

#### **GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

### FULL COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on **Monday**, **23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021** at The Town Hall, Gillingham commencing at 7.30pm.

#### Present:

Cllr Paul Harris, QGM Cllr Barry von Clemens Cllr Fiona Cullen Cllr Rupert Evill Cllr Alan Frith Cllr Mike Gould Cllr Mick Hill Cllr Val Pothecary Cllr Keith Wareham Cllr Roger Weeks

#### In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins Project Administrator, Serena Burgess One member of the public

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

Cllr Donna Toye Office Manager, Jill Ezzard Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News One member of the public

In accordance with legislation, councillors joining the meeting via MS Teams were not permitted to vote.

# 564. 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 during this part of the meeting.

#### 565. To receive apologies for absence.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Cllr Alison von Clemens, Cllr Dennis Griffin, Cllr John Kilcourse, Cllr Graham Poulter and Cllr John Robinson who were unable to attend due to personal reasons. Cllr Donna Toye joined the meeting via MS Teams; however, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 she was not permitted to vote.

# 566. 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 disclosable pecuniary interests.

### 567. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting of the Full Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Full Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as a true and accurate record. The chairman duly signed the minutes.

#### 568. Questions.

There were no questions.

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

#### a) Planning Committee Interim meeting on Monday 26h July 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee Interim meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 are approved and adopted.

#### b) HR Committee meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 are approved and adopted.

### c) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 are approved and adopted.

### 570. To approve payments over £10,000 in accordance with the council's Financial Regulations.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the list of payments over £10,000, as presented, are approved. Please refer to <u>Appendix A</u>.

### 571. To receive and note a list of decisions made under the Temporary Scheme of Delegation as agreed by Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Minute No. 472).

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

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the list of decisions made under the Temporary Scheme of Delegation are noted.

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

#### a) Town Meadow Group

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to <u>Appendix C</u>. There were no recommendations.

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

#### a) Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to <u>Appendix D.</u> There were no recommendations.

#### b) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to <u>Appendix E</u>. There were no recommendations.

#### 574. To receive and consider motions for submission to the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) AGM on Saturday 13th November 2021

No motions were submitted. Cllr Barry von Clemens confirmed that he would be attending the DAPTC AGM on behalf of the town council.

## 575. To receive and consider an application for Free Room Hire from the Gillingham Walkers are Welcome Group.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to grant the Gillingham Walkers are Welcome Group free room hire, in accordance with the council's Room Hire Policy and current terms and conditions.

### 576. To receive and consider information regarding a consultation on the review of Parish and Town Council members' allowances and agree a response

Dorset Council has appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel ("the Panel") to review the allowances available to Parish and Town Councillors. Dorset Council is the responsible authority for establishing the Panel to conduct an independent review of the allowance scheme which will be recommended to the town council. It was noted that at the present time, Gillingham Town Council

do not pay a basic allowance to councillors and only the Mayor is entitled to an allowance.

The consultation had been circulated prior to the meeting with draft responses suggested by the Town Clerk. Members agreed with the draft responses to questions 1 to 8. The Town Clerk asked members to consideration question 9 of the consultation which asked for thoughts on future allowances and what factors may influence them.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that when considering factors that could influence the basic allowance for members, the following are ranked in order of the most significant:

- 1. Size of electorate
- 2. Resident population size
- 3. Council budget and service provision
- 4. Seasonal variation in population size
- 5. Special circumstances

## 577. To receive a letter of resignation from CIIr Dennis Griffin and to declare a vacancy in the Ham Ward of Gillingham.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the resignation received from Cllr Dennis Griffin and declare a vacancy in the Ham Ward of Gillingham.

### 578. To receive a letter of resignation from Cllr John Robinson and to declare a vacancy in the Town Ward of Gillingham.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the resignation received from Cllr John Robinson and declare a vacancy in the Town Ward of Gillingham.

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

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to <u>Appendix F</u>. The report was noted.

#### 580. 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**.

581. In confidence. Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public shall be excluded during the discussion of Agenda Item no. 19 as publicity of the nomination includes confidential information about an individual member of the public and the council has obligations under GDPR.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public shall be excluded during the discussion of agenda item no. 19 as publicity of the nomination includes confidential

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 Signed
 23/08/21

information about an individual member of the public and the council has obligations under GDPR.

#### 582. To receive and consider a nomination for the Freedom of the Town.

A confidential report was circulated prior to the meeting and members were asked to consider the nomination.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that the nomination for Honorary Freeman of Gillingham is supported and the nominee is invited to accept the honour.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that Para. 3.7 of the Honorary Freeman Policy is suspended to enable the award to be presented at the next available meeting of Full Council.

583. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. <u>Note</u>: 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).

There were no matters pertinent.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minute no. 570

#### **Gillingham Town Council**

#### Invoices and payments over £10,000 20th July to 13th August 2021

#### Author: Debra Edwards, RFO

| Date paid  | Sage<br>Log | Payee              | Detail                       | Total<br>Including<br>VAT where<br>applicable |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
|            |             |                    | -                            |   |
|            |             | WPS Hallam         | Commercial Motor insurance   |   |
| 14/07/2021 | PI7784      | (James Hallam Ltd) | 16/7/21 to 15/7/22           | 4,501.64                                      |
|            |             | WPS Hallam         | RSA CouncilGuard policy      |   |
| 14/07/2021 | PI7801      | (James Hallam Ltd) | 16/7/21 to 15/7/2022         | 17,762.48                                     |
|            |             |                    | RSA CouncilGuard policy      |   |
|            |             | WPS Hallam         | 16/7/21 to 15/7/2022 renewal |   |
| 15/07/021  | PI7804      | (James Hallam Ltd) | updates                      | 1,544.13                                      |
|            |             |                    | Paid 6/08/2021               | 23,808.25                                     |

#### Minute no. 571

## List of decisions made under the Temporary Scheme of Delegation as agreed by Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, minute number 571

| Item<br>no. | Consultation Process  | Decision(s) Made  |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1           | Group Meeting of General<br>Purposes Committee<br>Members held on<br>02/08/21. Item no. 5 b) –                      | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that the 2021 festive lights event is to be held<br>on Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December.  |
|             | Festive Lights 2021   | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that the event will be held solely on the Town<br>Meadow.  |
| 2           | Group Meeting of General<br>Purposes Committee<br>Members held on<br>02/08/21. Item no. 5 c) -<br>Estate Management | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that Aster Homes are advised that the revised<br>play area design for the new play area to be<br>sited on the extension of the public open<br>space at Barnaby Meadows is acceptable   |
| 3           | Group Meeting of General<br>Purposes Committee<br>Members held on<br>02/08/21. Item no. 5 h) -<br>Properties        | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that Financial Regulations, para 11(h) are<br>suspended to allow emergency repairs to be<br>carried out at the High Street Public<br>Convenience at a cost of £1,305.88.   |
|             |   | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that a request is made to the Finance and<br>Policy Committee for a virement of £800 from<br>Cost Centre 13, Budget no. 7111, Chantry<br>Community Office to Cost Centre 14, Budget<br>no. 7134, Public Conveniences, to allow the<br>repairs to be carried out. |
|             |   | Gillingham Town Council <b>RECOMMENDS</b><br>that repairs are carried out to the High Street<br>Public Convenience at a cost of £1,305.88 to<br>be funded from Cost Centre 14, Budget no.<br>7134.  |

| 4  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 42a) | Application No: P/HOU/2021/01609Proposal: Erect single storey extension.Location: The Cottage, Turners Lane,Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4BGGillingham Town Council recommendsapproval.  |
|----|---|---|
| 5  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 42b) | <ul> <li>Application No <u>P/PAOD/2021/02561</u></li> <li>Proposal: Change of use of building from Office (Class B1(a)) to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3)</li> <li>Location: Lower Langham Barn, Langham Lane, Gillingham, SP8 5NU</li> <li>Gillingham Town Council has no comment.</li> </ul> |
| 6  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 42c) | Application No: P/FUL/2021/00876         Proposal: Construction of all-weather riding arena         Location: Mapperton Hill Farm, Mapperton Hill, Milton-on-Stour, SP8 5QG         Gillingham Town Council recommend approval.   |
| 7  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 42d) | Application No: P/FUL/2021/01413Proposal: Erection of entrance gates and<br>fenceLocation: Roman Court, Le Neubourg Way,<br>Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4DNGillingham Town Council are unable to<br>comment.  |
| 8  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 45a) | Gillingham Town Council adopts the Terms of<br>Reference for the Developer Engagement<br>Advisory Panel, as presented.  |
| 9  | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 45b) | Gillingham Town Council adopts the Terms of<br>Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-<br>committee, as presented.  |
| 10 | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 45c) | Gillingham Town Council adopts the Terms of<br>Reference for the Masterplan for the<br>Employment Areas of the Southern Extension<br>Task and Finish Group, as presented.   |
| 11 | Group Meeting of<br>Planning Committee<br>Members 09/08/2021<br>Item no. 46a) | Agenda items regarding Footpath 73 Diversion<br>Task and Finish Group is removed from future<br>planning agendas for the foreseeable future.  |

| 12 | Group Meeting of   | North Dorset Rugby Football Club Task and |
|----|--------------------|---|
|    | Planning Committee | Finish Group is disbanded.                |
|    | Members 09/08/2021 |   |
|    | Item no. 46b)      |   |

