



## GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

### FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023** at The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, commencing at 7.30pm.

#### **Present:**

Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Mayor  
Cllr Barry von Clemens, Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Graham Bashford  
Cllr Fiona Cullen  
Cllr Rupert Evill  
Cllr Alan Frith  
Cllr Paul Harris

Cllr Mick Hill  
Cllr Sarah Snook  
Cllr Donna Toye  
Cllr Alison von Clemens  
Cllr Mark Walden  
Cllr Roger Weeks

#### **In attendance:**

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins  
Projects and HR Admin Officer, Serena Burgess  
1 member of the public

**1014. 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.

**1015. To receive apologies for absence.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Potheary and Cllr Poulter who were unable to join the meeting for personal reasons.

**1016. 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 interest.

**1017. To receive questions pertaining to the previous minutes.**

There were no questions.

- 1018. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the Full Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and the Extra-ordinary Full Council meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and the Extra-ordinary Full Council minutes on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Cllr Toye abstained from voting.

- 1019. To receive, consider and adopt the following standing committee reports:**

- a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 3 April 2023.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 3 April 2023 are approved and adopted.

- b) Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 are approved and adopted.

Cllr Snook abstained from voting.

- c) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 are approved and adopted.

Cllr Toye abstained from voting.

- 1020. To approve payments of £10,000 and over.**

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

- 1021. To receive and consider a Health and Safety Report.**

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

- 1022. To receive and consider reports from sub-committees and task and finish groups, as follows:**

**a) Sports and Leisure Task and Finish Group (Lead Member - Cllr Cullingford)**

There has been no meeting.

**1023. To receive and consider reports from outside bodies, if available:**

**a) Town Meadow Group**

Cllr Cullingford reported the successful opening of the pétanque court which was funded by Section 106 developer funding.

**b) DAPTC Larger Towns**

There has been no meeting.

**c) DAPTC Northern Area Town and Parish Councils**

There has been no meeting. The next meeting is planned for June.

**d) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce**

There has been no meeting. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 10 May.

**e) Gillingham Transport Forum**

Cllr B von Clemens reported that the Forum is waiting for an update from the bus companies.

**f) Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership**

Cllr Walden reported that the first meeting of 2023 will be taking place on 2 May.

**1024. To appoint a councillor to verify bank reconciliations for the next quarter (March to May 2023), as per Financial Regulations, para 2.2. Please note: the person nominated cannot be the Chairman (Mayor) or a cheque signatory. Full Council.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Walden is appointed to verify bank reconciliations for the next quarter (March to May 2023), as per Financial Regulations, para 2.2.

**1025. To receive and considered requests for free room hire.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a request for free room hire from The Rendezvous is approved for the Town Bridge Office for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**1026. To receive a report on the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's civic activities.**

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

The report was noted.

**1027. To receive and note reports from Dorset Councillors, if available.**

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

The report was noted.

**1028. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting.**

Cllr Cullingford shared the following information:

- a) A schedule for Councillors taking part in the Coronation events on 7 May.
- b) A letter from the Carnival Committee regarding the road closures for Gillingham Carnival on Saturday 7 October.
- c) Correspondence from Dorset Council regarding a consultation on the following, to provide guidance on how climate change is taken into account in planning applications and decisions:
  - Interim guidance and position statement
  - Sustainability checklist
  - Amendment to Paragraph 39 of the Dorset National and Local List of Requirements
  - Listed buildings – what you can do for climate changeThe consultation is running from 20 April to 8 June 2023. You can view the draft documents and comment online at:  
[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-for-climate-change](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-for-climate-change)
- d) Correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding a Wedding Fair being held at the Town Hall on Sunday 14 May to promote the Civic Hall as a wedding venue.
- e) Correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding a Defibrillator Training session being run by South Western Ambulance Service on 26 April at Gillingham Bowling Club. The session starts at 7pm and places are still available.
- f) Correspondence from Dorset Council regarding a formal public notice in respect of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), which is shortly being published in the local press. It was noted that this is a consolidation of all existing parking restrictions across Dorset and update on-street parking tariffs, there will be no changes to the provisions on street as a result of this Order and no material change to any of the existing on street parking restrictions.

- g)** Details of a Coffee Morning being held at the Town Hall on 19 May at 10.30 am in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity.
- h)** Cllr Cullingford reminded members that this was her last meeting of Full Council as Mayor and she took the opportunity to thank members for their support, stating how proud she is of the town council.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm

**Gillingham Town Council**

**Mayor’s Report**

**Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Mayor of Gillingham**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, I attended Sherborne Civic Day with Cllr Roger Weeks. We enjoyed a walking tour of the town, followed by a tour of Sherborne Abbey where we received a very informative talk about the history of the abbey by one the Abbey attendants. After a buffet lunch at the Community Room next to the library we walked to Sherborne Boys school and had another very informative guided tour by the school’s custodian.



Cllr Cullingford, Mayor of Gillingham with Cllr Pentolle, Mayor of Sherborne



Sherborne Abbey



Alan Turing statue, former pupil of Sherborne School



On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, by kind Invitation of Cllr Duncan Sowry-House and his partner Mr Scott Florek, we enjoyed a Civic Celebration of Service at St Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen. We were joined by The High Sheriff, Colin Weston MBE JP and his wife, Dorset Council Chairman, Cllr Val Pothecary and her escort Graham Iszatt, Dorset Council Leader Spencer Flower and his escort Cllr Toni Coombes.

