year totalled £943,000.

Other income for the year totalled £42,944 which included -

Income for Cemetery - £7,655 against a budget of £6,000.

Income from Room hire - £1,165

Income from Civil wedding room hire - £900

Rental for the DC Registrar office - £3,462.

Dorset Council £9,000 and £3,929 for Street cleaning and Verges.

Grant First MTR SW Trains for the Herbetum Project - £6,000.

Grant Education and Skills Fund Agency (Apprenticeships) - £1,500

Sponsorships - £1,534

Insurance claims for damage at the public WC and floods at Wren Place - £5,557

Page 1a - Expenditure

Total Actual expenditure for the year amounted to £846,629 against the budget of £970,005 resulting in a surplus of £139,315.

Some projects will be continued into the current financial year and this has been factored into the General and Earmarked reserves at the year end.

Page 2 - Balance Sheet

General Reserves at 31/3/22	£352,466 (50.61% of Total reserves)
Earmarked Reserves	£343, 995 (49.39% of Total reserves)
Total Reserves at 31/3/22	£696,461

Pages 3 to 3c

Schedules of Debtors, Prepayments, Income received in Advance and Accruals at 31 March 2022

Page 3d - Virements

Virements to complete year end 31/3/22 are submitted for approval.

Pages 4 to 22

Detailed Cost centre reports for the year.

Page 23a – 23e Earmarked reserves

Earmarked reserves at 31st March 2022 totalled £343,995.

Annual Council Meeting – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 769

REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
	ORGANISATION	MEMBER/S APPOINTED	NOTES
1	Gillingham Youth Club Management Committee	Cllr Barry von Clemens	Reporting to Full Council Term of Office set by GYC
2	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cllr Barry von Clemens	Reporting to Full Council
3	DAPTC – Larger Towns	Cllr Mike Gould Cllr Barry von Clemens	Reporting to Full Council
4	DAPTC – Northern Towns & Parishes	Cllr Sharon Cullingford Cllr Roger Weeks	Reporting to Full Council
5	Gillingham Royal Forest Steering Group	Cllr Barry von Clemens	Reporting to the General Purposes Committee
6	Charity of William Read	Cllr Paul Harris Cllr Sharon Cullingford Town Clerk	Term of Office set by Charity
7	Shaftesbury & District Transport Forum	Cllr Barry von Clemens	Reporting to Full Council
8	Town Meadow Group	Cllr Sharon Cullingford	Term of Office set by Town Meadow Group
9	Town Team	Cllr Mike Gould	Reporting to Full Council
10	Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership	Cllr Mark Walden	Reporting to Full Council
REPRESENTATIVES TO GTC GROUPS/TASK			
	GROUP/TASK	MEMBERS APPOINTED	NOTES
11	Volunteer Rights of Way Liaison	Sheila Messer	Reporting to the Planning Committee
12	School Councils Rep	Cllr Barry Von Clemens	Reporting to Full Council
13	Flood Wardens	Cllr Cullingford, Cllr Teye Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Weeks, Julie Hawkins, Bob Messer, Colin Westbrook	Reporting to the Environment Agency

Annual Council – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 773

Gillingham Town Council
Councillor's Attendance Record
for meetings 27th May 2021 – 17th May 2022

Councillor	General Purposes		Planning		Finance & Policy		HR		Full Council		Total Meeting Summary		
	Attended	Summoned	Attended	Summoned	Attended	Summoned	Attended	Summoned	Attended	Summoned	Attended	Summoned	Attendance %
Total No. of meetings													
Cllr Laura Ashfield	3	5	10	11	0	0	0	0	7	8	20	24	83%
Cllr Fiona Cullen	11	11	0	0	8	9	0	0	15	15	34	35	97%
Cllr Sharon Cullingford	3	0	13	17	9	9	11	14	12	15	48	55	87%
Cllr Rupert Evill	11	11	17	17	9	9	0	0	15	15	52	52	100%
Cllr Alan Frith	0	0	15	17	4	5	13	14	15	15	47	51	92%
Cllr Mike Gould	0	0	1	0	3	9	0	0	11	15	15	24	63%
Cllr Paul Harris	8	11	15	17	7	9	13	14	15	15	58	66	88%
Cllr Mick Hill	10	11	0	0	8	9	0	0	14	15	32	35	91%
Cllr John Kilcourse	3	0	14	17	6	9	0	0	12	15	35	41	85%
Cllr Val Potheary	1	0	15	17	0	0	0	0	13	15	29	32	91%
Cllr Graham Poulter	11	11	1	0	8	9	0	0	12	15	32	35	91%
Cllr Donna Toye	7	11	1	0	9	9	12	14	12	15	41	49	84%
Cllr Alison von Clemens	7	11	9	17	7	9	0	0	8	15	31	52	60%
Cllr Barry von Clemens	11	11	17	17	8	9	14	14	14	15	64	66	97%
Cllr Mark Walden	4	5	11	11	0	0	0	0	8	8	23	24	96%
Cllr Keith Wareham	4	8	10	12	0	0	0	0	9	13	23	33	70%
Cllr Roger Weeks	10	11	16	17	0	0	0	0	14	15	40	43	93%