Minute no. 572

#### The Town Meadow Group (TMG)

#### Gillingham Town Meadow Report

#### Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

The Town Meadow Group Committee has two new Members David Ball and Raph Wolf. David Ball is now the new Booking Clerk, taking over from Mandy Greenwood who has left the committee, having moved away from Gillingham.

The Town Meadow has had less event bookings this year due to COVID; however, the regular weekly food and coffee trucks that visit have proved extremely popular. Recently, The Syrian Cuisine Food Company has had a pitch offering Syrian Cuisine twice weekly.

TMG have an agreement in place to lay on a supply of drinking water for refreshment stalls during events; this facility is offered via the Red Lion, who has kindly offered the tap to be installed on their premises on the back wall close to the Meadow. The tap will be locked to prevent misuse.

The Committee has agreed to allow a petanque course to be built for public use, this will be sited on the hard standing by the bollards separating the meadow from the Red Lion Car Park.

The boundary wall behind Scope has now been repaired.

The Great Get Together planned for June 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 was unfortunately cancelled due to the government guidelines on public gatherings, this event will be reorganised for next year.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 The Blue Bird Theatre will be holding two family performances in the afternoon and evening. Three Rivers Partnership will be sponsoring the event.

Minute no. 573(a)

#### Gillingham Town Council

#### 5-Year Plan sub committee

#### Lead: Councillor Paul Harris

#### 1. Current Progress

The subcommittee met in the Council chamber on 5 August to review the work done so far. Examples of the work completed to date (draft outline plan, supporting financial spreadsheets, supporting external documents) had been circulated before the meeting. The deputy town clerk, works manager and Councillor Kilcourse had developed a financial forecast for the first three of the next 5 years in respect of Play Areas. In depth discussions took place regarding the report, its contents, its format and its future use. Discussions also centred on information input to the plan from other subcommittees, future planning and programming of input, timing of and planning for, updates. Various additional inputs were recommended.

It was recognised that staff and councillor time was limited in August and September. Consequently the bulk of the forthcoming work would be circulated by email for comment. The Property subcommittee had agreed to provide input to the plan after its next meeting. This has now been received. Other committees have been approached for their input, due by 3 September.

#### 2. Future Work

The final draft of the 5-year plan will be worked up during the period 3 - 17September with all subcommittee members working through email. The draft will be circulated prior to the next meeting. It is intended that the final plan is agreed on 20 September and submitted to the September full council for endorsement.

#### 3. Next Meeting

The next meeting is 1PM 20 September 2021 at the Council Chamber.

#### 4. Recommendations

There are no recommendations this month.

Minute no. 573(b)

#### Gillingham Town Council

#### The Queens Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group

#### Author: Cllr Donna Toye

#### Meeting 1 held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 730pm Meeting 2 held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 730pm

In attendance: Julie Hawkins (apologies 17<sup>th</sup>) Serena Burgess Keith Wareham Sharon Cullingford John Kilcourse Donna Toye

Two meetings have now taken place with solid progress made, lists of local organisations are being compiled and tentative plans have commenced for a Civic Parade to be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.

Marshalls are being considered and all funding options are being looked into.

Next meeting: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 7.30pm

Minute no. 579

#### Mayor's Report

#### Community Volunteers Thank You Event – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Finally, an opportunity to gather our community volunteers together and thank them personally for all the time they gave, and work they did, for the community during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020. It was also an opportunity to introduce the new High Sheriff of Dorset to the volunteers and to councillors. Everyone enjoyed a cream tea, funded through a Lottery grant.

Thanks to all for their work during the pandemic and to staff and councillors involved in the organisation of the event.

#### Read Easy Garden Event – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

The second event of the afternoon was held in an outstanding garden in Gillingham. The charity provides mentors to encourage and help adults master the art of reading. I was invited to draw the winning ticket for the raffle. In all, a wonderful afternoon across two worthwhile events.

#### Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show – 18th – 19th August 2021

Our local Show was finally able to run this year, over two days rather than one, allowing visitors rather more space.

