



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Monday 28th March 2022** at The Town Hall, Gillingham, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Paul Harris, QGM, Mayor
Cllr Alison von Clemens
Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Fiona Cullen
Cllr Rupert Evill
Cllr Mike Gould
Cllr Mick Hill

Cllr John Kilcourse
Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr Val Potheary
Cllr Mark Walden
Cllr Roger Weeks

In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins
Office Manager, Jill Ezzard
One member of the public

The following joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams:

Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Laura Ashfield
Cllr Alan Frith
Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

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

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor made the following statement regarding the situation in Ukraine: We are deeply saddened by the tragic events that continue to unfold in Ukraine. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine, their families and friends.

715. 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.

716. To receive apologies for absence.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Laura Ashfield, Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Cllr Alan Frith and Cllr Donna Toye who were unable to join the meeting in person due to personal reasons.

717. 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 disclosable pecuniary interests. Cllr Kilcourse declared a personal interest in Agenda item no. 9 as a member of Gillingham Rotary Club.

718. To receive questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

There were no questions.

719. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the last meeting of the Full Town Council held on 28th February 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 28th February 2022. The chairman duly signed the minutes.

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

a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 are approved and adopted.

b) Planning Committee Interim meeting held on Monday 28th February 2022 and Monday 14th March 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee Interim meeting held on Monday 28th February 2022 and Monday 14th March 2022 are approved and adopted.

c) HR Committee meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022 are approved and adopted.

d) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022 are approved and adopted.

721. To approve payments of £10,000 and over.

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

722. To receive and consider a Health and Safety Report.

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

723. To receive and consider a request from Gillingham Rotary Club for the use of Harding's Park on the evening of Thursday 2nd June for a Jubilee Celebration Beacon event.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the request for Gillingham Rotary Club to use Harding's Park on the evening of Thursday 2nd June for a Jubilee Celebration Beacon event. An event licence will be issued.

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

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group

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

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that final approval of the Souvenir Programme is delegated to the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

b) The Sports and Leisure Sub-committee

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

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Full Council grant permission for the Sports and Leisure Sub-committee to liaise with stakeholders in the investigation and delivery of sports pitches and a pavilion at the Park Farm site.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Full Council grant permission for the Sports and Leisure Sub-committee to share survey results and relevant evidence-based information with CG Fry Ltd, Dorset Council and Sport England.

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

a) Gillingham Town Team

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

The report was noted.

b) The Town Meadow Group

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

The report was noted.

726. To receive and consider the nominations for the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Gillingham for the Council Year 2022/23, as follows:

- **Town Mayor:**

Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Proposed by Cllr Graham Poulter and Seconded by Cllr Mick Hill.

It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** that subject to a resolution at the Annual Council meeting, Cllr Sharon Cullingford will be Mayor of Gillingham for the Civic Year 2022/23.

- **Deputy Mayor:**

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Proposed by Cllr John Kilcourse and Seconded by Cllr Mick Hill.

The Mayor asked if Cllr B von Clemens was still willing to stand for Deputy Mayor. Cllr B von Clemens confirmed that he was still willing to stand for Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Donna Toye, Proposed by Cllr Alan Frith and Seconded by Cllr Laura Ashfield.

The Mayor asked if Cllr Toye was still willing to stand for Deputy Mayor. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that unfortunately, Cllr Toye was unable to attend the meeting but had confirmed via email earlier in the day that she was still willing to stand for Deputy Mayor.

As Cllr Frith and Cllr Ashfield were both unable to attend the meeting in person, the Mayor asked for a proposer and seconder from those members present.

Cllr Gould proposed that Cllr Toye should be Deputy Mayor of Gillingham for the Civic Year 2022/23. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Poulter.

Three voting members voted in favour of Cllr Toye and eight voting members voted in favour of Cllr B von Clemens. Cllr B von Clemens abstained from voting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that subject to a resolution at the Annual Council meeting, Cllr B von Clemens will be Deputy Mayor of Gillingham for the Civic Year 2022/23.

727. To declare a vacancy for the Town Ward of Gillingham following the death of Cllr Keith Wareham

The Mayor informed the meeting that notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, that following the death of Cllr Keith Wareham, a vacancy now exists in the office of Councillor for the Town.

