



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

22nd February 2021

The minutes of the Full Council meeting convened on Monday 22nd February 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities 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 4th April 2020.

Present:

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor
Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Alison von Clemens
Cllr Fiona Cullen
Cllr Sharon Cullingford
Cllr Rupert Evill
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Mike Gould
Cllr Dennis Griffin

Cllr Mick Hill
Cllr John Kilcourse
Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Val Potheary
Cllr John Robinson
Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Keith Wareham
Cllr Roger Weeks

In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins
Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe
Responsible Financial Officer, Debra Edwards

Press and Public:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News
Gemma Gibson, Newsquest Media Group Limited
There were four members of the public present

428. 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 at this point in the meeting. The members of the public present participated later in the meeting at agenda item no. 12 regarding the proposed double yellow lines at Wyke Road (see minute no. 439 below).

429. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

430. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Monday, 25th January 2021.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021. The chairman will duly sign the minutes when possible to do so.

431. To receive any questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

There were no questions.

432. 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 interest.

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

a) Three Rivers Partnership (3RP) and Three Rivers Community Partnership Board of Trustees, the Gillingham Community Leisure Trust (GCLT)

Cllr B von Clemens reported that he had attended a 3RP Board meeting on Thursday, 18th February 2021. There was no report available; items discussed were confidential.

b) Town Meadow Group

Cllr Cullingford reported that no meeting had taken place this month. There was no report.

c) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cllr B von Clemens reported that the Chamber had met and were busy progressing ShopAppy.

**d) Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC)
Larger Town meetings and Northern Area meetings**

Cllr B von Clemens representative for the DAPTC Larger Towns meeting had nothing to report this month. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, 26th February 2021.

Cllr Toye and Cllr Weeks representatives for the DAPTC Northern Area meetings had nothing to report this month.

e) Shaftesbury and District Transport Forum

Cllr B von Clemens reported that there had been no meeting; there was no report this month.

f) Gillingham Town Team

Cllr Gould had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A below**. Cllr Gould summarised the report. There were no further comments or questions. The report contained no recommendations.

g) Gillingham Youth Centre Management Committee

Cllr B von Clemens reported that a Management Committee meeting is due to be held next Tuesday, 2nd March 2021. The youth club continues to meet via Zoom and training sessions for staff are also held on-line.

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

a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday, 1st February 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday 1st February 2021 are approved and adopted.

b) Planning Interim Committee meetings held meeting on Monday, 24th January 2021 and the Planning Committee held on Monday, 8th February 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Interim Committee held on 24th January 2021 and the Planning Committee held on Monday, 8th February 2021 are approved and adopted.

c) Finance Committee meeting held on Monday, 15th February 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Monday 15th February 2021 are approved and adopted.

435. To approve and authorise any payments over £10,000, if any.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the payment to Fix A Door Limited for new doors for the workshop costing £21,366 is approved.

436. To receive and consider applications for Free Room Hire, if any.

There were no applications for free room hire this month.

437. To receive and consider a report on a Five-Year Action Plan for the Town Council.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix B below**. The report contained one recommendation.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a sub-committee is convened to produce a 5 Year Action Plan and Financial Forecast to cover the period 2021 to 2026.

The following councillors volunteered to be part of the group:

Cllr Harris, Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Cullingford, Cllr Toye, Cllr Hill, Cllr Kilcourse.

438. To receive and consider a report on Christmas opening hours.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix C below**. The report contained one recommendation.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council Offices are officially closed from Monday 27th December until Friday, 31st December 2021 inclusive.

439. To receive and consider a report from the Traffic Management Sub-committee regarding double yellow lines at Wyke Road.

Cllr A von Clemens, Lead Member, referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix D below**. The report contained one recommendation.

Three residents living in the vicinity of the proposed double yellow lines attended the meeting and spoke against the proposal.

Many councillors agreed with the argument put forward by the residents.

Cllr Poulter had previously expressed his concerns about this agenda item at the General Purposes Committee held on 1st February 2021 and had written to all members prior to this meeting reiterating his reasons for objection.

Cllr Potheary remained in favour of the proposal on the grounds of improved highway visibility and informed members that a traffic priority system had been investigated at this location, but it would be very expensive and not supported by DC Highways.

Cllr Poulter put forward a proposal, contrary to the recommendation contained within the report (Appendix B): that Gillingham Town Council does not support the proposed parking restrictions between the properties known as Orchard End and Melrose at Wyke Road. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

A vote was taken on the amended proposal: 11 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council does not support the proposed parking restrictions between the properties known as Orchard End and Melrose at Wyke Road

440. To review and agree the following documents:

a) Mayoral Handbook

The Mayoral Handbook had recently been reviewed, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Mayoral Handbook, as presented, is approved and adopted.

b) Pay Policy

The Finance Committee had reviewed the Pay Policy at their meeting on Monday, 15th February 2021, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Pay Policy as presented is approved and adopted.

441. To receive and consider reports from the following task and finish groups:

a) Workshops Task and Finish Group

Cllr Harris, Lead Member, had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix E below** for further information. The report contained one recommendation. There were no further comments or questions.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a virement is made from Cost Centre 10, payroll and staff, line 7015, staff training, an amount of £6k to Cost Centre 12(a) line 7211 New Works Depot refurbishment to meet costs associated with gas meter removal, the insulation needs of the timber building to the rear of Unit 2, continuing refurbishment requirements and complete the funding of Priority 2 (CCTV).

b) Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Review Sub-committee

Cllr Poulter, Lead Member, summarised a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix F below**. The report contained no recommendations.

Cllr Poulter informed members that a grant application to help with the initial costs of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan had been successful. Thanks to Jill Ezzard, Office Manager, for processing all the information in a very short space of time.

c) Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation Task and Finish Group

Cllr Cullingford, Lead Member, gave a verbal report and referred to the notes of several meetings that had taken place during the month, copies of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. A summary of these meetings is attached to these minutes. Please refer to **Appendix G below**.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council supports the online Public Information Evening organised by the Dorset Council Local Plan Task and Finish Group on Wednesday, 24th February at 7pm.

Please note that Cllr Toye and Cllr Wareham have had to resign from the task and finish group due to personal reasons.

d) Council Agreements and Contracts Sub-committee

The sub-committee held its inaugural meeting on 27th January 2021. Cllr Poulter was nominated as Lead Member. The group agreed a list of contracts and agreements to be reviewed and placed them in order of priority. Please refer to **Appendix H below** for further details. The sub-committee is due to meet again in March 2021.

442. To receive a report on the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's civic activities.

The Mayor had nothing to report this month.

443. To receive and note reports from Dorset Councillors, if available. Dorset Council agenda and minutes are available to view [here](#).

Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout had submitted two update reports for circulation prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix Ia below and Ib below**.

Cllr Ridout was not present at the meeting. There were no comments or questions regarding the report.

444. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. Please 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) Dorset Council – Parking Charges Review.** Please refer to **Appendix J below** for further details.
- b) Dorset Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Draft Community Safety Plan Consultation.** Please refer to **Appendix K below** for further details.
- c) Dorset Wildlife Trust – Recruitment of Gillingham Royal Forest Project Officer (part time).** Please refer to **Appendix L below** for further details.

