



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall

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GILLINGHAM

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EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL

The minutes of the **Extra Ordinary Full Council** meeting held on, **Thursday, 23rd April 2020** at 7.30pm held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4 April 2020.

Present

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor	Cllr Dennis Griffin
Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor	Cllr Mick Hill
Cllr Fiona Cullen	Cllr John Kilcourse
Cllr Sharon Cullingford	Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Val Potheary
Cllr Alan Frith	Cllr John Robinson
Cllr Alison Gale	Cllr Donna Teye
Cllr Mike Gould	Cllr Roger Weeks

In Attendance

Town Clerk: Julie Hawkins

Deputy Town Clerk: Clare Ratcliffe

Press and Public

Press: Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

Public: None

Minute no.

219.	Public Participation. Please note: a period up to a maximum of fifteen minutes will be allowed for public comments and questions restricted to items listed on the following agenda.
	There were no members of the public present.
220.	To receive apologies for absence.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Keith Wareham for personal reasons.
221.	To receive declarations of interest. Please note: members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.
	There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests declared.

222.	To receive information on the Coronavirus Act 2020 and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and to consider the following regulations:
(a)	Regulation no. 3 & 6: Following the current guidance from NALC and the Government, the council is asked to consider the suspension of the Annual Town Assembly until April 2021.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the Annual Town Assembly is suspended until April 2021 as permitted under the Coronavirus Act 2020, s.78, Regulations 3 and 6.
(b)	Regulations no. 3 & 6: Following the current guidance from NALC and the Government, the council is asked to consider the suspension of the Annual Council Meeting until May 2021.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the Annual Town Meeting is suspended until May 2021 as permitted under the Coronavirus Act 2020, s.78, Regulations 3 and 6.
(c)	Regulation no. 4: Following the current guidance from NALC and the Government, the council is asked to consider that the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor is postponed until May 2021.
	No vote was taken on this item for the reasons as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute no. 222(b) above, resolved that the Annual Council Meeting is suspended until May 2021. • The Local Government Act 1972, s.15(2), requires the first business of the Annual Town Meeting to elect a Chairman (in the case of Gillingham, a Mayor). As there will be no Annual Town Meeting in 2020, the election of The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will not take place until May 2021.
(d)	Regulation no. 5: Following the current guidance from NALC and the Government, the council is asked to consider that all Town Council meetings are held remotely until Government rules on social-distancing have been relaxed, and that the council's Standing Orders are amended accordingly to include procedures for holding remote meetings (see attached, Standing Order no. 27).
	A copy of the proposed Standing Order no. 27 and Addendum no. 1 was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix A. <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that as long as The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (Regulations) remain in force, the Town Council will conduct remote meetings using appropriate technology as per the Coronavirus Act 2020, s.78, Regulation no. 5.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that Addendum no. 1, as presented, is added to the Council's Standing Orders.</p>
(e)	Regulation no. 13: To receive confirmation that the Town Council continues to post copies of the agenda on the notice board at the Town Hall and other locations (if possible) and on the Town Council's web site.
	It was noted that Gillingham Town Council will continue (providing it is safe and possible to do so), to post copies of the agenda on the Council's notice boards and on the Council's web site as per the Local Government Act 1972, s.232, Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s.1(4) and the Coronavirus Act 2020, s.78, Regulation no. 13.

(f)	Regulation no. 17: To receive confirmation that the Town Council continues to make available copies of the agendas, minutes and background papers available to members of the public via the Town Council's web site or on request.
	It was noted that Gillingham Town Council will continue to make available copies of the agendas, minutes and background papers available to members of the public via the Council's web site as per the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, Regulation no. 8 and the Coronavirus Act 2020, s.78, Regulation no. 17.
<p>There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: 27th April 2020</p> <p>Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor of Gillingham</p>	