If within 14 days after the date of the notice (i.e., no later than 19th April 2022) a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made to the Returning Officer, Electoral Services, Dorset Council by ten electors who are registered in the Town Ward where the vacancy has arisen, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

It was noted that if an election is called, it will take place not later than 24th June 2022. Notices have been placed on public notice boards and on the council's website and social media platforms.

728. To review and adopt the Council's Risk Management Strategy and Assessment.

A draft Risk Management Strategy and Assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Council's Risk Management Strategy Revision 004 is approved and adopted.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Council's Risk Management Assessment, as presented, is approved and adopted.

729. To receive and approve the list of assets for FY2020/21.

A list of assets for FY2020/21 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the list of assets for FY2020/21 is approved and adopted.

730. To receive and approve the draft lease for the Registration Office at Gillingham Town Hall and witness the signatures of Cllr Harris and Cllr Poulter.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the draft lease for the Registration Office at Gillingham Town Hall.

Cllr Harris and Cllr Poulter signed the lease, witnessed by the Town Clerk and Office Manager.

731. To receive and approve the draft transfer of the proposed LEAP and LAP at Barnaby Mead and witness the signatures of Cllr Harris and Cllr Poulter.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the draft transfer of the proposed LEAP and LAP at Barnaby Mead is deferred until the next Full Council meeting.

732. To receive and consider a request from the residents of Maple Way to hold a Jubilee Party on the green owned by Gillingham Town Council on Sunday 5th June 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve a request from the residents of Maple Way to hold a Jubilee Party on the green owned by Gillingham Town Council on Sunday 5th June 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. An event licence will be issued.

733. To receive and consider the Quarterly Newsletter (Spring Edition), prior to circulation.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the newsletter is approved for circulation. The newsletter is available to view on the Town Council's website, [here](#)

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

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to [Appendix E](#). The report was noted.

735. 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 F](#).

The report was noted.

Cllr Potheary referred to the situation in Ukraine and informed members that she will be setting up a group for residents in Gillingham who have registered on the government website to take in refugees. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Cllr Potheary direct. Contact details are available [here](#)

736. 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).

The Mayor informed the meeting that Dorset Council is running a four-week consultation on School Transport Policies for 2022-23, with effect from **Monday 7th March 2022 to Sunday 3rd April 2022**. Details of the consultation will be available to view [here](#). Comments (both negative and positive) should be submitted by **Sunday 3rd April 2022**, either via email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, or by post - School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ. Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully, and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on **17th May 2022**.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 724(a)

Gillingham Town Council

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Task and Finish Group

Author: Cllr Donna Toye

The Task and Finish Group has met weekly throughout March to finalise the event line up and programme content. A draft programme is attached for information and feedback and includes the line-up for both local and national events.

Recommendation:

- **That final approval of the Souvenir Programme is delegated to the Mayor and the Town Clerk.**

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 724b

Gillingham Town Council

**Notes of a Sports and Leisure Sub-committee meeting
held at Gillingham Town Hall
on Thursday 10th March 2022 at 10am**

Author: Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk

Present:

Cllr Sharon Cullingford
Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Paul Harris
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Graham Poulter
Julie Hawkins, GTC Town Clerk
Debra Edwards, GTC Responsible Financial Officer
Andrew Galpin, Dorset Council Infrastructure and Delivery Planning Manager
David Lohfink, Land and Planning Director CG Fry and Son Ltd
Simon Coles, Director Tetra Tech Planning

Apologies: Cllr John Kilcourse and Cllr Roger Weeks.

Prior to the start of the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Sharon Cullingford should be the lead member of the GTC Sports and Leisure Sub-committee.

1. Introductions

Cllr Cullingford chaired the meeting and introduced the participants.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the sports and leisure requirements for the following development:

Planning Application no: 2/2018/0077/OUT

Location: Land at Park Farm, Kingsmead Business Park, Gillingham, Dorset.

Proposal: Develop land by the erection of up to 634 dwellings (use class C3), a primary school (use D1), sports pitches with floodlighting, public open space, play facilities, access and internal estate roads, internal footpaths and cycleways, sustainable drainage system with ponds, landscaping, utility connections and associated groundworks/infrastructure (Outline application to determine access only).

Simon Coles informed the meeting that he had co-ordinated the submission of the outline planning application and will be working on the technical pre-app work for the reserved matters application.

2. Review key provisions of S106

- **Sports Pitch Scheme including pavilion**

It was noted that the S106 agreement states that a “**Pavilion**” means a pavilion/ with changing rooms the total area of which shall be no less than 133m² GEA that shall be constructed to the Pavilion Specification to be constructed adjacent to the Sports Pitch in accordance with the Sports Pitch Scheme provided that nothing contained here shall require the owner to carry out works to deliver a pavilion which has an aggregate total cost of more than £800,000 (eight hundred thousand pounds).

It was noted that the S106 agreement states that “**Pavilion Contribution**” means a contribution in the sum of £800,000 (eight hundred thousand pounds) payable to the Council in lieu of constructing the Pavilion.

It was noted that the S106 agreement states that “**Pavilion Specification**” means the specification for the Pavilion which shall unless otherwise agreed comply with the Sports England Guidance for the requirements and needs of the type of Sports Pitch.

It was noted that the S106 agreement states that “**Sports Pitch**” means the sports pitch to be delivered in accordance with the Sports Pitch scheme.

It was noted that the S106 agreement states that “**Sports Pitch Scheme**” means a specification for the provision and maintenance of the Sports Pitch which shall (unless otherwise agreed in writing) accord with the Field in Trust Standard Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play England (current as at the date of the grant of the Planning Permission) and which for the avoidance of doubt shall include the Pavilion or such other changing rooms or other facilities as may be agreed between the Owners and the Council in writing. The Scheme shall include details of the exact location phasing and timing of delivery of the Sports Pitch including appropriate settlement periods and shall include the details of the standards to which the Sports Pitch and the Pavilion shall be constructed and arrangements for the long-term management and maintenance of the Sports Pitches and Pavilion

It was agreed that once a need has been established the design of the pitches and pavilion can begin.

Cllr Cullingford informed the meeting that as part of the Neighbourhood Plan review, a survey of Gillingham’s Sports Clubs had been carried out.

Cllr Cullingford outlined some of the survey responses. It was agreed that further consultation is needed before the size of the pitches can be considered.

Consideration was given to parking requirements however it was agreed that further consultation is required and once this has been completed, guidance can be obtained from Sports England.

- **Future management**

It was established that it is not the intention for the proposed sports pitches to be controlled by the proposed primary school as the primary school will be self-sufficient.

Various management options were discussed. It was agreed that the preferred option would be for the pitches to be available to community groups under the control of Gillingham Town Council and managed by a management company; however, evidence of need will be required before future management arrangements can be confirmed.

3. Key stakeholders in the process

The following key stakeholders were agreed:

- Gillingham Town Council
- CG Fry Ltd
- Dorset Council
- Sport England

4. Developer's timescales

It was noted that the S106 states that no more than 75% (seventy five percent) of the dwellings shall be occupied unless or until the sports pitch has been laid out in accordance with the sports pitch scheme; and the pavilion has been practically completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council provided that the owner and the Council may agree in writing that instead of constructing the pavilion the owner may instead pay the pavilion contribution to the Council.

5. Confirm agreed actions

The following actions were agreed:

- The Sports and Leisure Sub-committee will seek the approval of Full Council to liaise with stakeholders in the investigation and delivery of sports pitches and a pavilion at the Park Farm site.
- Andrew Galpin, Dorset Council Infrastructure and Delivery Planning Manager, will seek the advice of the Sports Development Team at Dorset Council.

- The Sports and Leisure Sub-committee will seek the approval of Full Council to share survey results and relevant evidence-based information with CG Fry Ltd, Dorset Council and Sport England.
- Once evidence of need is provided a sketched layout will be agreed.
- Once the sketched layout has been agreed, fact-finding site visits will be arranged.

6. Date of next meeting

Thursday 23rd June 10.30am at Gillingham Town Hall.

Recommendations:

- **That Full Council grant permission for the Sports and Leisure Sub-committee to liaise with stakeholders in the investigation and delivery of sports pitches and a pavilion at the Park Farm site.**
- **That Full Council grant permission for the Sports and Leisure Sub-committee to share survey results and relevant evidence-based information with CG Fry Ltd, Dorset Council and Sport England.**

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 725a

Town Team Report

Author: Ian Day and Councillor Mike Gould

- Cinema Group. We have identified an operating company interested in working with us to realise this ambition. The significant funding required will require continuing effort, but this is an improvement on the previous situation.
- BID feasibility. This continues with particular emphasis on strengthening the steering group with representatives of professional firms with admin capacity. Talks in this are due in early March.
- White Hart Market. A new local stall has been added. Compared to other similar markets WHM is considered to be a success. We still aim for more attractions to aid footfall.
- Gillingham Station. Work about to start advertising the Town Walks within the station.
- Links to Gillingham School. The school recognises that this is a two-way conversation and that it can do more to both promote itself within the Town and to be open to non-School initiatives via Town Team and others.
- Gillingham Youth collective. We are aiming to establish a strong working relationship with this important new initiative in the Town

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 725b

Town Meadow Report March 2022

Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

The Town Meadow Group can report that the new electricity meter box covers have been fitted. A new water tap has now been installed for use on the days when events are held.

There will be a Spring Workday on 2nd April. All volunteers should report at 10am to the Town Meadow.

A diary of events for the summer months has now been confirmed.

Some of the events to look forward to are listed below:

- Hidden Pizza returning on Friday Evenings
- 29th April 2022 - Loose Connections accompanied by Food Vendors
- 28th May 2022 - Grand Charity Plant Sale with Food Vendors
- 5th June 2022 - The Big Jubilee Lunch organised by Gillingham Rotary Club and Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury Lions Club.
- 11th June 2022 - Gillingham In Gear
- 16th July 2022 – Gillingham Town Meadow Fete
- 30th July 2022 - Blue Birds Theatre, children's entertainment in the afternoon and family theatre in the evening.
- 13th August 2022 - Mobile Crazy Golf. Picnics encouraged.

The Town Meadow committee invite all Councillors to the AGM on Wednesday 27th April at 7pm at the Vicarage School Room.

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 734

Gillingham Town Council**Mayor's Report March 2022****4th March 2022 – Tree Dedication, Queens Green Canopy, Rolls Bridge Open Space**

As part of the programme of planting four trees to celebrate the Queens Green Canopy (QGC) in her Platinum Jubilee Year, a number of Councillors joined the Deputy Mayor, myself and Val Potheary (attending in her position as Chair Dorset Council, as well as a Town Councillor) at Rolls Bridge Open Space to dedicate a pre planted tree to the QGC. Each of the four trees has an official plaque marking the occasion and each tree location is highlighted on the QGC website. Huge thanks to our grounds staff for ensuring that the tree was well planted, secured and protected and for ensuring the plaque was in place for the dedication. The final tree dedication will take place on 22 April 2022 at Shires Gate (see below).

5th March 2022 – High Sheriffs Visit to Gillingham

It was a pleasure to receive The High Sheriff of Dorset, Mr Michael Dooley MMs. FRCOG for his visit to Gillingham. We had initially set a programme which included a number of visits and lunch at Thorngrove Garden Centre. Ever flexible, we manipulated the time to meet a last-minute change to the High Sheriffs busy schedule, allowing him to make a further visit in Dorchester early afternoon.

After welcoming him to the Town Hall, I gave a short outline to the changed programme. With the Town Clerk leading, I escorted the High Sheriff to Gillingham High Street where we had arranged for him to meet the staff at Crockers where he was briefed on the history of the shop by the manager, David Flower. It was good to see Peter Crocker at the shop and to be able to introduce him, as one of our past Mayors and Freeman of Gillingham, to the High Sheriff. Whilst this "walkabout" took place, the Mayoress and Deputy Mayor moved to Hipp!!Bones ready to welcome the High Sheriff. We followed up our visit to Crockers with a short hop across the road to Dorset Tech where we were welcomed by Chris Ryu. Chris explained the concept behind Dorset Tech and briefed on the various projects that they are involved in.



Gillingham Mayor, Peter Crocker, High Sheriff and David Flower
Outside Crockers, High Street Gillingham. photo: Town Clerk



High Sheriff, Chris Ryu and Gillingham Mayor outside
Dorset Tech, tech bar, High Street Gillingham. Photo:Town Clerk

The party then took a leisurely stroll through the High Street, making their way to Hipp!!Bones where we re-joined the Mayoress and Deputy Mayor. We were met by Serena Burgess, briefed on the activities that take place during Saturday morning sessions at the club, met both paid staff and volunteers and most importantly met many of the club members. One fact that surprised many of us was that some members travel significant distances to join the activities – Bournemouth was one location.