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 433(f)

Gillingham Town Team Report

Authors: Cllr Mike Gould

and Ian Day, Chairman Gillingham Town Team

- Feasibility Study Group for South Station Road funded jointly by Gillingham Town Council and Dorset Council (and with the active support of Dorset Council planners and Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer, Hugh de longh) has created the Expression of Interest document which will go out to a long list of firms in late February 2021. Anticipated completion date is late June 2021.
- The on-line shopping initiative (Shopappy) with a first-year subsidy from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is now being capably managed by Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- White Hart Market will resume on Sunday April 11th (restrictions permitting).
- Business Improvement District (BID) feasibility work has also been held over awaiting lockdown workloads diminishing for the business community.
- Gillingham Art Trail has been welcomed by at least 15 High Street businesses and the work to attract exhibitors is underway. Likely dates Mid-May to Mid-June to coincide with Dorset Art Weeks with whom we are collaborating

Thanks to all who are volunteering their time for those projects.

Gillingham Town Council**Five Year Action Plan****Author: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk****1. Introduction**

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) states that a council should be able to demonstrate good practice by working to a forward plan (or business plan/action plan) created for at least three years, even if this takes the council beyond the next election. The plan should explicitly respond to community engagement and should set out the council's aims and objectives for both the council and the community. The plan should also show how these objectives will be achieved including a financial forecast for both revenue and capital for the duration of the plan.

2. Background

The Town Council's most recent Action Plan was for 5 years, covering the period 2015 until 2020. The plan was due for review last year and can be found by visiting: www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk HERE

In February 2020, a workshop was held for councillors, and work began on establishing the council's priorities; however, this work was put on hold whilst the council concentrated on a community response to the pandemic.

3. Why does the council need an action plan?

NALC recommends a three-year action plan; however, Gillingham Town Council has always worked on a five year action plan and it would be advantageous to continue with this format as Gillingham is a growing town.

The plan will need to illustrate to developers and planners the aspirations of the council and will give the residents of Gillingham and Milton-on-Stour an understanding of what the Town Council plans to achieve and how this will be done. It will provide officers and councillors with a framework for the future and will provide the basis for setting annual budgets.

4. The Way Forward

Work on the plan needs to be started as soon as possible and a sub-committee will need to be set up to include a collative of those with financial and creative skills.

The sub-committee will be assisted by the Town Clerk, the Deputy Town Clerk, Works Manager and the RFO.

This sub-committee will need to meet regularly during the daytime due to the amount of officer involvement, the requirement to engage with the community, and ongoing monitoring.

5. Conclusion

The Town Council need to produce an Action Plan to include the Town Council's vision, objectives and key priorities.

The plan should cover the period 2021 to 2026 and will set out what Gillingham Town Council can achieve, either directly or by trying to increase its influence.

The document will be a 'live' document and updated regularly, enabling the council to track and monitor progress against the key priorities.

The Action Plan will result in better communication with the community and those who wish to invest in the town.

The document will outline what the Town Council intends to focus on over the next five years and should include a financial forecast for the duration of the plan.

6. Recommendation

- **That a sub-committee is convened to produce a 5 Year Action Plan and Financial Forecast to cover the period 2021 to 2026.**

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 438

Gillingham Town Council

Christmas Opening Hours 2021

Author: Deputy Town Clerk

7. Introduction – Public Holidays over Christmas

A few staff members have asked for Christmas holiday dates to be agreed at the start of the leave year (April to March), so that they can plan their annual leave.

The dates highlighted are public holidays for 2021/22.

Monday, 27th December

Tuesday, 28th December

Wednesday, 29th December

Thursday, 30th December

Friday, 31st December

Monday, 3rd January 2022

Tuesday, 4th January 2022 – business as usual

8. Proposal

Proposed Christmas working arrangements for Gillingham Town Council are:

Monday, 27th December – public holiday

Tuesday, 28th December – public holiday

Wednesday, 29th December – statutory leave

Thursday, 30th December – statutory leave

Friday, 31st December – skeleton staff

Monday, 3rd January 2022 – public holiday

Tuesday, 4th January 2022 – business as usual

All staff will use their two statutory leave days on Wednesday, 29th December and Thursday, 30th December 2021.

There will be a skeleton staff on Friday, 31st December 2021. If staff wish to take a day's leave on Friday, it will need to be agreed with their line manager and taken from their annual leave entitlement, as normal.

9. Additional Street Cleaning and Weekend Duties

MG Cleaning will be instructed to work as follows:

Monday, 27th December – public holiday

Tuesday, 28th December – public holiday

Wednesday, 29th December – additional duties to cover staff absence

Thursday, 30th December – not required

Friday, 31st December – additional duties to cover staff absence

Saturday, 1st January – usual weekend duties

Sunday, 2nd January – usual weekend duties

Monday, 3rd January – public holiday

Tuesday, 4th January 2022

10. Council Meetings

For information council meetings leading up to Christmas and the New Year will occur as follows:

Monday, 29th November – Full Council Budget Meeting

Monday, 6th December – General Purposes/Planning

Monday, 13th December – Full Council

Monday, 10th January – General Purposes/Planning

Monday, 17th January – Finance

Monday, 24th January – Full Council (to set the precept)

11. Conclusion

All staff agree to the two statutory days being taken on Wednesday, 29th December and Thursday, 30th December 2021.

12. Recommendation

That Gillingham Town Council Offices are officially closed from Monday 27th December until Friday, 31st December 2021 inclusive.

Gillingham Town Council

Traffic Management Sub Committee

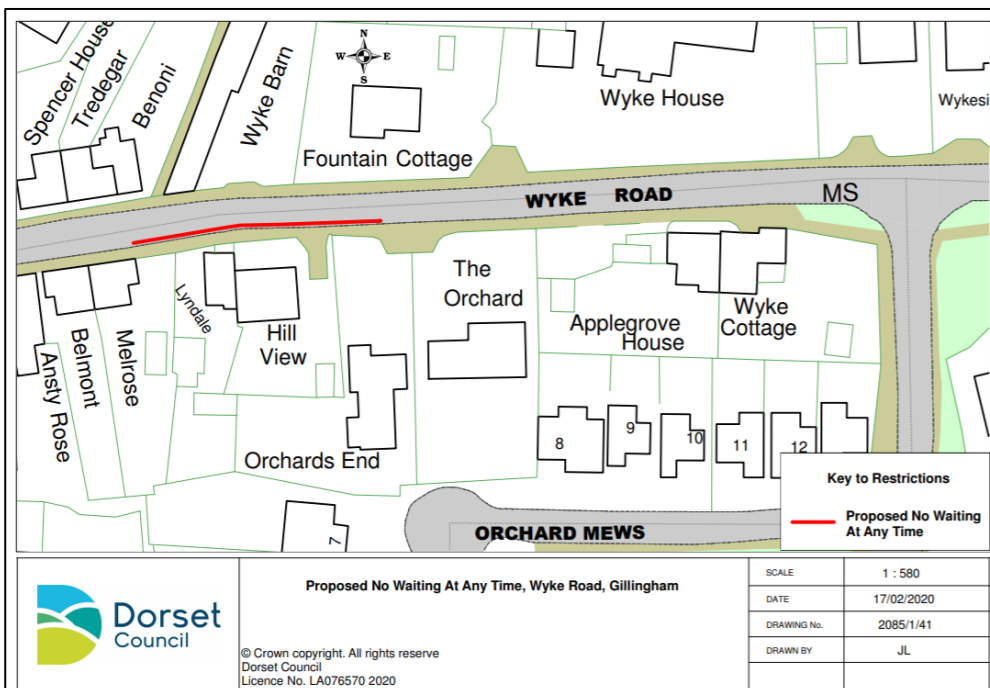
Double Yellow Lines at Wyke Road

**Author(s): Cllr Alison von Clemens (Lead Member Traffic Management),
Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk**