Gillingham Town Council

Council Agreements and Contracts Task and Finish Group

Author: Cllr Graham Poulter

Barnaby Mead Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) and Local Area of Play (LAP)

1. You will recall that this matter was deferred as there were ongoing negotiations regarding the terms of the proposed Transfer document which centred on the provision of a footpath to the site of the LEAP and LAP. This provision was negotiated after the Council had agreed to acquire the site.
2. Attached is the latest version of the Transfer document and you will note the highlighted sections which have been inserted. The Transfer now grants a right of way over the footpath and creates a binding obligation on the Developer to construct the footpath within 3 months of the date of completion of the Transfer.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) That the draft Transfer of the proposed Barnaby Mead LEAP and LAP, a copy of which is annexed hereto, be approved.

If approved:

- (b) That Councillors Harris and Poulter be authorised to sign the Transfer on behalf of the Council, their signatures to be witnessed by the Town Clerk.
- (c) That the Town Clerk be authorised to complete the Transfer.

Annual Council – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 776(a)

Town Team Report for April 2022

Author: Ian Day

- Cinema Group. The availability of the partner we have identified will be delayed due to events. So as not to be dependant on one partner we are meeting another company in May.
- BID feasibility. The steering group has been strengthened by the addition of one new member and the feasibility study questionnaire continues slowly as local businesses are confronted by new cost pressures.
- White Hart Market. Despite progress the viability of the Market is now threatened by a significant increase in road closure costs imposed by Dorset Council. We are therefore re-investigating the viability of using Town Meadow.
- Gillingham Station. The partnership co-ordinator is meeting the Gateway group shortly to progress cooperation.
- Links to Gillingham School. The leadership team at the School is dealing daily with the post Covid impact including on mental health. While this has to be a priority a number of initiatives are under discussion.

Annual Council – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 776(a)

Gillingham Town Council

Town Meadow Report

Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Chairman's Report

The Town Meadow Group has arranged a meeting with Cllr Graham Poulter regarding the status of the Town Meadow Group with the Council and moving forward.

Annual Accounts have been checked and are in good order.

Zurich Insurance premium of £96.00 for 2022/23 has been paid.

The Gillingham Action for NG worked on The Meadow making small minor repairs and carrying out general maintenance.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM was held on Wednesday April 27th 2022 at the Vicarage School Room in Gillingham. Bob Messer gave a talk on the past 10 years. The AGM was very well attended and 3 new members joined The Friends of the Meadow.

Bookings 2022

- **April 29th 2022:** Loose Connections with food vendors. 7pm, 2 sets, Hidden Pizza and Arctic Cow. This was a successful event enjoyed by many.
- **May 28th 2022:** 7 Charity Grand Plant Sale. Coordinator is Lydia Everett.
- **June 5th 2022:** Jubilee Picnic Lunch organised and insured by Gillingham Rotary Club.
- **June 11th 2022:** Gillingham in Gear. Event insured by Gillingham Chamber of Commerce.
- **July 16th 2022:** Town Meadow Fete.
- **July 30th 2022:** Bluebirds Theatre. 2 Puppet Shows. Cabaret early evening.
- **August 13th 2022:** Mobile Crazy Golf and Connect 4. The Crazy Golf will run from 12 – 4 pm.

- **August 6th or 20th 2022:** River Dipping/Science Lab. Date to be confirmed. This event will be organised by Merck.
- **August 27th 2022:** Craft Fair.
- **October 4th – 8th 2022:** Carnival Fair. Ground guards are requested.
- **Gillingham Christmas Lights Event.** The Chamber of Commerce is taking over this event from the Town Council.

Petanque Pitch Update.

A s106 grant has been approved by Dorset Council. An exploratory hole was dug which confirmed that the ground was suitable. Several tonnes of hardcore will need to be removed.

Recommendation:

- That this report is noted.

Annual Council – 23 May 2022

Minute no. 777

**Gillingham Ward Monthly Report
Cllr Belinda Ridout – May 2022**

Free School Meals – Dorset Council is reminding families feeling the financial squeeze to check if their child could receive a free daily lunch at school. This could save them up to £450 per year per child. Dorset children who receive free school meals can also take part in free activities during the summer, Christmas and Easter holidays. DC provides a confidential checker so parents and carers can quickly see if they qualify. This can be found under ‘Apply for free school meals’ on the DC website.

