



## GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

### FULL COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021** at The Olive Bowl, Brickfields Business Park, Gillingham commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

Cllr Paul Harris, QGM  
Cllr Sharon Cullingford  
Cllr Alison von Clemens  
Cllr Barry von Clemens  
Cllr Rupert Evill  
Cllr Mike Gould

Cllr Mick Hill  
Cllr Graham Poulter  
Cllr Val Potheary  
Cllr John Robinson  
Cllr Donna Toye

**In attendance:**

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins  
Responsible Financial Officer, Debra Edwards  
Project Administrator, Serena Burgess

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

Cllr Fiona Cullen  
Cllr Alan Frith  
Cllr John Kilcourse  
Office Manager, Jill Ezzard  
Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

**545. 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.

**546. To receive apologies for absence.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Cllr Fiona Cullen, Cllr Alan Frith, Cllr Dennis Griffin, Cllr John Kilcourse, Cllr Keith Wareham and Cllr Roger Weeks who were unable to attend due to personal reasons.

Cllr Cullen, Cllr Frith and Cllr Kilcourse joined the meeting via MS Teams; however, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 they were not permitted to vote.

**547. 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.

**548. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting of the Full Town Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Full Town Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as a true and accurate record. The chairman duly signed the minutes.

**549. Questions.**

There were no questions.

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

**a) HR Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 are approved and adopted.

**b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 are approved and adopted.

**551. 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 [Appendix A](#).

**552. 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.

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

**a) Town Meadow Group**

There was nothing to report.

**b) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix C](#). There were no recommendations.

**c) Gillingham Youth Club Management Committee**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix D](#). There were no recommendations.

**554. To receive, consider and approve draft Terms of Reference for the following sub-committees and task and finish groups reporting to Full Council:**

**a) Dorset Council Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group**

Draft terms of reference were circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix E](#).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the draft Terms of Reference for the Dorset Council Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group, as presented, are approved, and adopted.

**b) Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee**

Draft terms of reference were circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix F](#).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the draft Terms of Reference for the Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee, as presented, are approved and adopted.

**c) The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group**

Draft terms of reference were circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix G](#).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the draft Terms of Reference for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group, as presented, are approved and adopted.

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

**a) Dorset Council Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix H](#). There were no recommendations.

**b) Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee**

Cllr Harris, Lead Member, informed the meeting that a lot of background work is currently being carried out, particularly with regards to s106 funding and play areas.

**c) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix I](#). There were no recommendations.

**556. To receive an update on the Community Volunteer Thank You event**

Cllr Cullen gave a brief update on the event which is being held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July at the Olive Bowl in Gillingham.

**557. To consider and agree to disband the Community Volunteer Event Task and Finish Group.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to disband the Community Volunteer Event Task and Finish Group from 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

**558. To receive, consider and agree a Service Level Agreement for Data Protection Officer Provision.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Service Level Agreement for Data Protection Officer Provision with One West for the period 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with the addition of the wording "plus VAT" after the total cost.

**559. To receive, consider and approve the draft Quarterly Newsletter (Summer Edition), prior to circulation.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Quarterly Newsletter for circulation.

**560. To consider closing the Town Hall to the public on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August to enable staff to man the town council stand at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.**

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to close the Town Hall to the public on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**561. 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 [Appendix J](#).  
The report was noted.

**562. 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 K](#).

**563. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. 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).**

There were no matters pertinent.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 551

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**Gillingham Town Council**

**Payments over £10,000 – 14<sup>th</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total including VAT where applicable</b>
7/7/2021	PJ & CM Froud	Fencing – Weatherby Rd & Marlott Rd Play areas	£19,644.00

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 552

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**Gillingham Town Council**
**List of decisions made under the  
Temporary Scheme of Delegation during July 2021**
**Author: Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk**

**Note:** The Temporary Scheme of Delegation was agreed by Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, minute number 472