13. Introduction

A report from the Traffic Management Sub-Committee was presented to the General Purposes Committee on 1st February 2021, Minute No. 178(g). The report confirmed the results of the consultation on the proposed yellow lines at Wyke Road and suggested a recommendation that “Gillingham Town Council confirms to Dorset Council that the Town Council is in favour of the proposal to place double yellow lines on Wyke Road”. However, it was agreed and resolved that the item was referred back to the Traffic Management Sub-committee for more details.

The proposed double yellow lines are marked red on the location map below:



All the properties in the vicinity of the proposed double yellow lines - Orchards End, Hill View, Lyndale and Melrose - have ample off-road parking available. If these residents

were encouraged to use their private off-road parking, there would be enough space for those that have no off-road parking facility.

14. Background

The suggestion of double yellow lines was made by Andrew Calley, DCC Traffic Control Engineer, in 2013 as a solution to deal with complaints that vehicles were not stopping to allow people to use the pedestrian crossing (heavily used at school times).

The General Purposes Committee held on 2nd September 2013, minute no. 227(b) agreed to a trial of double yellow lines (in the form of cones) from 16th September 2013 until 27 September 2013.

The General Purposes Committee held on 7th October 2013, minute no. 238(b) considered a report written by ex-CLlr Belinda Ridout and PCSO Nicky Fear detailing the conclusions of the trial and the committee recommended and agreed that:

To request NO WAITING from the zig-zag markings of the pedestrian crossing, west-bound, to the property known as 'Lyndale'. However, to mitigate for the associated problems brought about by reduced on-road parking, to request a single yellow line (No Waiting between 8am-6pm, Mon-Fri), to enable residents to park overnight and weekends. Double yellow lines to be requested for the opposite side to keep the road clear both day and night.

Copies of the notice and the letters that occupants received prior to the trial and the report that followed thereafter are available on request.

Please note that since the initial trial some of the occupants who were originally consulted have moved away and some existing occupants may have additional vehicles. Residents do not have a legal right to park outside their properties; it is public highway.

15. The Consultation Process

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are legal documents which accompany new restrictions on the road and enable them to be enforced.

TROs have to follow a legal procedure which ensures that they can be introduced appropriately, the process generally includes:

- i. Initial consultation. The local Dorset Councillor(s), Dorset Police representative and Parish and Town Councils are consulted and need to give their full support of the proposal prior to any public advertisement.
- ii. 'Draft Order' stage - public advertisement of Draft Notice and consultation period. Each 'Draft' Order is publicly advertised in the local press, posted on the street and available online. Comments for or against the scheme must be made within three weeks.
- iii. Authority to proceed. If no objections are received, then authority to proceed can be obtained from Dorset Council Senior Management. If there are objections, these are reported to the appropriate Dorset Council Committee who make a recommendation to Dorset Council Cabinet. This may be to proceed as advertised, make modifications to or abandon the proposal altogether.

- iv. 'Made Order' stage - making of Order. When approval has been granted, the Order is then legally signed and sealed before it becomes operational. The 'Made' Order is then re-advertised and six weeks are given to challenge it in the High Court on procedural grounds.



Public Notice

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders • @TravelDorset

The District of North Dorset (Waiting Restrictions) (Consolidation) Order 2013, (Amendment Order No. , 202') Various Roads, Gillingham – Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting

Dorset Council proposes to make Amendment Orders to 'The District of North Dorset (Waiting Restrictions) (Consolidation) Order 2013' under relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the Act') and of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with statutory requirement and in compliance with the 1996 Regulations.

The proposal will be to introduce or amend existing parking restrictions along sections of Bay Road, Queen Street and Wyke Road, Gillingham.

Relevant exemptions will apply where appropriate and as necessary in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, it is not possible for Dorset Council to have documents on deposit for individuals to view at county Hall. If anyone wants further information please contact us by emailing Regulation-TRO@dorsetcc.gov.uk or by calling us on 01305 221000 and ask to be put through to the Regulation Team and someone from the team will be happy to talk you through the proposal or send documents if required.

Details can also be found on the Dorset Council's website at:-
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders

For technical queries please contact Patrick Carpenter on 01305 221000 or email Regulation-TRO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or by letter to, Dorset Highways, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ.

Should you wish to make any observations on these proposals (whether you support or object) you can submit these on the website or by letter (contact details above). Responses must be made by the 8th January 2021. Any objections must specify the grounds on which they are made. Responses will be made available for public inspection.

Dated: 10th December 2020

John Sellgren,
Executive Director of Place

16. Results of the Dorset Council Consultation

For the proposal of Double yellow lines on a section of Wyke road we received eight responses in total: 4 votes against; 3 votes in favour; 1 vote for information.

Below are copies of the content in the emails which have been classed against the proposal:

- I wish to make an observation on The District of North Dorset (Waiting Restrictions) (Consolidation) Order 2013 (Amendment Order No. 202'). Specifically, the proposal 'To No Waiting At Any Time' on Wyke Road. I am a resident on the Wyke Road (Spencer

House) which is close to the stretch where you propose putting double yellow lines. I understand that the proposal has been put forward as this stretch of Wyke Road is seen as "highly dangerous", as described by one of the councillors. The statistics don't back this up, for the past 5 years (2015 to 2019) there has been zero fatal nor serious collisions/injuries on the stretch of road between Clarendon Close & Milestone Way. In fact, there has been only one slight collision in 2016 resulting in two slight injuries. It is my opinion that if double yellow lines are placed where proposed the stretch of Wyke Road would become increasingly unsafe. The reason for this is that the cars parked up on the side of the road act as a traffic calming measure. If you were to remove 4 parking spaces cars would not need to reduce their speed approaching the zebra crossing which is 100 yards away from the proposed double yellow lines. Wyke Road does have a problem with speeding (546 camera team tickets issues for the past 5 years as well as 40 officer issued tickets) which, in my opinion, does make it a dangerous stretch of road but as I've said the double yellow lines would exacerbate the problem not sooth it. These figures would obviously increase the more times a police speed was stationed on the road. Therefore, I believe that instead of implementing a 'No Waiting At Any Time' on Wyke Road, the council should look at other low budget traffic calming measures e.g. a 20-mph zone, speed bumps.