Permit Changes at Household Recycling Centres (HRC’s) – from Monday, 2nd May, 2022, there are new changes to vehicle permits at HRC’s. If you already have a permit, you will need to re-apply for a new one. Go to the DC website to read about the changes. It is necessary to restrict what types of vehicles can use HRC’s to make sure they are only used by residents for their household waste. It is illegal for businesses to use HRC’s to dispose of commercial or trade waste without paying. Waste from work carried out by traders on your home is classed as commercial waste and should not be disposed of at a HRC. No permit is needed for cars, camper vans, minibuses, people carriers, estate cars, trailers up to 1.8m x 1.2m towed by a vehicle that doesn’t need a permit, hire vans (excluding van types not allowed on site) – maximum 3 days hire and hire agreement must be shown to staff on site. A permit is needed for vans up to 3.5t, single cab pick ups and dual cab pick ups and car derived vans. More information on the DC website.

Helping residents to get active – Dorset Council’s Health and Activity brochure is full of beginner and low level activities taking place in Dorset’s greenspaces and environment. Health Walks are free and friendly walks offering the perfect opportunity to help you get active and meet people.

Meeting Gillingham Library, Monday’s, 2.30pm (provided by Gillingham Walkers). No dogs except assistance dogs. Contact Penny 01747 823774

Meeting Gillingham Town Meadow, Tuesday’s, 2.30pm. Contact Debbie 01747 853006

Health walks are led by trained volunteers. If you would like to get involved as a leader, go to the DC website to find out more ‘Become a volunteer health walk leader’.

Activities further afield include Nordic walking; Back to health instructor led walks; Dorset Health Cycle Rides; Get back in the saddle; accessible cycling; Orienteering; Fresh air Fitness; Get into golf; Green gym (volunteering in conservation tasks); Beginners running; Country parks and visitor centres. Take a look at the new brochure online.

Dorset Greener Homes – this event is back for another year and organisers, Dorset Climate Action Network are looking for new homes to join in. The event will take place over the first two weekends in October and will showcase examples of sustainable living here in Dorset. If you are interested in opening your home to visitors to show off your greener living ideas, email: dorsetgreenerhomes@gmail.com. The organisers will provide insurance cover, a website and a booking system and participants can open for one or more days (October 1st, 2nd, & 8th, 9th). Last year 50 homes opened to 500 visitors.

Training to help residents get online – the Embedded Digital Champion free training programme has signed up their 250th person to help get more people online. The training is designed for anyone who has regular contact with residents and customers in their jobs or voluntary roles. A free training programme has been launched to recruit an army of special advisors who can help Dorset’s digitally excluded residents get online. Open to any organisation in Dorset which works directly with residents, the training programme will train people who can champion online services to their users and customers. Email edc@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk to find out more.

Gillingham’s Principal Street – Ward Councillors for Gillingham and representatives of Gillingham Town Council attended a site visit on 4th May. We were given an update on the construction of the new street to serve the southern extension, which hopes to be completed mid-summer. We walked the length of the street and were shown the construction of kerbing, including dedicated bus stop kerbing, verges and pedestrian/cycle ways. It is a very impressive construction and without seeing the phases of construction, it is difficult to comprehend the enormous amount of ‘unseen’ work that has gone into making the new street, including the culverts and ducting all in place for utility companies to connect up the new homes.

£150 Council Tax Energy Rebate – As per the Government announcement in February this year, Dorset Council has made over 77,000 payments to households in council tax bands A to D, paying by direct debit, to help households with rising energy bills. Dorset Council will be writing to all other remaining households in bands A to D who do not pay by direct debit to advise how to apply for the payment. In total, payments are going out to around 121,000 households.

Help for Warmth – Dorset Council is working with partner, Ridgewater Energy, to help residents potentially reduce their energy bills by providing Loft and Cavity Wall insulation. They can also install new heating systems or replace existing boilers. For free, impartial energy advice, call them on 01202 612726 or email: info@ridgewaterenergy.co.uk.

Training and support for voluntary and community organisations – Community Action Network (CAN) have been commissioned by Dorset Council to be the local infrastructure training and support organisation for the voluntary and community sector. Join CAN for free to access lots of online support, advice, templates, etc. Face to face bespoke help and advice or training/webinars online.

Training and information includes: 'Meet the funder' sessions; Start-up advice and business planning: monitoring and evidencing impact; Writing a good funding application: financial governance, trading as a charity; Being a charity trustee; safeguarding: essential policies and documents including health and safety and GDPR. You can find out more information on the CAN website: www.can100.org or phone 01202 466130.