Item no.	Consultation Process	Decision(s) Made
1	Group Meeting of General Purposes Committee Members held on 05/07/21. Item no. 5 (e)	<p>That a small area of tarred path is installed at the entrances to the play area at Marlott Road and Weatherby Road at a cost of £1,875 ex VAT. To be funded from Play Areas, Marlott Rd, budget no. 5316</p> <p>That a virement of £12,068 is made from budget no. 5316 Marlott Road to budget no. 5031 Play Areas, General Maintenance as the Marlott Road Play Area project is now complete.</p> <p>That the cost of a replacement multi-play unit, including installation costs, for Weatherby Road Play Area is investigated.</p> <p>That a replacement post and rail fencing is installed on the public open space at Hawthorne Avenue at a cost of £984.50, excluding VAT, to be funded from Estate Management, General Maintenance, budget no. 5061</p> <p>That a replacement metal fence, painted green, is installed around the perimeter of the recreational area known as the Gillings at a cost of £5,036.97, ex VAT to be funded from Play Areas, General Maintenance, budget no. 5031.</p>

		That Gillingham Town Council does not seek to acquire the ownership or responsibility for the balancing pond at Barnaby Mead.
2	Group Meeting of General Purposes Committee Members held on 05/07/21. Item no. 5 (i)	That GTC has no objections to the Stopping-up Order proposed by Dorset Council.
3	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of refusal: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/FUL/2020/00313</a> <b>(amended)</b> <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of 2 No. apartments and associated car parking. <b>Location:</b> Stone House, High Street, Gillingham, Dorset
4	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of refusal: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/VOC/2021/01172</a> <b>Proposal:</b> Variation of conditions 1 & 4 of planning permission 2/2020/1212/FUL to amend approved plans & the wording of condition 4. <b>Location:</b> Colesbrook Farm, Purns Mill Lane, Colesbrook, SP8 4HJ
5	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of approval: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/HOU/2021/01025</a> <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of extension to garage. <b>Location:</b> 18 Lodbourne Green, Gillingham, SP8 4EH
6	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of approval: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/HOU/2021/01070</a> <b>Proposal:</b> Convert and extend garage to form additional living accommodation. <b>Location:</b> Orchard House, Bay Road, Gillingham, SP8 4EP
7	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of approval: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/FUL/2021/01199</a> <b>Proposal:</b> Replace existing windows with french doors on south elevation. Provide canopies to south and west elevations <b>Location:</b> The Filling Station, 2 Lower Station Road, Gillingham, SP8 4QA



8	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Recommendation of approval: <b>Application No:</b> <a href="#">P/HOU/2021/01377</a> <b>Proposal:</b> Erect double garage and workshop (demolish existing garage) <b>Location:</b> The Auburns, Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, SP8 4LL
9	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Footpath 73 Diversion Task and Finish Group.
10	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Footpath to North Dorset Rugby Football Club Task and Finish Group.
11	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Conservation Enhancement Plan Task and Finish Group
12	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Amalgamation of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee and the Station Road Masterplan Task and Finish Group.
13	Group Meeting of Planning Committee Members 12/07/21	Authorisation that the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee can spend up to a maximum of £7,500 from Cost Centre 17, Budget No. 7617 (Neighbourhood Plan) on professional and other expenses in furthering the neighbourhood plan review.

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 553(b)

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**Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

**Notes of a meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Author: Cllr Barry von Clemens**

- The committee gave their reports
- It was decided that with the change in the COVID regulations, the Chamber should resume its networking meetings with the first one to be held in September 2021.
- It was decided that the Chamber should looking into the possibility of resuming the breakfast meetings. These meeting ceased around 3 years ago. It was thought that these meetings did offer a good networking opportunity to members. This will be looked into further at the September meeting.
- There is no August meeting and the next meeting of the committee will be scheduled for September.