- Am I correct that it is proposed to remove parking outside cottages either side of Bayford in the Wyke Road, Gillingham? If this is so has it been taken into consideration 3 points. At present the parking slows the traffic considerably benefiting a significant length of Wyke Road. Removeable of parking will just result in allowing speeding up by certain people who drive too fast. We have owned a house here for 25 years and to my memory there have been no accidents or injuries in that time. If the traffic can speed up who will be responsible for the inevitable accidents and God forbid injuries/death? Where do the 10 or so cars parked for the residents go some of whom have small children? There is no viable space around to re-locate to. At a stroke the property values of the houses who park outside their property will be reduced. The present occupants bought their properties in the knowledge there was parking. Will there be compensation for the devaluing?
- We wish to register our objection in the strongest possible terms to the proposal on Wyke Road, Gillingham SP8, involving double-yellow lines being implemented to the westbound stretch as indicated on the Dorset Council website. Local news articles quote various members of Gillingham Town Council, describing the road as "dangerous", a "nightmare" and "scaring the living daylights out of me". We ask to be provided with the facts that these opinions are based upon and would be interested to read the information provided to support these quotes. One article also quotes that during research carried out a number of years ago, the placing of temporary yellow-cones "worked really well" so please provide us with the information gathered during this research confirming what "worked really well". Finally, please provide us with the facts and evidence to support the proposal. We have requested from Dorset Police information relating to the number of pedestrian and/or motor-vehicle accidents and speeding offences recorded between 2015 and 2019 on the stretch of road in question. We look forward to swift responses acknowledging our objection and would be particularly keen to receive the information requested promptly.

- I read with interest the brief details concerning the proposed introduction of a TRO to allow “Limited Waiting” in Wyke Road Gillingham. Is there any further information available that you can share concerning this proposed change? The map on your website describes the proposed change as “Proposed No Waiting at Any Time” however the description in the table says, “Limited Waiting”, which is correct? What is the forecast end dates for Primary and Public Consultation, and how may I contribute to this consultation please? According to press reports, local councillors advocating this change suggest it would address a ‘danger’. Has this been described in the proposal? I believe the parking restriction would enable traffic speeds to increase in a residential area and place at risk children and parents using the narrow pavements as a walking route to the local junior school. Of secondary importance, it would also transfer parking demand to neighbouring roads and stretches of Wyke Road that are unsuitable for increased residential parking.

Below are copies of the content in the emails which have been classed in favour of the proposal:

- I strongly support and welcome this proposal. When approaching up the hill from the town centre (exiting the town) vehicles are forced to pull out into oncoming traffic on a blind bend because of parked cars (approx.13). Once you have pulled out, there is then nowhere to be able to pull back in again if a vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction. Vehicles regularly have to mount pavements to be able pass. This section of road is dangerous and causes great anxiety for many drivers, including myself.
- I support the proposal. Although a priority type traffic light system would be the best option (when road works have been in place and lights used the traffic situation ran very smoothly) the addition of no parking for that stretch will at least give vehicles coming from the town centre an opportunity to get a slightly better view of incoming traffic.
- I strongly support this proposal as it has long been a danger and causes chaos to traffic, I would personally like to see this extended further in the Wincanton direction. Parked vehicles on the inside of this bend, obstruct vision and are dangerous.

Traffic Regulation Orders in consultation

- You can support, object or comment on any advertised Orders at any time up to and including the closing dates shown.
- It is not a legal requirement that we display Orders on this website and so please allow for a delay on some occasions in the information becoming available.
- Copies of public notices are advertised in the local area press as well as online.
- Comments both for and against will be anonymised before being made available for inspection by members of the public and committees

17. Conclusion

- Children and adults should be encouraged to walk where possible and reduce the reliance on vehicles for short journeys; the pedestrian crossing should be part of a safe walking route to school.
- The trial undertaken in 2013 was reported to have had a positive effect on traffic flow by enabling better visibility for westbound drivers and clearer lines of sight for those vehicles entering the town. Consequently, visibility of the pedestrian crossing was improved, allowing vehicles, particularly HGV's, the space and time to react to the crossing.
- The properties most effected have ample off-road parking.
- Dorset Police support the proposal on the grounds of road safety.
- Dorset Highways Senior Technical Officer supports the proposal on the grounds of forward visibility. Currently when travelling in the Wincanton direction, vehicles have to drive around the first set of vehicles before it is possible to see what is coming in the opposite direction. Installation of double yellow lines will make it possible to approach the overtaking manoeuvrer with full sight of oncoming traffic.

18. Recommendation

- **That Gillingham Town Council support the proposed parking restrictions between the properties known as Orchard End and Melrose at Wyke Road, on the grounds of pedestrian and highway safety.**

Gillingham Town Council

Workshop Task and Finish Group

Lead: Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor

1. Current Progress

The task and finish group held an MS Teams meeting 29 January 2021 and noted that:

- Cllr Poulter continues discussions with the landlords' agent regarding exiting the current workshop location on 31 March 2021. Cllr Poulter had identified that the mezzanine floor in the current workshop was regarded as a fixture and that the town council would not seek to remove it on handing over the lease.
- Cllr Kilcourse had looked at options for reducing gas connections because the pipes interfered with the proposed pedestrian doors to the Units. The pedestrian doors were already on site, awaiting fitting once the gas pipes were no longer obstructing their proposed location. It was determined that there was no requirement for a gas supply to Unit 2a, so it need not be retained. Cllr Kilcourse was tasked to request a final quote from SGN for removing the individual gas supply to all units. This was different to the quote to seal the supply to the site from the main gas pipe in the road. This will stop the standing charges for each of the five meters.
- The Works Manager reported that SSE is taking out the temporary, Mere substation, electric supply to Unit 1A as soon as possible. The town council has inherited this supply and have paid the fee to remove it. SSE will remove the electric meter at the same time. The new electrical laydown will require three electrical meters to be de-energised. SSE will do this at £79 each. This will stop any standing charge for each of the three meters. The Works Manager recommended:
 - Retain unit 1b direct electric supply, via meter to three consumer units in units nos. 1b, 1a and 1d respectively
 - Retain unit 1c direct electric supply, via meter then to a consumer unit for sole use of unit 1c.
 - Retain unit 2b direct electric supply, via meter to two consumer units in unit nos. 2b (for Units 2a and 2b and rear covered area) and unit 2c respectively.
 - De-energise meters to units 1d, 2a and 2c respectively @ £79 each
 - The task and finish group agreed with the recommendations.

The task and finish group held an MS Teams meeting 12 February 2021 and noted that:

- Cllr Kilcourse indicated that SGN required the gas meters removing – owned by CNG – and then they will schedule the work. Photographs of the meters have been sent to CNG on 9 February and requested their removal. There will be a cost, likely to be similar to the electric meters (say 5x£80=£400) currently unfunded. Cllr Kilcourse will engage with SGN to request a date of pipe disconnection so that the pedestrian doors can be installed as this is now holding up future use of the Units.
- The Works Manager reported that electrician has to fit 3 phase power to all the electric powered doors. Once that is complete, *and* the builder is ready to have the pedestrian doors to units 1d and 2c fitted, the Works Manager will call the contractor to complete both the installation and the testing. The remaining pedestrian doors will be fitted once the gas pipes are deactivated and removed from the door positions.
- The Works Manager reported that work to unit nos.1d and 2c are on schedule. The first fit electricians are in. The Building Control Officer visited last week and was content. Other work completed:
 - Unit 1b mezzanine floor and staircase removed
 - Door in unit 1a changed
 - Floor painted in units 2a and 2b
 - Tool racking installed in units 2a and 2b
 - Blockwork continues
 - Ramp installed in unit 1c
 - Unit 1c is fully laid out
 - Unit 1a is almost completely laid out
- Cllr Kilcourse reported that the formal building Control Notice of Passing of Plans had been received as at 1 February 2021.
- Cllr Kilcourse reported that the various alarm tenders had been released. Returns required by 11 March 21, tender board at task and finish group meeting 12 March and deliver results to Full Council 22 March 2021.
- The current single Roman Business Centre black on white road sign on pillars on the right-hand side of the entrance (when facing) will be replaced by two Roman Court black on white road signs that will be fixed to the wall on each side of the entrance now that the new name has been registered.
- Cllr Harris reviewed the budget, indicating that a new spreadsheet had been inserted into the workbook which recorded new funding that becomes available in April as part of the financial year 2021/22. Cllr Harris indicated that a financial review would be conducted with the Responsible Financial Officer, the Town Clerk, the Works Manager and the task and finish group Lead Member in early March. Budget V39, as presented, was updated with two new requirements:

- Insulation to the timber section to the rear of unit 2 at £2,000 and additional refurbishment funds were required to get to the end of the financial Year. The reserves were reduced to zero and reallocated to refurbishment, subsequently being earmarked for two water heaters, one each for unit nos.1a and 1c. A further £1.6000 is required to ensure work continues to 31 March 2021.
- Cllr Harris noted that two councillors were visiting the new workshop during the afternoon on 22 February 2021 to look at progress. Cllr Harris and the Works Manager would accompany - social distancing rules apply.
- The next formal task and finish group meeting is planned for 12 March 2021.

2. Workshop Programme and Funding to end Financial Year 2020/21

The refurbishment programme reaches its zenith in March and April 2021. Contracts for electrical rewiring, developing Units 1d (offices, training room, kitchen area, toilet) and 2c (crew room, 2 x showers) are on schedule. Contracts for various safety measure systems will be set, but only once full contract funding is assured. Various additional unplanned costs continue to appear¹ that affect the budget. The task and finish group have always taken the view that the key is getting the workshop refurbishment right, first time, even if unforeseen requirements become apparent during the development. This sets the town council work staff up to support the future growth of Gillingham. We now approach a crucial time when four significant matters come together:

- the aim to be out of the current location by 31 March, allowing the landlord to re-let from the start of the new financial year,
- ensuring full funding of upcoming contracts before they are let whilst ensuring that the contracts are as complete as possible by 31 March,
- using the upcoming financial year end as an opportunity to conduct virement of unspent funds elsewhere to meet current, in year, requirements,
- at the cross over of financial years, being able to earmark funds in the FY21/22 budget to underwrite some contracts that will be set in March and completed or invoiced just into April or earmarking of funds for use in the first quarter of the new financial year (contracts for Priority 4 – Heating, and Priority 5 – gates and fencing, set sometime April-June 2021)

Underfunded and unfunded items were highlighted in the minutes of the 14th January 2021 workshop finance meeting paragraph 8 and referred to in priority order in the workshop report to Full Council 25th January 2021. Budget V39 was updated to V40 identifying that, including funds budgeted for FY2021/22, Priorities 1 (security alarm) and 3 (fire alarm) are fully funded, provided invoices fall in the next financial year; contracts can now be set. Priority 2 (CCTV) is partially funded leaving about £2,000 to be allocated. These needs allocating now so that all the safety tenders are fully funded before the tender board (12 March 2021) recommends setting the contracts. The work needs to be complete prior to the town council moving in to the site as at 31 March 2021. Priority 5 (gates and fence) is currently unfunded; however, the planning permission is in process and therefore costs will fall in financial year 2021/22. Similarly,

¹ Examples are removal of electric and gas meters, larger than expected skip costs

options for Priority 4 (Heating) are being pursued. Funding in both cases will be requested as earmarks from financial year 2020/21 underspend. This will be followed up once details are firm.

3. Recommendations

It is to be noted that this recommendation was not available to submit to the Finance Committee, 15 February 2021, as the source budget line was not known at the time. Following staff consultation, residual budget amounts were subsequently identified.

It is recommended that a virement is made as follows:

From Cost Centre 10, payroll and staff, line 7015, staff training, an amount of £6k to Cost Centre 12(a) line 7211 New Works Depot refurbishment to meet costs associated with gas meter removal; the insulation needs of the timber building to the rear of Unit 2; continuing refurbishment requirements and complete the funding of Priority 2 (CCTV).

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 441(b)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Review Sub-committee

Lead: Cllr Graham Poulter

Following the resolutions made by Full Council on the 25th January a meeting of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Review sub-committee took place on the 26th January 2021 when Cllr Roger Weeks was formally co-opted on the sub-committee.

It was agreed that professional advice be sought from Joe Witherden (JW) and that initially her advice sought on a limited number of issues and generally as to the way forward.

Consequently, it was agreed a grant be applied for in respect of JW's fees. It was important to limit the scope of her instructions as any grant would have to be used/spent by 31st March 2021 or it or any unspent part of it would have to be repaid.

An expression of interest had to be lodged by the 28th January 2021 and the application itself by 29th January 2021. A further meeting was held by a group formed by members of the sub-committee on the 28th January 2021. A quote had been obtained from JW in the sum of £1,001.25 (ex VAT) and it was agreed to seek a grant in that sum. The application was submitted within the time frame. A grant offer was issued and following due diligence tests the grant was approved on the 9th February 2021. The grant has now been paid to GTC. Many thanks to all concerned and in particular to Jill Ezzard who processed the application.

Following approval of the grant a further meeting was held on the 12th February 2021 at which Cllr Sharon Cullingford was co-opted at her request.

The sub-committee debated the timing of the Review. As we are all aware Dorset Council has submitted a draft revision of the Local Plan (LP) for consultation with an indication that the plan should be made in 2023. It is the case that where LP and neighbourhood plan (NP) policies differ on non-strategic matters, the later plan carries more weight. An explanation and examples of strategic policies is availableⁱ.

The Dorset LP will postdate the current NP and it was considered that it may be the case that for the review of the NP be more effective, it should take into account any policies included in the LP and that the NP should postdate the LP. There was broad agreement to this proposition and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed to include a request for advice on that issue in the instructions to JW.

The terms of the letter to JW were agreed and that was sent on the 15th February 2021, a response is awaited as at the date of preparation of this report.

A questionnaire had been circulated to members regarding the existing NP but it was agreed that completion of it should be deferred to our next meeting as many members of the sub-committee were on the task and finish group dealing with the Draft Dorset LP and that at present was of the highest priority.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th March unless JW's response warrants an earlier meeting.