High Sheriff meeting Hipp!!Bones staff photo: Town Clerk

A short drive to Thorngrove Garden Centre and the party were met by Charlotte White, CEO of the Centre and a director of Employ my Ability. We spent an interesting time in the glass houses at Thorngrove, being instructed on growing plants by Jay, a member supported by Employ my Ability. We were somewhat taken aback by the number of Centre employees which exceeds one hundred.



Gillingham Mayor, Charlotte White, Jay, High Sheriff and Deputy Mayor
Inside a greenhouse at Thorngrove photo: Town Clerk



High Sheriff being presented with a rose bush by Jay at the end
of the visit. photo: Town Clerk

Another short drive took us to Riversmeet where we were met by Alan Waistall. Alan provided a brief on the development of Riversmeet and then gave a short guided tour of the facility. The High Sheriff was impressed by the facility and the future plans.



High Sheriff showing off his exercise prowess



Mayor, Alan Waistall, High Sheriff and Deputy Mayor outside Riversmeet

After an interesting visit to the leisure centre, we returned the High Sheriff to the Town Hall and bid him farewell to his next appointment.

On 7th March 2022 I received the following email from the High Sheriff:

"What a fantastic day on Saturday. So well organised and such a diverse group. Wonderful and thank you. I really hope it has done a little to help promote the amazing organisations and charities that do so much for Gillingham which is a very special place. Thank you for inviting me and keep in touch. I have ccd Sibyl the High Sheriff in Nomination who takes over from 2/4 as it would be great for you to invite her to plant the tree we discussed

All my very best wishes

*Michael Dooley MMs. FRCOG
The High Sheriff of Dorset*

Whilst all our Queens Green Canopy (QGC) trees have now been planted (tree planting season finishes at the end of March), we have taken the opportunity to invite the new High Sheriff of Dorset, Sibyl King, to dedicate the final tree at Shires Gate to the QGC. This visit is planned for Friday 22 April 2022. A morning programme is being planned. Councillors are invited to meet with the new High Sheriff at Shires Gate. Full details will follow.

24th March 2022 – Funeral of Councillor Keith Wareham

It was with great sadness that Councillors became aware that Councillor Keith Wareham passed away on 1st March. Keith was an energetic and valued member of the Council, always bounding with ideas. His funeral took place on Thursday 24 March at Salisbury crematorium, with a wake held at the Royal Chase Hotel in Shaftesbury. Many Councillors attended, along with myself and the Mayoress.

26th March 2022 – Civic Day, Blandford Forum

Councillor Lee Hitchings, Mayor of Blandford Forum, held his Civic Day on Saturday 26th March. Assembling at the Blandford Fashion Museum at Lime Tree House in Blandford, a large number of Mayors, Mayoresses and Consorts were welcomed with tea and cake (required after such a long travel!) and an in-depth tour of the Fashion Museum by the very keen volunteers who keep this museum running. Lime Tree House is a Georgian property built after the Towns great fire in 1731. The museum achieved Arts Council accredited status in 2010. It has thirteen display spaces over two floors and its exhibitions explore the connection between fashion and social history through its displays of historic dress and textiles from the late 1700s up to 1989.

A short walk to the Corn Exchange was followed by a tour of the Community Expo. This was an event to allow Blandford Forum-based groups and organisations to promote and explain what they did to the public. This year they were showcasing local groups offering opportunities for health, sport, recreation, culture and wellbeing in the Blandford area.

This visit was followed by a short visit to the Council Chamber where we were briefed on the building and the Councils thoughts on its refurbishment. Once the work was complete, we adjourned (by walking) to “The Ginger Viking” for an excellent, late, cold buffet lunch preceded by cocktails (with an alcohol-free option for those of us who were driving). Lunch was an opportunity to talk to many present including Ollie, the Mayors St Johns Ambulance cadet for the year who is about to attend four years of university and a further two years professional training prior to becoming a critical care paramedic with the air ambulance. A very interesting young man with high personal targets which he is sure to achieve. He is about to do his first parachute jump as a way of pushing his limits!



The group outside the Corn Exchange



Many of the group outside the Fashion Museum at Lime Tree House



Gillingham Mayor and Mayoress visiting the Blandford RBL stand

Deputy Mayor Report

Author: Cllr Sharon Cullingford

On 28th February 2022, I had the honour of representing Gillingham Town Council, accompanied by the Chairman of the Estates Management Sub-Committee, Cllr Barry Von-Clemens, Town Clerk Mrs Julie Hawkins, Works Manager Simon Dobie, and Deputy Works Manager Martin Down, at Jubilee Fields Public Open Space, off Marlot Road, to witness the tree planting of a fine Pin Oak. The Pin Oak, a member of the magnificent Oak family, was planted by students from Gillingham School, Gillingham Primary School, Wyke Primary School and Milton-on-Stour Primary School. All pupils were accompanied by their teachers.

The occasion was marked with an official commemorative plaque and will be added to the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) map, which will create a record of the Green Canopy of tree planting across the country during the Jubilee year.

On 4th March 2022 I accompanied the Town Mayor Cllr Paul Harris, Dorset Council Chairman Cllr Val Potheary, Town Clerk Julie Hawkins and Councillors Mike Gould, Barry von Clemens, Alan Frith and Alison von Clemens to Rolls Bridge Public Open Space to dedicate another magnificent Pin Oak Tree for the Queens Green Canopy. The tree was marked with an official commemorative plaque and will also be added to the QCG Map.

On 5th March 2022 I accompanied the Town Mayor in welcoming the High Sheriff of Dorset to Gillingham. The Town Mayor accompanied the High Sheriff to meet the staff at Crockers Hardware shop, one of the oldest businesses in Gillingham, and Dorset Tech, one of Gillingham's newest businesses. We then visited Hipp!!Bones to see the activities enjoyed by their members every first and third Saturday of the month. We then visited Employ My Ability based at Thorngrove Garden Centre, where the Manager, Charlotte White, greeted us. We had a short tour to see how their business has expanded and the training programme offered to SEN students. On our departure The High Sheriff was presented with a rose. We then drove to RiversMeet where we were greeted by Alan Waistall for an excellent short tour of the facilities. The High Sheriff departed Gillingham at 1pm.

Full Council Meeting – 28 March 2022

Minute no. 735

Gillingham Ward Monthly Report

Cllr Belinda Ridout – March 2022

Ukraine Update – how people can help

Donate money – one of the best ways to help is by donating cash through trusted charities and aid organisations. The Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal is made up of 15 leading UK charities which are working together to provide emergency aid in Ukraine. It is recommended to donate cash rather than goods. Cash can be transferred quickly to areas where it is needed, and individuals and aid organisations can use it to buy what is most needed.

Sponsor a Ukrainian person or family – Register with the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme if you wish to open your home to those fleeing the war. You can offer a spare room or separate self-contained accommodation. You must be able to provide it for at least 6 months.

If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact the Volunteer Centre Dorset by emailing: info@volunteeringdorset.org.uk.

Do you speak Ukrainian or Russian? Please contact Dorset Council if you can offer interpretation and translation skills: customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

A dedicated page on the Dorset Council website is constantly updated with information. Information can also be found at gov.uk. The Dorset Together workgroup, which coordinated shielding and food security throughout the pandemic, has been reconvened in readiness to support Ukrainian refugee programmes, to advise and guide individuals and organisations wishing to pursue sponsorship in Dorset.

De-carbonising public buildings – work to improve energy efficiency and install low carbon technologies has started at over 60 council owned sites using £19m of grant funding. So far, 40 heating management system upgrades have been completed, 15 lighting upgrades finalised and 6 solar panel projects finished. County Hall is the latest site where updates and upgrades are being implemented with solar panels, replacement windows, air source heat pump being installed to one of the annexes and low energy lighting throughout the site. Free air cooling, an approach to lowering air temperature by using naturally cool air, will be installed in the council's data centre. The changes at County Hall alone are expected to save over 100 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year and provide a financial saving of circa £69,000 per year, based on current energy prices. In total more than 100 council owned buildings will benefit, including leisure centres and local schools and academies.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2-5th June 2022 – Dorset Council is encouraging local communities to start planning local events and parties for the 4-day bank holiday weekend. The Platinum Jubilee website has an interactive map displaying all the events and activities taking place in Dorset and across the UK. You can add details of your own events. To make it easier to host your own street party, Dorset Council is waiving the costs of road closure applications in the area and welcomes residents to apply for a street party road closure. You need to apply 6 weeks in advance. Support is also available for communities via a £22m National Lottery Fund. More information can be found on the National Lottery website. Dorset will be joining the national Beacon lighting programme, with beacons being lit across the county to mark the start of the celebratory weekend on 2nd June. Details will be published near the time.