Cllr Barry Von Clemens, Deputy Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Duncan Sowry-House, Mayor of Corfe Mullen and Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Mayor of Gillingham.

Full Council – 24 April 2023

Minute no. 1027

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**Gillingham Ward Monthly Report  
Cllr Belinda Ridout – April 2023**

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter break and was able to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

**RiversMeet Leisure Centre, Gillingham** – RiversMeet is one of 200 community organisations now reaping the reward of reduced energy bills with the help of low energy schemes installed by Low Carbon Dorset since 2018.

In 2019 RiversMeet received a grant of £130,000 to help pay for a state-of-the-art heat pump system for the swimming pool and have reduced the amount of energy used by just under 20%, saving around £45,000 a year in energy costs. This is great news and has helped this popular facility through a few very difficult years.

Funding for the £17million Low Carbon Dorset programme has come from the European Regional Development Fund and the private sector. This funding came to an end at the end of March 2023 and applications for grants are now closed. However, businesses and community groups can still access free advice on how to improve energy efficiency and install renewable energy from the council's Low Carbon Dorset team:

[lowcarbodorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbodorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Family Hubs** – I was invited to an introduction to Family Hubs held at Gillingham Library on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March by Dorset Council Family Services.

Department for Education funding over 2 years will enable Dorset Council to set up Family Hubs across the council area, with the aim of creating a clear and simple way to access physical or virtual help. This is aimed at families with 0-18 year olds or 25 if special education needs or disabilities (SEND).

The hubs will be drop-ins offering help with social, emotional, physical and financial problems. A bespoke service to the community, working with existing groups and organisations such as the local medical practice, schools and youth organisations/groups, to give the right help at the right time.

Hubs in towns will use existing public premises, eg libraries or youth buildings, whilst villages can be served by a pop-up/outreach session in the local village hall. The aim is to have a network of hubs in place by March 2024.

**£4.3 Home Upgrade Grant** - Dorset Council, BCP Council and Public Health Dorset have been awarded £4.3 by central government to upgrade homes and off-grid households with energy efficiency measures.

The scheme will provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating via local authority funding to households in England that are low income, off the gas grid or have an Energy Performance Certificate between D and G.

Dorset Council will let everyone know who is eligible for receiving support and how to apply. More information can be found online: [Healthy Homes Dorset](#) or visit the [gov.uk](#) website.

**Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF)** – Low-income households in the Dorset Council area will be able to apply for the next round of the HSF to help with rising costs.

There will be six application windows spread over 6 months, to allow more residents to have a chance to apply. Criteria: an annual household net income of less than £30,000; savings of less than £16,000 and have not applied for a previous HSF payment within the last 6 months. Email [hsf@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:hsf@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or 01305 221000. Full details can be found online at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Takeover Challenge 2023 – 3-14<sup>th</sup> July** - Dorset Council is looking for decision makers to offer spaces and opportunities for young people in Dorset aged 11+, focussing especially on children in care, care leavers, young carers and those with special education needs or disabilities.

If you can offer a young person the opportunity and challenge to help make decisions in your role and in your work, eg. help you make decisions in planning an event, chair a meeting with your support, or influence your work from a young person's perspective, email [youthvoice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:youthvoice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) for information or to express an interest.

**Dorset Council and Litter Lotto** – have joined forces to launch a new initiative aimed at tackling littering and rewarding citizens who are doing their part to keep their area looking tidy.

Users of the LitterLotto app in Dorset will be given the opportunity to win an additional £100 each month, on top of the £1,000 weekly jackpot and spot prizes already available. The LitterLotto app encourages people to dispose of litter properly with the chance to win a prize on each submission. Each entry goes into a draw for the weekly and monthly jackpots. A Sherborne resident recently won £100 by using the LitterLotto!

**Community Cup Scheme** – Litter Free Dorset is working with event organisers across the county to help make events as sustainable as possible by encouraging event organisers to consider the waste hierarchy, prioritising re-use over recycling in order to reduce waste and prevent litter.

The Litter Free Dorset website contains useful event guides to help make your event as sustainable as possible. The Community Cup Scheme enables local event organisers to borrow re-usable cups, helping to reduce single-use plastics, reduce waste and encourage more people to re-use. Email [litterfreedorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:litterfreedorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) for more information or advice.

**RU OK?** – A recent survey carried out by Dorset Youth found that over 40% of young people in Dorset didn't know, or weren't sure how, to access mental health services. RUOK? Is a new campaign launched by Dorset's Suicide Prevention Group, highlighting the wide range of mental health support available to children and young people in Dorset, including 24/7 crisis support, NHS services and support provided by local charities.

**CALL: Dorset's round-the-clock mental health helpline** for all ages, call free: 0800 652 0190.

**TEXT: Free, confidential text messaging service.** Text **SHOUT** to 85258 any time, day or night.

**CHAT ONLINE - Kooth**, online wellbeing support for children and young people aged 11-18, including a live chat.

**SEARCH: Dorset Youth** – find mental health and emotional support services for children and young people in Dorset.

**Belinda Ridout, Councillor for the Gillingham Ward**

[Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) **07496 413114**

**For those residents not online 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](mailto:communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>**