On day one I was invited to judge the trade stands in the Wessex Square and the craft and country stands in the Countryside Area. I spent many hours visiting each stand in both areas talking to stall holders, finding that many were local and were happy to be back selling to customers. Some had travelled a significant distance from out of the County to bring their stall to the show. It was a challenge selecting the stalls for the first, second and third awards for each area.

On the morning of day two I joined staff and councillors on the GTC stand. It was good to talk to our residents about the review of the neighbourhood plan and to get their input through the questionnaire. Thanks to all staff and councillors who worked on the GTC stand. It was well laid out and attracted many positive comments. The day was completed by attending the Show Presidents afternoon reception, where he thanked the shows sponsors and took the opportunity to recognise members of the Show team responsible for putting it all together.

Advanced news: During the speeches it became clear that there is every intention of reverting to a one day Show next year.

Full Council Meeting – 26th July 2021

Minute no. 580

#### Gillingham Ward Monthly Report Cllr Belinda Ridout – August 2021

**Local Events** - As covid restrictions continue to ease, there are an increased number of events being organised across the council area. While Dorset Council has no "right of Veto" for most events, it is ensuring that they go to a cross partnership Safety Advisory Group, where organisers are advised on what they should do to keep the public safe while running their events.

**Community Governance Review** is a legal process whereby the council will consult with those living in the area and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the parishes identified in the Review. From 5<sup>th</sup> August, people can give their comments to ensure Dorset's town and parish councils continue to reflect the communities they represent. DC wants to hear local people's views on whether their parish boundaries need changing; an alternative set up for small areas, i.e. parish meeting rather than a parish council; the parish divided into wards or existing wards need altering; or parishes grouped with other town/parish councils; should the number of town/parish councillors be changed or even their town/parish council's name. The questionnaire can be found on the DC website, paper copies available in local libraries, or by calling 01305 251010. Consultation open until 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Comments will be considered and draft recommendations prepared for Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Any changes to town/parish councils will be effective from May, 2024.

**Dorset Highways Gulley Fleet** – two new purpose built machines, a new gully cart (capable of holding 5,400 litres of water cleared from the road) and a 7.5 tonne jetter vehicle (capable of holding 2,700 litres of clear water) will be joining the fleet this summer to help keep roads clear of rainwater. These will provide greater capacity and efficiency and join the fleet of first responders to reports of flooding – with two towable units and two 7.5 tonne jetter vehicles now covering the council area. The mixed fleet approach ensures that, no matter the size of the road or its location, there is a drainage vehicle able to reach and clear any blocked gully.

**Summer Reading Challenge** – Already, 1000 children in Dorset have signed up in the last 3 weeks to the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge, in partnership with public libraries. This year, they have teamed up with WWF for the theme 'Wild World Heroes', inspiring children to explore ways of helping to save the planet. The challenge runs until 11<sup>th</sup> September and children aged between 4 and 11 years can sign up for free at their local library. There are also a fun range of accessible reading activities available to help keep families entertained over the school holidays. Visit

<u>www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk</u> for more information or sign up to take part at your local library or the Dorset Council website.

**<u>'Bus Back Better' -</u>** further to my previous report on the Government's new National Bus Strategy for England, launched March 2021, members received a very interesting briefing and I highlight a few points below. 'Bus Back Better' is the most significant change for local bus services in England (outside London) since deregulation in 1986. It aims to rejuvenate local bus services, making them:

- More attractive for passengers;
- More affordable;
- Easier to understand and use;
- Faster and more reliable;
- Greener.

The vision is:

- integrated services and ticketing across transport types;
- Simpler fares with daily price caps;
- £20m rural mobility fund to create more demand-response services;
- Decarbonising the transport system with electric and hydrogen buses.

The emphasis is on partnership working and Dorset Council, as the Local Transport Authority (LTA), has chosen the 'Enhanced Partnership' option and will be working with bus operators in a Statutory Partnership to define bus networks, service levels and fares strategies. All LTA's to develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), setting out how their vision and objectives are to be delivered, to be submitted to the DfT October 21 (challenging timescale!) with statutory consultation November 21. The Enhanced Partnership will be legally enforceable from April 22.

The Department for Transport (DfT) requires the BSIP to be ambitious in it's aims, objectives and targets, taking action on 5 key areas:

- Networks and services
- Fares
- Ticketing and paying use of smart card or mobile phone app to remove fuss of working out routes and tickets.
- Passenger facilities
- Bus priority measures

The DfT has identified key areas where improvements and joint working are required by all stakeholders, i.e.: community transport providers, rail operators (and Network Rail), passenger transport action groups, bus passengers, local businesses and tourism organisations, young people and people with disabilities, social and health service teams and education transport providers and organisers.

It came across that the emphasis is on People first, places and activity. How this all pans out we shall see but it is important for everyone to get their views across and members have been asked to put their ideas forward as to what they think should be included in the BSIP. So please forward any ideas you may have to feed into the draft plan.

Stage one of the BSIP will be to collect data to understand the current network (including registered local bus services, community bus services and other bus services for a holistic approach) and to identify any data gaps. Stakeholders will be engaged to help fill data gaps and list their priorities.

Stage two to focus on:

- A significant increase in bus priority;
- Fares must be more affordable with seamless, integrated local ticketing between operators across all types of transport
- More demand-responsive services and 'socially necessary' transport
- Modern buses and decarbonisation
- Give bus passengers more of a voice
- The local bus network is presented as a single system that works together with clear passenger information
- Bus services should be safe and perceived to be safe by all
- Intensive service and investment on key corridors and routes that are easier to understand.

Stage three is the final stage of realising the National Bus Strategy across England, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April, 22, very ambitious indeed!! The Enhanced Partnership is the legally binding agreement put in place following the BSIP submission and approval by the DfT.

A critical part of Dorset Council's response to government is the development and submission of a Bus Service Improvement Plan and input from bus users is an important part of the plan. But Dorset Council also wants to hear from people who currently do not use buses to understand why they don't and also from private and voluntary organisations who have an interest in making Dorset's bus services work better. A survey has been launched to find out how local bus services can be improved and what would make more people use them. Have your say by completing the 'Bus Back Better' survey on line under Bus Service Review Survey or email: <u>busbackbetter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u> or phone 01305 228227 for alternative ways. Please also forward any comments to myself (see my contact details below).

**<u>Right to Vote</u>** – Dorset residents are being asked to check their electoral registration details are correct to make sure they retain their right to vote in future elections and referendums.

Households will start receiving letters from Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> August. Any residents who have questions can contact the council's elections team on 01305 838299.

**Pringles tubes and other paper containers with metals ends** – Dorset Council, in partnership with the alliance for Beverage Cartons & the Environment (ACE UK), is launching a new recycling service for paper containers with metal ends, such as Pringles tubes, hot chocolate, nuts and other products. Local residents can now recycle these containers alongside food and drink cartons at existing specialist recycling banks located at household recycling centres (HRC's) and in car parks across Dorset.

**Transforming Dorset's Verges into wildlife havens** – as part of the popular 'Love Your Verge' campaign, a countywide collaboration between our Coast and Greenspace Service and Litter Free Dorset, DC has published a series of videos to explain the approach to roadside management in Dorset, explaining the methods used to create a better environment for wildflowers to thrive, which is important for attracting pollinators. The campaign encourages residents and visitors to value verges and open spaces and you may have seen blue 'hedgehog' signs situated in specific locations around the county, explaining how open spaces are individually managed due to specific local habitat, while aiming to reduce incidents of littering. Where safe, verges are cut less often and methods are used to increase biodiversity. This approach saves money and reduces carbon emissions, but will also help to slow the growth rate of verges over time. However, verge maintenance prompts many questions and comments, some people preferring well kept, neat verges, other love the wilder looking verge. Safety remains the top priority, so the approach aims to strike a balance between cutting verges regularly where needed for visibility and working to protect and enhance Dorset's natural environment, forming part of the council's work to mitigate the declared Climate and Ecological Emergency.

<u>Two New Parking Permits for Dorset Residents</u> – following feedback from residents, town and parish councils, businesses and other stakeholders, two new parking permits are to be introduced, as well as changes to proposed charges in Dorset car parks: **Pop & Shop –** flexible permit, allowing the holder to park in the majority of short stay car parks across the whole of the DC area for 2 hrs every day of the week. Can be purchased annually for £78 a year (£1.50 per week). Perfect for those who like to make regular visits to their local high street or town/village centre. This will help to support local high streets, post Covid pandemic.

**Live, Work & Play** - flexible permit, can be used in the majority of long and short stay car parks cross the whole DC area. Maximum stay times in short stay car parks will still apply. This permit is ideal for residents who need to park for work, leisure activities, or for those with no residential parking. Proposed cost: £260 a year (£5 a week), with a monthly payment option of £25 a month. Existing parking permits currently in use will remain valid until their expiry date. On-street residents' permits are unaffected. People who wish to comment on the latest plans can email:

parkingtransformation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Once finalised, the **proposals will be introduced January 2022**.

Cllr. Belinda Ridout, Councillor for Gillingham Ward <u>Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u> 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: <u>communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u>. All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk