



## GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

# EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on **Wednesday 3 November 2021** at The Town Hall, Gillingham commencing at 7.30pm.

### Present:

Cllr Paul Harris, Mayor	Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Deputy Mayor	Cllr Keith Wareham
Cllr Fiona Cullen	Cllr Roger Weeks
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Laura Ashfield (from Agenda Item no. 5)
Cllr Alan Frith	Cllr Mark Walden (from Agenda Item no. 7)
Cllr Mick Hill	
Cllr Graham Poulter	
Cllr Alison von Clemens	

### In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins  
Projects Administrator, Serena Burgess  
Three candidates  
Three members of the public

### The following joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

**621. 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 was no public participation.

**622. To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies received from Cllr Mike Gould and Cllr John Kilcourse who were unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons.

623. **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.**

Cllr B von Clemens declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 9 as he is a trustee of the Three Rivers Partnership and a director of Thrive.

624. **To receive the results of the Town Ward By-Election held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that she had been notified by Dorset Council that Barbara Joan Hurst had received 250 votes and Laura Ashfield had received 306 votes; therefore, Laura Ashfield is elected.

The turnout was 12%.

625. **To invite the successful Town Ward candidate to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agree to abide by the Local Government Code of Conduct.**

Mrs Laura Ashfield duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreed to abide by the Local Government Code of Conduct.

Cllr Ashfield joined the meeting at this point.

626. **To receive and consider written applications for the office of Town Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill the vacancy for the Ham Ward of Gillingham.**

Completed application forms from the following candidates had been circulated to members prior to the meeting:

Mr Lee Gilbert  
Mr Beresford Leavens  
Mr Mark Walden

Eligibility of each candidate was confirmed by the Clerk, as per the Local Government Act 1972, s79 and s80.

Each candidate had five minutes to introduce themselves, give information on their background and experience and explain why they wished to become a member of Gillingham Town Council. After each presentation, members asked the candidates questions before proceeding to vote.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a recorded vote was taken.

Cllr Frith proposed that Mr Beresford Leavens is co-opted to fill the vacancy for the Ham Ward of Gillingham. Cllr Toye seconded the vote. There were no votes in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Evill proposed that Mr Lee Gilbert is co-opted to fill the vacancy for the Ham Ward of Gillingham. Cllr Cullingford seconded the proposal. Cllr Ashfield voted in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Wareham proposed that Mr Mark Walden is co-opted to fill the vacancy for the Ham Ward of Gillingham. Cllr Potheary seconded the proposal. Cllr Harris, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Hill, Cllr Poulter, Cllr A von Clemens, Cllr B von Clemens and Cllr Weeks voted in favour of the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Mr Mark Walden is co-opted to fill the vacancy for the Ham Ward of Gillingham.

**627. To invite the successful Ham Ward candidate to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agree to abide by the Local Government Code of Conduct.**

Mr Mark Walden duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreed to abide by the Local Government Code of Conduct.

Cllr Walden joined the meeting at this point.

**628. To agree committee membership for the newly appointed councillors for the period November 2021 to May 2022.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that there were two vacancies on the General Purposes Committee, two vacancies on the Planning Committee and one vacancy on the Finance and Policy Committee.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ashfield should join the General Purposes Committee and the Planning Committee.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Walden should join the General Purposes Committee and the Planning Committee.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Frith should join the Finance and Policy Committee

**629. To receive and consider a report from the Agreements and Contracts Subcommittee.**

A report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the town council's Grants Policy is suspended to allow an emergency grant to be paid.

Cllr B von Clemens abstained from voting as he had declared an interest.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council makes an immediate emergency grant to RiversMeet in the sum of £2,569 to be applied towards the cost of carrying out remedial works to prevent further flooding to its premises.

Cllr B von Clemens abstained from voting as he had declared an interest.

The meeting closed at 21.08

**Gillingham Town Council****Council Agreements and Task and Finish Group****Author: Cllr Poulter****RiversMeet**

1. Following the recommendation made to the Finance and Policy Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and its approval of that recommendation, and following the subsequent approval and adoption of the committee's minutes by Full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, letters were sent to the Three Rivers Partnership (3RP) and Gillingham Community Leisure Trust (GCLT) confirming the agreement between the parties as to the SLA`s.

At a meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 between this Group, 3RP and GCLT, it was agreed that 3RP and GCLT would, when formally approved by their respective boards, confirm in writing, the terms set out in the letter sent by GTC thereby bringing to a conclusion the issue of the SLA`s with no further liability on the part of any of the parties.

2. The meeting then went on to discuss future arrangements for the car park, but it was immediately apparent that there were far more pressing and urgent matters to address. All will be aware of the extreme weather which affected Gillingham over the weekend, and you will have seen the videos circulated to all Councillors showing the flooding of RiversMeet. This is not the first time RiversMeet has suffered flooding and consequential damage. To date RiversMeet has managed to finance repairs but now it is apparent that more substantial work is required to prevent a recurrence on a permanent basis. Attached is a quotation for £4,569 in respect of the requisite works. As will be seen from the emergency grant application, RiversMeet are able to make a contribution to the cost of some £2,000.

This Group recognises the urgent need for the work to be carried out so as to prevent further flooding, damage to the building and the possible withdrawal of facilities available to the residents of Gillingham. The cost, both financial and otherwise of further flooding and damage, would be out of the reach of RiversMeet and the consequences would be unacceptable to the Council.

This is an exceptional situation and must, in the view of the Group, be treated as such, notwithstanding the normal provisions of our Grant Policy.

This Group therefore makes the following recommendation:

**Recommendation:**

- **That Gillingham Town Council makes an immediate emergency grant to RiversMeet in the sum of £2,569 to be applied towards the cost of carrying out remedial works to prevent further flooding to its premises.**