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 553(c)

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### **Gillingham Youth Club**

#### **Notes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Author: Cllr Barry von Clemens**

- The committee gave their reports
- The youth club continues to offer 2 building-based youth club sessions per week on a Wednesday and a Thursday. The senior youth worker reported that those attending these sessions are clearly benefiting and it is anticipated that numbers will return to the normal level in September with the current members returning and also the new intake from the year 6s that will becoming eligible to attend.
- The planned young leader training had to be put on hold due self-isolation for some of those attending. This training has been rescheduled.
- The community engagement pilot project in partnership with Sovereign Housing Association has now had the start date moved back to October 2021. This project is designed to help young people engage with the community by doing tasks that benefit the town but also offer a learning opportunity. The youth club is to engage with several community groups in the town including Gillingham Town Council.
- A summer youth club is to be provided two mornings a week on Mondays and Fridays from 10:30-12:30. Information about these days has been sent out via the schools and there has been a good uptake. There is, at the present, a pre book system to ensure that the club does not exceed its max numbers.
- From September 2021 it is hoped that the regulations will still enable the youth club to return to its regular delivery of service twice a week on a Wednesday for year 8 and on a Thursday for years 6-7. It is also hoped that the youth workers will at this stage be able to look at the possibility of developing a third night.
- The youth club has decided that masks will no longer be compulsory as per the guidance of the National Youth Agency whose guidance has been followed throughout the pandemic. The building has the capacity to be very well ventilated and numbers will enable people to remain safe. Those who wish to continue to wear a face covering will have that wish respected at all times.

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 554(a)

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**Dorset Council Community Governance Review  
Task and Finish Group**

**Terms of Reference**

1. All members of the Task and Finish Group must abide by the Gillingham Town Council's Code of Conduct.
2. The Task and Finish Group does not have any delegated powers.
3. Membership of the Task and Finish Group will be reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting in May.
4. Any member of the town council, a member of the public or member of staff can be co-opted on to the Task and Finish Group.
5. Members of the Task and Finish Group should elect a lead member.
6. The Task and Finish Group will meet as and when deemed necessary by the lead member.
7. The lead member of the Task and Finish Group will produce and submit regular written reports to Full Council with recommendations including budgetary and financial implications, when necessary.
8. In conducting research, the Task and Finish Group may liaise with Dorset Council Officers, or any other person or body it deems appropriate, and will report all findings to Full Council.
9. The Task and Finish Group will look at the following subjects:
  - Increasing or decreasing the number of councillors;
  - creating ward boundaries or changing existing warding arrangements, and
  - correcting minor boundary anomalies.

Reviewed: 26/07/21

Adopted by the Full Council

26/07/21 Minute no. 554(a)

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 554(b)

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**Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee**

**Terms of Reference**

1. All members of the subcommittee must abide by the Gillingham Town Council's Code of Conduct.
2. The subcommittee does not have any delegated powers.
3. Membership of the subcommittee will be reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting in May.
4. Any member of the town council, a member of the public or member of staff can be co-opted on to the subcommittee.
5. Members of the subcommittee should elect a lead member.
6. The subcommittee will meet as and when deemed necessary by the lead member.
7. The lead member of the subcommittee will produce and submit regular written reports to Full Council with recommendations including budgetary and financial implications, when necessary.
8. The subcommittee will work to produce a Five Year Action Plan which prioritises the work of the Town Council.
9. The subcommittee will liaise with all officers and the standing committees of the town council to set out what projects the town council intends to deliver, in addition to its ongoing service delivery, in order to assist with annual budget setting and enable long term financial planning.

Reviewed: 26/07/21

Adopted by the Full Council

Date: 26/07/21, minute no. 554(b)

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 554(c)

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**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group**

**Terms of Reference**

1. All members of the Task and Finish Group must abide by the Gillingham Town Council’s Code of Conduct.
2. The Task and Finish Group does not have any delegated powers.
3. Membership of the Task and Finish Group will be reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting in May.
4. Any member of the town council, a member of the public or member of staff can be co-opted on to the Task and Finish Group.
5. Members of the Task and Finish Group should elect a lead member.
6. The Task and Finish Group will meet as and when deemed necessary by the lead member.
7. The lead member of the Task and Finish Group will produce and submit regular written reports to Full Council with recommendations including budgetary and financial implications, when necessary.
8. The Task and Finish Group will investigate appropriate ways in which to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
9. In conducting research, the Task and Finish Group may liaise with local groups, organisations and businesses, or any other person or body it deems appropriate, and will report all findings to Full Council.