The term 'strategic planning' refers to policies that address larger than local issues that cannot be dealt with by one local planning authority working alone and that are addressed and delivered through a local plan. For

example:

- the provision for new housing across a major conurbation or wider housing market area
- the provision of major retail, leisure, industrial and other economic development across a travel to work area
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, waste treatment, energy generation, telecommunications,
- water supply and water quality
- requirements for minerals extraction
- the provision of health, security, and major community infrastructure facilities
- measures needed to address the causes and consequences of climate change, including managing
- flood risk and coastal change
- protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including townscape"

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 441(c)

Gillingham Town Council

Dorset Council Local Plan Task and Finish Group

Lead Member: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

1. Introduction

It was agreed and resolved at The Full Council Meeting on 14th December 2020 to set up a task and finish group to study the Dorset Council Local Plan Document and to draft a response for consideration by Full Council. It was agreed and resolved that Cllr Graham Poulter, Cllr Val Pothecary, Cllr Mike Gould, Cllr Roger Weeks, Cllr Keith Wareham, Cllr Donna Toye and Cllr Sharon Cullingford would be members of the group.

Unfortunately, due to our daytime meetings and work commitments Cllr Toye has resigned from the group.

All members of the Town Council have received copies of the notes taken at the task and finish group meetings held on the 4th, 10th and 17th February.

A further three meetings have been organised for 23rd February and again on 3rd and 5th March to conclude the draft response in time to present a report to the Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting scheduled for the 10th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

The task and finish group has been in discussion with Dorset Council and an on-line Public Information evening has been organised for Wednesday, 24th February at 7pm.

Dorset Council Planning Portfolio Holder David Walsh will provide an overview of the Dorset Plan and explain the relevance to Gillingham. Cllr Pothecary, as Chairman of the Gillingham Town Council's Planning Committee will also speak. Mr Mark Hebditch, Chairman of the Three Rivers Partnership, has kindly agreed to Chair the meeting.

2. Timeline

10 th February 2021	Task and Finish Group meeting
17 th February 2021	Ditto
23 rd February 2021	Ditto
24 th February 2021	Public Information Meeting
3 rd March 2021	Task and Finish Group meeting
5 th March 2021	Completion of Report
10 th March 2021	Presentation of Report to the Extra-Ordinary Full Council meeting.
15 th March 2021	Consultation Closes

3. Recommendation

That Gillingham Town Council supports the online Public Information Evening organised by the Dorset Council Local Plan Task and Finish Group on Wednesday, 24th February at 7pm.

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 441(d)

Gillingham Town Council**Agreements and Contracts Sub-Committee**

**Notes of a meeting held via MS Teams on
Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 10am**

Notes taken by Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk

1. To agree a lead member.

It was agreed that Cllr Poulter should be lead member.

2. To agree a priority list of agreements and contracts to be reviewed.

A priority list was agreed, and members were nominated to deal with each item, as listed below:

Organisation	Personnel to Lead	Priority
Dorset Council - Registration Service	Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Harris, Town Clerk	1
RiversMeet	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Cllr Weeks, Deputy Town Clerk	2
Town Meadow	Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Poulter, Deputy Town Clerk	3
Gillingham Youth Club	Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Kilcourse, Deputy Town Clerk	4
RV Gillingham	Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Kilcourse, Deputy Town Clerk	4
CCTV Wayleaves	Cllr Poulter, Deputy Town Clerk	5
Dorset Wildlife Trust	Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Weeks, Deputy Town Clerk	6
Park Farm Allotment Site	Cllr Harris, Cllr Kilcourse, Town Clerk	7
Public Clocks Maintenance Agreements	Cllr Harris, Deputy Town Clerk	8
St Mary's Church Closed Churchyard	Cllr Harris, Cllr Kilcourse, Deputy Town Clerk	8

RBL/GTC MoU	Cllr Weeks, Town Clerk	8
Dorset Council - IT	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Citizens Advice	All T&F Group members	9
Cleaning Contracts - Town Hall, Town Bridge Office, Chantry.	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk.	9
Weekend Street Cleaning	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	
Ellis Whittam - Health and Safety	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Ellis Whittam - HR	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
I West - Data Protection Compliance	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Website	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Dorset Council - Rights of Way Maintenance	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Dorset Council - Street Cleaning	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Dorset Council - Verge Cutting	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
The Stours Parish Council	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
SSE Gillingham Wayleaves	Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk	9
Dorset Council - Jubilee Path	Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr Poulter, Cllr Weeks, Deputy Town Clerk	9

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Dorset Council Ward Report – Cllr Belinda Ridout – Update 1 of 2

Minute no. 443

REMINDER

Dorset Local Plan Consultation runs from 18th January to 15th March 2021

An opportunity to have your say on the future of your area and Dorset as a whole. More information on the Dorset Council website, with recorded webinars covering all aspects of the Plan. Paper copies available to view. Dedicated phone line Mon to Fri, 10am-2pm, 01305 252500.

Funding to help with drug and alcohol misuse

DC has been awarded £306,713 in funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The funding will specifically target those who need support with their use of alcohol or other drugs and help them rebuild their lives, including rough sleepers. The funding will support people to access detox and rehabilitation services outside of Dorset where appropriate as well as improving wraparound support in the local area, such as access to mental health and substance use workers/peer mentors, who are key to working with vulnerable people in treatment services.

Dog related Public Spaces Protection Order

This came into force on 1st January 2021. During the first month DC focused on advice and guidance to dog owners explaining the new rules. Restrictions include clearing up dog fouling and proper disposal of the waste in any open space. On certain land, dogs not allowed on marked sports pitches or enclosed children's play areas or are required to be on a lead, such as in cemeteries, formal gardens, etc. From 1st February if the rules are broken fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) maybe issued by enforcement officers. FPN's can be served by post if a witness provides details of the dog owner (such as their address) or their vehicle registration number and are willing to provide a suitable witness statement.

COVID update

As at 5th February, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 207.4 per 100,000 population and for BCP, 369.8 per 100,000 population. Covid deaths in the most recent 7 days period: 127 in BCP area and 57 in Dorset Council area. Local infection rates have fallen again but they are still at high levels which means it is too early to relax or become complacent. Hospital admissions have levelled off, but local NHS services are still under significant pressure and there are a number of outbreaks in care settings across Dorset, affecting both residents and staff. Currently there are over 500 patients in Dorset hospitals with COVID, so the pressure on beds is huge.

We must all continue to play our part and strictly follow the lockdown rules to prevent spread of the virus.

Covid vaccinations – the roll out of COVID vaccinations in Dorset is going well, with over 70,000 people in Dorset now vaccinated, making good progress in reach everyone in the top four priority groups, including vaccinations for Dorset Council's frontline employees.

Rapid testing is being offered to DC frontline workers who do not have any symptoms, to help identify positive cases more quickly, breaking the chain of transmission to keep vital services running. The safest way for someone to get to their vaccination appointment is to travel in their own car or with their support bubble. If this isn't possible, COVID-secure taxis are available.