Low Carbon Dorset (LCD) – Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Low Carbon Dorset is a 5-year programme to help businesses, community and public sector organisations in Dorset and the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Pool council areas to improve energy efficiency, increase use of renewable energy and aid development of new low carbon products. Since its launch in April, 2018, LCD has received over 645 applications for support, and has awarded over £5.4million in grants to support 164 renewable energy, energy efficiency and innovation projects across Dorset and BCP, saving at least 9,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. The programme completes in 2023, but still some funding available. Go to: Lowcarbondorset.org.uk

Cllr. Belinda Ridout, Councillor for the Gillingham Ward

Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 07496413114

For those residents not on line, who have important questions or concerns, call Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week or email: communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

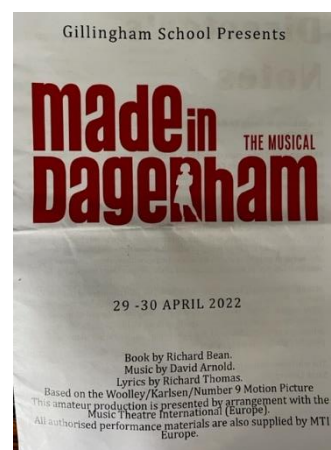
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Matters Pertinent

Mayor's Report May 2022

30th April 2022 – “Made in Dagenham” production, Gillingham School

A Gillingham School Production finally made it back to life in front of a live audience. This production had been hampered by the current Covid 19 situation. Initial rehearsals started in October 21 but had to be delayed. Fitting such a production into a busy school calendar was a challenge but in at the end of February the decision was made to have an intensive week of rehearsals ahead of an opening night, followed by a matinee show and a final night. Cast and orchestra rose to the challenge and, following rehearsals that went up to 11 pm for four nights, the production was staged.



The play is set in 1968 and is based on the true story of the female Ford factory workers striking to fight correct the inequality that was in place at the time. Women workers at the time were paid less than the men as their work was classed as unskilled, despite having to take tests to do their job – men were not required to undertake tests to do their job. The main character is Rita O’Grady, played by Maisie Whichello, whose actions affect both her work and home life as she fights for equal pay, putting that fight before her family. She eventually won the equal pay argument.

I, along with the Mayoress, was invited to attend the final show. It was outstanding. The cast and crew had worked so hard to bring the production to perfection and they achieved that.

Thanks are due to the cast, production team and Sarah Lowery, Drama Teacher.

8th May 2022 – Wimborne Civic Day

Wimborne held their Civic day, parade and service on Sunday 8th May. On arrival we were hosted at the Church House. Wimborne Town Crier took charge of the parade, assembling a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the recently appointed High Sheriff for Dorset, the Chair of Dorset Council, many Mayors and their consorts, representatives of various youth groups and the Wimborne Town Band into a formal parade. The parade wound its way around parts of Wimborne, ending at the Minster Green for photographs. A wonderful Thanksgiving service followed, in the Minster. We were hosted for a light tea back at Church House and were then given a full demonstration of musketry drill by the Wimborne Militia.





Wimborne Militia firepower demonstration on the Minster Green



Dignitaries on the Minster Green following the parade

11th May 2022 – Opening of the new site for Gillingham Community Church

For my final, formal activity as Mayor, It was a pleasure to attend the launch lunch of the Gillingham Community Church open door initiative and to formally open their new building in Gillingham High Street. It was an excellent opportunity to meet a diverse range of organisations who work alongside the Community Church in supporting them. The food bank is also run from the building.



Deputy Mayor's Report

On Saturday 14th May, I had the great honour to represent Gillingham at the Salisbury Annual Mayor Making Meeting. The ceremony started with a welcome reception at the Guildhall followed by a grand procession via Fish Row, Butcher Row, Minster Street and on to St Thomas Church, with the fanfare played by Shrewton Silver Band.

The official Mayor Making Service and Full Council Meeting of Salisbury City Council took place in St Thomas Church. The party then paraded back to the Guildhall for a private reception. The event was attended by more than 200 civic dignitaries, including Mayors from neighbouring towns and cities.

Cllr Tom Corbin the 761st Mayor of Salisbury became the first husband to follow his wife in the long history of Mayors for Salisbury. Caroline Corbin, Cllr Tom Corbin's wife was the 760th Mayor of Salisbury for 2021/22.

The Deputy Mayor of Salisbury for 2022/23 is Cllr Atiquel Hoque.



Dorset Chairman Cllr Val Potheary



761st Mayor of Salisbury Cllr Tom Corb