Reviewed: 26/07/21

Adopted by the Full Council

Date: 26/07/21, minute no. 554(c)

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 555(a)

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**Gillingham Town Council**

**Dorset Council Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group**

**Author: Cllr Barry von Clemens**

Notes of a meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

Present: Cllr Val Potheary  
Cllr Barry von Clemens

1. It was decided that Cllr Barry von Clemens should be lead member
2. The task and finish group looked at the information that had been provided by Dorset Council regarding community governance and identified two points:
  - The councillor to elector's ratio in the Ham Ward and the Rural Ward, and
  - the boundary between Gillingham Parish and the Stours parishes.

The group will now look at the ratio of councillors to electors, in order to establish if there is a fair division and if the number exceeds that of other wards. There may be a case for additional councillors.

The boundary of the two parishes of Gillingham and the Stours may run across some of the proposed southern development, it was therefore decided that this will be established and if so, a case could be put forward for the boundary to be adjusted to ensure that all the new builds are within the same parish.

There are no recommendations.

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 555(c)

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**Gillingham Town Council**

**Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group**

**Author: Cllr Donna Toye, Lead Member**

**Notes of a Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Meeting  
held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 7.30pm**

In attendance:

Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk  
Serena Burgess, Projects  
Administrator  
Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Cllr John Kilcourse  
Cllr Donna Toye  
Cllr Keith Wareham

Cllr Toye was appointed as lead member working closely with Cllr Wareham.

The national timetable for celebrations during the weekend of 2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was discussed and all members have begun the work of collating relevant information to ensure the Town Council is in a position to co-ordinate celebration events throughout this four day National Holiday.

The official listing can be found [here](#) and is summarised below.

Thursday 2nd June

Queens Jubilee Parade - no time announced

Platinum Jubilee Beacons - no time announced but likely to be evening

Friday 3rd June

Service of Thanksgiving - no time announced

Saturday 4th June

The Derby at Epsom - afternoon

Platinum Party at the Palace - live concert. no time announced but expected to be afternoon/evening

Sunday 5th June

The Big Jubilee Lunch - local community event

The Platinum Jubilee Pageant - no time announced but likely to be after the lunch

Recommendations – none at this point.

Next meeting: set for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 7.30pm

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Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 561

**Mayor’s Report**

**July 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Comments</b>
23 July 2021	Formal opening of the GTC Workshop at Roman Court	This was an opportunity to meet with councillors and staff plus their partners, and some invited residents who responded to our original consultation in 2020. The development of the workshop was explained in a short tour of the site and was well received by attendees.

Full Council Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Minute no. 562

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## Gillingham Ward Monthly Report

**Cllr Belinda Ridout – July 2021**

**‘Bus Back Better’** - in response to the government’s new National Bus Strategy, which aims to make bus services more attractive, cheaper, easier to use, faster, more reliable and greener, Dorset Council is developing a **Bus Service Improvement Plan** (BSIP). The plan will be a collaboration with local bus operators, community groups, business groups, and with passengers themselves. DC has reviewed the options that Dorset has through the National Bus Strategy. The preferred approach is to develop an enhanced Partnership for the council area. This is an agreement between the council and local bus operators to work together to improve local bus services. It requires an agreed vision of improvements and an action plan that will form the BSIP, with five key areas: Networks and services, Fares, Ticketing, Passenger facilities and Bus priority measures. One of the main aims is to raise the perception of bus travel, generating a shift away from private cars which in turn will help the environment, combined with decarbonisation of the local transport fleet. It is an important opportunity to put your views forward for the Gillingham area. More details of how to be involved will be published shortly but you can register your interest and give your thoughts on this by emailing: [busbackbetter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:busbackbetter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

**Helping Dorset’s Care Leavers** – more than 65 new laptops have been provided to Dorset care leavers over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. These valuable laptops have helped young people leaving care, who do not have access to a laptop or tablet, to stay connected.