National Service Remembered – British Armed Forces veterans' exploits during National Service 60 years ago is at the centre of an innovative UK-wide new heritage project. www.national-service.co.uk. 15 former servicemen from Dorset as well as men from Wales and the Northwest who served in Egypt, Jordan, Singapore and Iraq, tell their stories in a National Lottery-funded project called National Service Remembered. It is exactly 60 years since National Service ended in the UK and the men who completed National Service are now a minimum of 77 years old. The Dorset project has uncovered some rich and wonderful stories from a generation that served their country at a time of need but who do not always consider themselves as Veterans, as they did not volunteer. It is important to recognise and celebrate this generation of people.

Donations to people in fuel poverty – thanks to the generosity of Dorset residents, over £75k has been raised to help older people struggling to stay warm this winter. Dorset Council, working closely with The Dorset Community Foundation and Citizens Advice, launched an appeal earlier this year asking people to donate any winter fuel payments they did not need to help others to afford heating their homes without scrimping on food. An estimated 19,000 people in Dorset are living in fuel poverty, not being able to afford to heat their homes, which is being exacerbated by current energy price increases. The funds have been allocated to Citizens Advice who are distributing Surviving Winter grants to households in fuel poverty. This is in addition to Dorset Council being able to make one-off winter energy grants of £200, allocated to 3,500 households in receipt of Universal Credit or earnings below the free school meals threshold, made possible by a £2m grant from the Government's Household Support Fund.

Land Charges – the amount of time Dorset Council take to complete land charges search requests has been significantly reduced. Currently the average time to return a search is 26 working days compared to an average of 62 working days last October. Delays previously were mainly due to a record number of searches requested during the Covid pandemic, some staff vacancies and system changes. Six new additional staff have helped to reduce the backlog. Work continues to harmonise the Land Charges registers from the former district and borough councils and the creation of a land charges portal where customers will be able to submit and pay for their search enquiry electronically.

Consultation: School Transport Policies 2022-23 Dorset Council is running a 4-week consultation on School Transport Policies for 2022-23 with effect from Monday, 7th March 2022 to Sunday 3rd April 2022. Details of the consultation (home to school transport policy and post 16 transport support policy) is available to view at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/school-transport/consultation-on-school-transport-policies>. All comments (negative and positive) to be submitted by Sunday, 3rd April 2022 either via email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or by post – school Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ. All responses will be considered, and a report presented to Dorset Council’s cabinet meeting on 17th May 2022.

Community Governance Review – the second part of the Community Governance Review public consultation is now underway, open until 23rd May 2022. Residents can view the initial submissions received from town and parish councils as well as other organisations and members of the public on the website. Paper copies available at Dorset Council’s libraries or by calling 01305 251010. The final recommendations will be published and agreed by Full Council in July 2022.

New company to provide Adult Social Care- Dorset Council is creating a new company to provide adult social care for residents. The current contract with Tricuro will end and all adult social care services will be provided by Care Dorset. Dorset Council is responsible for arranging the social care for around 4,000 residents at any one time. The transfer of care service to the Care Dorset will be post October this year. Tricuro will continue to provide care services to residents in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole residents. All residents who currently receive care are being contacted directly about the changes. Members of Tricuro staff who support Dorset Council residents will transfer to the new company without changes to their existing employment contracts. The reason for the change is that social care services will be better provided by a new company which serves just the Dorset Council area, which is large, rural and whose residents have different needs to those of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Tricuro was set up under the former council structures, to cover the whole of Dorset. Since then, there have been significant changes including the creation of the two new unitary authorities. These councils are very different, geographically and demographically. Spending on adult social care represents around half of all DC expenditure, around £141m in the 2022/23 budget and demand for adult social care is growing year on year. DC has the highest percentage of residents aged 85 and over of any county or unitary authority in the country. Care Dorset will be better placed to tailor social care services to best meet the needs of residents.

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