For any questions on the NHS vaccination roll-out programme for COVID, please go to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, frequently asked questions:

<https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/vaccinations/>

To reinforce the Government's message: Stay Home, Protect the NHS AND Save Lives'

Gillingham Highway Works

Works to refresh Gillingham High Street started Monday 1st February, for around 8 weeks. Dorset Highways will be carrying out daytime works to improve the pavement condition as follows:

- Footways on both sides of the road from Newbury up to the Post Office -removing the existing paving and preparing for an imprinted paving effect.
- The southern footway, from the Post Office and over the bridge will have the existing slabbing removed and replaced with new textured slabs. The northern side paving will be replaced between the bus shelter and St Martin's Square.
Two-way traffic lights will be in use on the High Street during these works.
- The pavement on School Road will also be resurfaced between High Street and the primary school.
- From Monday, 15th March, for 3 weeks, night-time resurfacing work will get underway, with High Street closed 8pm to 6am overnight each weekday. The first 3 nights the road will be resurfaced from Newbury to St Martin's Square. The remaining 12 nights will be used to imprint the footways between Newbury and the Post Office and to imprint the raised areas in the road.

Business Grants

As of 29th January 2021, £23m of Government grants paid out by Dorset Council to support local businesses. See the DC website on how to claim grants.

Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031

Details of the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031 Independent Examiners report and Progress to Referendum have been published. If the result of the Referendum is in support of making the plan and there are no other issues identified that would go against such a decision, a recommendation to 'make' the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2031 will be made to a Cabinet meeting after the Referendum.

St Mary's School Site, Shaftesbury

Dorset Council is asking local people and community groups for their views on the future of the former St Mary's school site near Shaftesbury, which the council purchased last month.

From 4th February, people are being asked to complete a short survey online or call 01305 225088 if you need a paper copy. Closing date is midnight on 18th March 2021.

DC wants to work with local people and groups to make sure this important site benefits the community for generations to come. All views will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. DC's preferred option is to use the site as a school to provide high quality education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). There is a growing need for this education provision. Currently around 3000 pupils with SEND are supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan. Whilst the majority of children with SEND can be supported in mainstream schools, there are some children and young people who need more specialist support. The cost of SEND education provision to DC is growing. Independent provision for these pupils is expensive, often around £60,000 a year per place. This compares to about £22,000 for similar provision at one of Dorset's special schools. This year independent SEND provision is likely to cost more than £14m.

Help and Support for Dorset Residents

Help to deal with financial struggles:

Dorset Citizens Adviceline on Freephone 0800 144 8848.

Support also available online: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out.

Coping with Isolation and Loneliness

Dorset Together Team, support including food shopping and delivery, collection of prescriptions, dog walking and befriending. Help can be accessed via an online form on the Dorset Council website or by calling the **Dorset Together helpline on 01305 221000**, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Digital Hotline

People with queries about getting online or improving online skills can call the **Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048**, Monday to Friday from 10am to noon. Outside of those times you can leave a message and a Digital Champion will get back to you.

If you are on a low income and do not have a broadband connection or device at home to connect to the internet, it may be possible to help you to get set up.

Parents and carers helpline

Dorset Council's Educational Psychology Service has set up a helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown. The helpline number is **01305 474036**, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30-minute phone consultation.

The Dorset Council website

This is an invaluable tool for finding out the latest information and about essential services affecting the public. 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

Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Dorset Council Ward Report – Cllr Belinda Ridout – Update 2 of 2

Minute no. 443

REMINDER

Dorset Local Plan Consultation runs from 18th January to 15th March 2021.

An opportunity to have your say on the future of your area and Dorset as a whole. More information is available on the Dorset Council website, with recorded webinars covering all aspects of the Plan. Paper copies available to view. Dedicated phone line Mon to Fri, 10am-2pm, 01305 252500. As at 10th February, over 19000 visits have been made to the online consultation in just over 3 weeks and over 2000 views of the online webinars. It is important to have as many views as possible for this important document, we especially want to hear from young people and young adults, this will help to shape the future Dorset they will be a part of and their views are really valued.

FULL COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY

The main item being to approve Dorset Council's Budget 2021/22. Every year budget setting has become more challenging and 2021/22 is no exception. This budget funds all services the Council provides to residents, communities and businesses throughout the year. The increase in budget is needed to fund the cost of responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, the growing need for social care within the Dorset population, and inflation. The budget proposals are built around the priorities identified in the Dorset Council Plan and were considered by the Dorset Council Scrutiny Committees on 11th December 2020. The budget for the financial year 2021-22 is increased to just under £313m (from £304m the year before) and reflects a continuation of the theme of previous Dorset Council Budgets, to redirect resources from support services into front line services wherever possible. It is a balanced budget for the next Council year, which depends on increasing council tax and ensuring that the transformation of services goes ahead as planned.

Members approved an increase in general Council Tax at just under 2% and to levy the adult social care precept of just under 3%, in line with the Government's Spending Review, providing a band D Council Tax figure for Dorset Council of £1,779.39, equating to £1.62 extra a week for a Band D property. This will provide an additional £12m to maintain front line services for the people of Dorset. The coming year will stretch resources, particularly in needs-based services, Adult & Children's Social Care.

Note: With regard to the Climate & Ecological Emergency declared in May 2019. The majority of the Council's Climate & Ecological actions require significant capital investment and will need specific funding from Government to deliver. Whilst councils are in a unique position to lead this work, it's not something they can deliver on their own. Increasing Council Tax for this purpose was not an option. However, the council has also established governance arrangements around the capital programme and a number of bids that would help deliver the climate change action plan are being progressed through that route and will go to Cabinet for consideration, in due course. Many parts of the revenue budget proposals carried forward are already delivering on climate and carbon reduction objectives but there is no additional revenue budget proposal at this time.

There is no doubt that many millions of pounds will have to be spent over the next 20 years to become a Carbon Neutral council. However, a start has been made by Dorset Council:

- 44 Electric Vehicle Charge points have been installed across the county, at no additional cost to the Council.
- Changed to green energy in all Council owned properties where possible. This has increased overall cost but was considered the right thing to do.
- Low Carbon Dorset Programme, which helps businesses, community, and public sector organisations by stimulating growth in our low carbon economy and reducing the county's footprint, was recently extended with an additional funding from the government of £5m.
- £18.79m awarded by government to upgrade DC properties, to reduce the overall carbon footprint and bring significant savings in power consumption. This was out of a total of £51m distributed under this scheme.
- Working alongside BCP Council, the construction of the first sustainable travel route funded through the Transforming Travel – Transforming Cities Fund programme, which was made possible from government funding of £79m.
- Weymouth Harbour & Esplanade Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy, which details how the town will be protected from potential coastal flooding and erosion caused by climate change, requiring massive investment from multiple sources in excess of £115m.

COVID update – As at 19th February, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 92.2 per 100,000 population and for BCP, 159.1 per 100,000 population. The rate for the South West is 93.7 per 100,000 and for England its 137.8. This shows the continued slow but steady decline of COVID cases locally, thanks to lockdown measures. Very sadly, Dorset passed the milestone of 1000 Covid-19 related deaths. This was marked by lighting 1000 candles on the steps of County Hall to remember every life lost.