**Customer Service Points** – residents will be able to get information and advice from council services in person across the Dorset council area from Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July. To provide continued safety of customers and employees, a pre-booked appointments system will be in operation. Customer Service Opening Hours local to Gillingham:  
**Blandford** - Nordon Lodge, 58 Salisbury road, Blandford Forum DT11 7LN Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

**Dorchester** - Dorchester Library & Learning Centre, South Walks House, Charles Street, DT1 1EE. Open Monday, 10am-5pm, Tuesday, 9.30am-5pm, Wednesday, 9.30am-1pm; Thursday, 9.30am to 5pm and Friday, 9.30am-5pm.

**Customers can contact DC from anywhere in Dorset, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm by calling Dorset Direct on 01305 221000, or email: [customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or access services on line.**

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**Project Gigabit Broadband Survey** – Dorset is set to be one of the first areas in the UK to benefit from the Government’s Project Gigabit funding to bring gigabit-capable broadband (1,000Mbps) to households and businesses. Dorset Council has spoken to broadband suppliers about their commercial plans for Dorset but now need residents’ help to inform the government of the areas that could benefit from this investment. **Residents and businesses and other stakeholders are asked to complete a survey, (the Public Review),** to gain a thorough understanding of the current level of broadband provision in Dorset. When this has been completed, the government department, Building Digital UK, will begin a procurement exercise inviting broadband suppliers to bid for delivering gigabit capable connections to parts of Dorset. **To complete the survey go to 2021 (snapsurveys.com). Closing date for responses is 5pm on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

**Rail Travel** – New 2 and 3 day a week season tickets are now available. Please see link below for more information:  
[https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times\\_fares/ticket\\_types/flexi-season.aspx](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/ticket_types/flexi-season.aspx)

**Electric Vehicle Charge-points** - as part of Dorset Council’s commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2040, the Transport Planning Team have been working to develop the public electric vehicle charging network in Dorset. Its one of a number of measures in the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Action Plan. To date, 26 charge-points have been installed in 12 locations. A further 11 charge-points at 4 sites are currently under construction. Existing chargers at 5 Dorset car parks will be replaced with new rapid charge-points this summer. Dorset Council is looking for potential charge-point locations for the next phases of installations. Residents are asked to complete the online form found at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/electric-vehicle-charge-points](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/electric-vehicle-charge-points) and select: Suggest a new charge point location. Use ZapMap to see existing locations of all public charging points in Dorset.

**COVID update** – As at 23rd July, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 265.8 per 100,000 population (up from 153.5 the week before) and for BCP, 534.5 per 100,000 population (up from 247.6 the week before). There has been a rapid increase in Covid-19 cases across Dorset over the past week, particularly in the BCP council area. Case rates are highest amongst younger people, but cases are increasing across all age groups. The number of people in hospitals in Dorset has increased from 17 – 27 over the past week and seeing a small number of Covid-related deaths. **Please continue to do your bit – get vaccinated, get tested, self-isolate when required.**

**Asymptomatic LFD testing for priority Groups** – the new phase of the Department of Health & Social Care Community (asymptomatic) Testing Programme runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to end of September. To promote testing to underrepresented groups who are not currently accessing lateral flow device testing and those groups disproportionately affected by Covid-19. For example, people working in occupations where they are at high risk of exposure (hospitality industry), ethnic minority communities, those living in deprived areas or areas of high population density, the homeless community and those

engaged with drug and alcohol services. Public Health Dorset have commissioned four Agile Testing Units, to travel the county to provide education, supervised testing and home testing kits to the priority groups.

**Delay of Face-to-Face Council and Committee meetings** – council meetings were due to be held in person from 19<sup>th</sup> July, but due to increasing Covid-19 rates across Dorset, Dorset Council Cabinet and committee meetings will now be held informally and online until the end of September with members expressing a ‘minded to’ view and officers taking decisions under delegated authority. **This means that the Northern Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> July will now be held virtually, at 2pm.** This meeting will hear two Gillingham Applications: P/OUT/2020/00472, Land North of Common Mead Lane for up to 80 dwellings by Fairfax Acquisitions Ltd and P/OUT/2020/00495 Land to the South West of Lodden Lakes, New Road, for 115 dwellings (part of the Southern Extension) by Taylor Wimpey.

**New Dorset Council website** – this is now up and running. If you see anything wrong, please report to Dorset Council using the website feedback button at the foot of every page.

**The Diana Award** – Eight young people from Dorset have been awarded The Diana Award in recognition for their work in getting the voices of young people heard. They are all members of Dorset Youth Council, with two representing young people in Dorset as Members of the UK Youth Parliament. Each young person has made significant contributions to local projects and initiatives on behalf of young people in Dorset, including Dorset Youth Proof Charter and Dorset Youth Council Climate Pack.

**‘Summer in Dorset’** holiday programme for families across Dorset (free for families who receive benefit-related free school meals). More than 50 locations are offering 18,000 places across the DC area. If you know of someone who could benefit from this programme, details can be found on the DC website or you would like to volunteer to help deliver this programme, please email: [summerindorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:summerindorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or call 01305 252261.

**New Housing Allocation Policy** – a new Housing Allocation Policy is to be implemented very shortly, including a new online housing system for applying for social housing. There will be some changes to how people apply to join the register and to the assessment criteria. The current housing register closed on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Current applicants will need to re-register with the new system to remain on the register from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 in time for bidding to start on the new system on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021. This will ensure they keep their ‘effective date’ which is the date they originally joined the housing register but be subject to the new assessment criteria. Homeless referrals and applications will be accepted as normal.

All existing customers have been contacted to explain the new arrangements. There is a temporary telephone number for any re-registration queries: 01305 221739 or email: [dorsetcouncilhomechoice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetcouncilhomechoice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Environment Bill 2021** – This government Bill is scheduled to come into law in autumn this year. It is far reaching and does much to underpin the aspiration and plans of local government in dealing with climate and ecological concerns. The Bill also includes a section on the provision of waste, recycling and garden waste collections, seeking to create a universal system across all local authority area (at last some joined up thinking!!). DC is well ahead of many councils in the delivery of these services.

**New Funding for climate, nature and people in special landscapes** – Farmers and land managers in England’s National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB’s) will be given grants to make improvements to the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access. The 3-year programme, Farming in Protected Landscapes, opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July to support nature recovery, mitigate the effects of climate change and provide ways for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape. There will be around £500,000 to support projects in the Dorset AONB until the end of March 2022 and it is expected the scheme will continue until March 2024. A similar fund is also available in the Cranborne Chase AONB.

**Project Gigabit Broadband Survey** – Dorset is set to be one of the first areas in the UK to benefit from the Government’s Project Gigabit funding to bring gigabit-capable broadband (1,000Mbps) to households and businesses. **Residents and businesses and other stakeholders are asked to complete a survey, (the Public Review), to gain a thorough understanding of the current level of broadband provision in Dorset. To complete the survey go to 2021 (snapsurveys.com). Closing date for responses has been extended to 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

**Principal Street construction (Gillingham Southern Extension)** - work will shortly start on the construction of a new road (Principal Street) to support the southern expansion of Gillingham. The 1.3km long residential road is to be built between New Road and Shaftesbury Road, as well as allowing building construction access from Shaftesbury Road. It will have a 30mph speed limit and a shared footway/cycleway on both sides, street-lighting, parking spaces and green verges planted with trees to enhance its feel as a residential area. The road will be adopted by Dorset Council at the end of its construction with the council taking responsibility for its maintenance. There will be no through-access along the route until Welbeck Land Ltd has completed its first phase of development, which includes building the final junction at the eastern end of the Principal Street, onto Shaftesbury Road.

**Cllr. Belinda Ridout, Councillor For Gillingham Ward, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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](mailto:communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>