We must all continue to play our part and strictly follow the lockdown rules to prevent spread of the virus.

Covid vaccinations – The roll out of COVID vaccinations in Dorset is going well. Across Dorset, as at 10th February, 92% of people over 80 have had at least one dose of the COVID vaccination and over 154,000 vaccinations have been delivered in total.

The use of rapid testing sites available for frontline DC employees in Weymouth, Wareham, Wimborne, Bridport, Sherborne and Dorchester will be offering weekly asymptomatic testing to employees of businesses, charities and voluntary organisations (that employ less than 250 people) and the self-employed who cannot work from home due to the nature of their role. To qualify for testing they must either provide an essential service or support the vulnerable. If you know of a business or voluntary organisation that may benefit from this, they can find out more and register their interest on Public Health Dorset's website.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Consultation – This concluded on 20th January. Thank you to all who commented. Over 1,500 responses received. Time is now being taken to analyse the feedback from the public who completed the survey before bringing the Strategy and Action Plan back for approval in April. Unfortunately, Climate and Ecological change is not the only challenge faced by Dorset Council, so funding for the delivery of an ambitious programme will need to be prioritised alongside the other key funding pressures, particularly from the needs-based services like social care which the Council has a statutory

obligation to provide. However, recently Dorset Council has secured several pots of funding from government to help with climate change work, including an award of £298,000 for the Low Carbon Skills Fund and £18.7 million to enable major works to take place to reduce the Council's carbon footprint across its buildings. This funding will enable the Council to start delivering its strategic climate and ecological objectives.

5G Rural Dorset – Members listened to a very interesting presentation, way above my head but also quite mind blowing as to 5G's potential for Dorset. It is a £7m Government funded project over two years. 5G is about a lot more than 2G,3G,4G, which is mostly about mobile phones. 5G is about connecting more devices reliably to the internet, supporting multiple social and commercial connectivity. 5GRuralDorset is a consortium led by Dorset Council. It is next generation connectivity. Examples shown:

- Revolution in farming – currently agri-trials are taking place on Dorset farms with farm robots using advanced technology to control weeds/pests. Similarly, on seaweed/marine farms along the Dorset coast.
- Predicting coastal disasters - 5G Connected Sensors along the Jurassic coast to identify patterns in coastal movement/weather/erosion to predict for example, cliff falls. Working in partnership with local universities.
- Air Pollution/ Water quality monitoring
- Identifying full bins on the sea front!
- The mind boggles, but it is all about working more intelligently and hopefully for the greater good of everyone.

Business Grants - The latest round of Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG Phase 2) covering the current lockdown period opened to new applicants on Friday 12th February. The ARG Phase 2 is for businesses which haven't previously applied for and received the ARG relating to the November 2020 lockdown. Eligibility criteria for the ARG Phase 2 has been widened to include businesses eligible for the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). See the DC website on how to claim grants.

Empty Homes – Dorset Council is highlighting the problem of long-term empty properties during **Empty Homes Week, 15-21 February 2021**. There are estimated to be around 400 long term empty properties in Dorset. Each one is a wasted home. Demand for housing in the DC area is extremely high with over 6000 people looking for a suitable home on the housing register. The Housing Standards Team is urging people to come forward to report or seek help to deal with a long-term empty property. Dedicated empty Homes Officer will investigate cases, help to identify the worst properties and then take the most appropriate action. Advice and assistance are available to owners of empty properties on how they can bring a property back into use. Loans of up to £25,000 are available to carry out repairs. Owners of properties that have been empty for 2 years or more may be able to claim a reduced rate of VAT on renovation/alteration works. Only when offers of help and assistance have failed will enforcement action be taken.

Residents Survey – This was conducted at the end of 2020. Just out of interest, the survey found that:

- 90% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live
- 72% of residents are satisfied with the way Dorset Council runs things (up from 61% last year)

- 75% of residents of residents think the Council keeps them well informed (up from 58% last year). Of course, you may think differently!

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 444(a)

Gillingham Town Council

Matters Pertinent

Dorset Council Car Parking Review

The following email was received by Dorset Council Cllr Val Potheary on 18th February 2021 from Elizabeth Murray Strategic Parking Project Manager, Parking Services Dorset Council.

Dorset Council is moving towards phase two of its parking charges review as we align charges and permits across the area. To help gain knowledge of local areas, to understand local parking issues and to allow local opinions to be heard, I am planning to create local working groups. The groups will meet monthly throughout the life of the project.

There will be nine working groups, that will meet through the life of the phase two charging project:

- Beaminster, Bridport, West Bay and West Bexington
- Blandford Forum, Gillingham and Shaftesbury
- Charmouth and Lyme Regis
- Corfe Mullen and Wimborne Minster
- Corfe Castle and Wareham
- Dorchester
- Ferndown, Verwood and West Moors
- Portland and Weymouth
- Sherborne and Sturminster Newton

Swanage is not included as the car parks are owned and managed by the Town Council. If this is something that you may be interested in taking part in or know someone who would like to take part (please feel free to share this email with appropriate parties) please email me.

Please include which working group you or the contact would like to participate in and from what organisation/business/other the contact is from. Depending on the number of responses received I may not be able to involve everyone, so I will use your information to select the right balance of stakeholders for the working group.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries regarding the working groups.

These are the stakeholders that I have so far:

1. Iwerne Courtney PC - John Gredley
2. Milton Abbas PC – Nigel Hodder
3. Blandford TC - Roger Carter and Colin Stevens
4. Blandford Town Team - Nicci Brown
5. The Blandford Group Practice (Doctors surgery) - Carol Tilley
6. Blandford Business Support Group – Kelly Hunter

You can see that there is a good representation for Blandford but not for your areas.

There will be separate meetings for Dorset Council Members.

Many thanks in advance

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 444(b)

Gillingham Town Council

Matters Pertinent

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority


Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Consultation of draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24

We are consulting on our draft Community Safety Plan, which sets out the key challenges and risks facing us over the coming years. With future financial uncertainty, the plan details what we intend to carry on doing and what we intend to review and do differently, in order to continue to provide a high level of service to our communities.

Working with others is central to how we deliver our services, and this will continue to be at the heart of everything we do. For that reason, we invite you to [visit our website](#) to view our draft plan and the accompanying video, which provides a short overview.

The consultation period runs from 17 February until 13 May 2021 and we would welcome your feedback, through a short set of questions on our website. If you wish to raise anything specific, or require any further assistance in accessing the information, please email us directly at consultation@dwfire.org.uk.

Kind regards



Cllr Rebecca Knox
Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority



Ben Ansell
Chief Fire Officer

Full Council – 22nd February 2021

Minute no. 444(c)

Gillingham Town Council

Matters Pertinent

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Dorset Wildlife Trust are recruiting for a Project Officer for The Gillingham Royal Forest Project. The post is a fixed term/part time contract for 21 hours per week. Salary £15,690 (pro rata of £26,150). Closing date: 14th March.

Full job description and application form appear on Dorset Wildlife Trust Web site [Gillingham Royal Forest Project Officer | Dorset Wildlife Trust](#) and also via a link on Gillingham Town Council web site gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk
