



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall

School Road

GILLINGHAM

Dorset SP8 4QR

Tel: 01747 823588

Email: gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

Web site: www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL

The minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on **Monday, 23rd September 2019**, at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Gillingham, Dorset.

Present

Cllr Barry Von Clemens, Mayor

Cllr Paul Harris, Deputy Mayor

Cllr Fiona Cullen

Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Cllr Rupert Evill

Cllr Alan Frith

Cllr Alison Gale

Cllr Dennis Griffin

Cllr Mick Hill

Cllr Val Potheary

Cllr Graham Poulter

Cllr Donna Toye

Cllr Roger Weeks

In Attendance

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins

Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe

Dorset Councillor(s) – Cllr Val Potheary (and Town Councillor as listed above)

Press and Public

Press – Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

Public – 4 members of the public

Prior to the start of the meeting a one-minute silence was held as a mark of respect to the late Mr Robin Hussey who died suddenly at the weekend. Robin served on the town council for many years and was made Mayor in 1985 and for his continued service in the community was made a Freeman of the Town 2014.

Minute no.	
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78

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. Mr D Cadisch, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Central Dorset, informed the meeting that he would speak on behalf of Citizens Advice, if required.

79

To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Gould, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Robinson and Cllr Wareham who was unable to attend due to personal reasons. It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies received from Cllr Gould, Cllr Kilcourse, Cllr Robinson and Cllr Wareham.

80	To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 27th August 2019 and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 9th September 2019.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, 27 th August 2019 and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Monday, 9 th September 2019 are agreed and approved. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.
81	To receive any questions pertaining to the previous minutes.
	There were no questions pertaining to the previous minutes.
82	To receive declarations of interest. <u>Please note:</u> members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.
	There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests declared. Personal declarations of interest were made in respect of agenda item no. 11, to consider recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding grant payments, as follows: Cllr Von Clemens declared personal interests as a Director of Blackmore Vale Tourism and Development Company Ltd and a Trustee of Gillingham Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre. Cllr Potheary declared a personal interest as a Vice President of North Dorset Rugby Football Club. Cllr Hill declared personal interests as he is known to the applicants. Cllr Cullingford declared a personal interest as she is a committee member of the Gillingham Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre.
83	To receive and consider reports from the Schools Councils, if available.
	There were no reports this month. The school councils are only just reforming after the summer recess.
84	To receive written reports from outside bodies, if available, for consideration and approval:
(a)	Three Rivers Partnership (3RP) and Three Rivers Community Partnership Board of Trustees, the Gillingham Community Leisure Trust (GCLT) (Cllr Von Clemens).
	Cllr Von Clemens reported that there was no meeting this month.
(b)	Town Meadow Group
	Cllr Cullingford referred to a report that she had circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix A .
(c)	Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Cllr Von Clemens reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting. Cllr Cullingford, who had attended, reported that it was a constructive meeting. The Chamber are organising this year's Christmas Window Display Competition and sponsoring the Dementia Friends Concert in November.
(d)	DAPTC (Larger Towns: Cllr Von Clemens, Northern Area: Cllr Toye / Cllr Weeks).
	Cllr Von Clemens reported that he was unable to attend the Larger Towns meeting. Cllr Toye reported that the Northern Area meeting is scheduled for next month.
(e)	Shaftesbury and District Transport Forum
	Cllr Von Clemens reported that there was no meeting this month.

(f)	Gillingham Town Team
	In the absence of Cllr Gould, Cllr Frith reported that there had been no meeting.
85	To receive, consider and adopt the following standing committee reports:
(a)	General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 2nd September 2019.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the report of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday, 2 nd September 2019 is adopted.
(b)	Planning Committee interim meeting held on Tuesday, 27th August 2019 and the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday, 9th September 2019.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee interim meeting held on Tuesday, 27 th August 2019 and the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 9 th September 2019 are adopted. Cllr Griffin and Cllr Weeks abstained from voting.
(c)	Finance Committee meeting held on Monday, 16th September 2019.
	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 16 th September 2019 is adopted. Cllr Poulter abstained from voting.
86	To receive and consider reports from the following:
(a)	Greener Gillingham Task and Finish Group
	Cllr Cullen reported that two meetings had taken place recently and tabled a report at the meeting. Please refer to Appendix B.
(b)	Woodwater Farm Sports Facility Task and Finish Group
	Cllr Poulter reported no meeting had taken place. A meeting will be arranged with the football club very soon. Meanwhile, the football club has set up a walking football group for those of mature years and investigating the acquisition floodlighting.
(c)	High Street Facilities Task and Finish Group
	Cllr Toye verbally reported that the contractor had received his final payment.
87	To approve and authorise any payments over £10,000, if any.
	There were no payments over £10,000.
88	To receive and consider recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding grant applications for FY2019/20.
	Cllr Von Clemens congratulated the Finance Committee on the handling of this year's applications for grant funding. The fund was heavily oversubscribed and difficult decisions had to be made; however, the award for the Citizens Advice still needed to be resolved. The Mayor proposed that the residue grant funding of £6,345 was allocated to Citizens Advice but that the decision regarding whether this was made-up to make a total of £10,000 – the original grant request - still needed to be decided. It was agreed and RESOLVED that the remaining £6,345 is allocated to Citizens Advice for FY 2019/20. <u>Proposal:</u> Cllr Harris proposed that the grant awarded to Home Start of £1,500 was re allocated to the Citizens Advice and added to the £6,345, making a total of £7,845. Cllr Hill spoke in favour of this suggestion. <u>Amended Proposal:</u> Cllr Von Clemens suggested that a virement of £3,655 was made from budget no. 10.14 Devolution to budget no. 11.16 Grants to allow a grant in total of £10,000 to be made to the Citizens Advice for FY 2019/20.

	<p>The Town Clerk commented that the budget for Devolution is currently being used to fund for the weekend town orderly contract and that currently there are adequate funds for a virement to the grants budget.</p> <p>As per Standing Orders, a vote was taken on the amended proposal, as follows: 8 in favour and 5 against. The original proposal failed.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that a virement of £3,655 is made from budget no. 10.14 Devolution to budget no. 11.16 Grants to allow a grant in total of £10,000 to be made to the Citizen Advice for FY 2019/20.</p> <p>A further resolution was made, as follows: It was agreed and RESOLVED that all other grants are awarded as recommended by the Finance Committee.</p>
89	<p>To receive the external auditor report and certificate, section 3 (part 3) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year end 31st March 2019 and agree to carry out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. • Publish the 'Notice' along with the certified AGAR (sections 1, 2 and 3) before 30th September 2019.
	<p>It was agreed and RESOLVED to prepare a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' detailing the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED to publish the 'Notice' along with the certified AGAR (sections 1, 2 and 3) before 30th September 2019.</p> <p>Cllr Von Clemens proposed a vote of thanks to the Responsible Financial Officer for a successful external audit.</p>
90	<p>To receive and agree a Lettings Policy.</p>
	<p>A copy of the Lettings Policy was circulated prior to the meeting. The Lettings Policy had been previously dealt with by the Finance Committee on 16th September and had recommended approval by Full Council. Cllr Poulter who had been absent from the Finance Committee recommended that the document was not approved and deferred until the next Full Council meeting. This would allow time to make amendments to the document that should, in hindsight, have been included previously.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED to defer the Lettings Policy to the next Full Council meeting.</p>
91	<p>To receive and agree a job description, proposed contract, application pack and advertisement for the position of a fixed-term part time Project Administration Officer.</p>
	<p>A copy of the details of the fixed-term part time Project Administrator candidate information was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that a Project Administrator is recruited as described in the literature circulated prior to the meeting.</p>
92	<p>To receive and consider a report on the refurbishment of the Town Hall.</p>
	<p>A report on the refurbishment of the Town Hall was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix C.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that Company B is instructed to install 2 no. replacement windows and the arch window in the Civic Hall at a cost of £766.20, ex VAT and financed from budget no. 6.17 Town Hall maintenance/refurbishment.</p> <p>It was agreed and RESOLVED that Company F is instructed to install 2 no. skylights at a cost of £1,706 ex VAT and financed from budget no. 6.17 Town Hall maintenance/refurbishment.</p>

	It was agreed and RESOLVED that the Mayor, Chairman of Finance, Chairman of General Purposes and the Office Manager arrange a meeting to consider the outside signage options available for the Town Hall and to report to Full Council on 28 th October 2019.
93	To receive and consider a report on Christmas opening hours.
	A report on the proposed Christmas Opening hours was circulated prior to the meeting. The report contained two recommendations. Please refer to Appendix D . It was agreed and RESOLVED that Gillingham Town Council Offices are officially closed from Tuesday, 24 th December 2019 through to Thursday, 2 nd January 2020 with a skeleton staff working from home on Monday, 30 th December and Tuesday, 31 st December 2019 It was agreed and RESOLVED that the weekend street orderly contractor carries out additional duties over the Christmas period at a cost of £180 taken from budget no. 10.04 Service Devolution.
94	To receive and consider the quarterly newsletter (autumn edition) prior to circulation.
	A copy of the draft quarterly newsletter (autumn edition) was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed and RESOLVED that the quarterly newsletter (autumn edition), is approved for circulation. Cllr Cullingford thanked the Town Clerk and the Office Manager for all their hard work with the new web site and the production of the newsletter (autumn edition).
95	To receive a report on the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's civic activities.
	A copy of the Mayor's activities was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix E .
96	To receive matters pertinent to this meeting. Please note: Members are advised that inclusion of any item is at the Chairman's discretion and that a council cannot lawfully decide upon any matter which is not specified in the summons (agenda).
(a)	Community Lottery for Dorset Dorset Council is seeking the views of residents, community groups and local charities on the proposal to run a Community Lottery for local good causes in the Dorset council area . In order to determine if there is a willingness for this to happen, they are asking people to complete a short online survey. The survey only takes 5 minutes to complete. Please note that no decision to run a Community Lottery has yet to be made. It is simply seeking people's thoughts (good and bad) about having one. The Survey is live from midnight Thursday 12th September and closes at 4pm on Sunday 13th October. Survey link: https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=156328632851
(b)	Dorset Highways Satisfaction Survey Please find below a link to the annual councillor's satisfaction survey for Dorset Highways. A PDF version of the survey can also be made available if required, to print out and return a hard copy for those who are unable to complete the survey online. If you would like a PDF copy of the survey, please let me know. https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=156716302163 As with previous years, the survey has been designed to obtain the views of Elected Members and Parish/Town Councils regarding the service Dorset Highways provides to your constituents. The information you provide, along with a similar resident's survey and our own internal performance measures, will help Dorset Highways plan future service provision, as well as highlight areas for suggested improvement and, hopefully, where we are successfully delivering. The deadline for survey responses is Friday 18th October 2019 .

(c)	<p>ANOB Landscape for Life Festival - celebrating 60 years of the Dorset AONB. There are a range of guided walks and 'have-a-go' activities to engage the public with the AONB projects. Fingerposts: Restoration Sessions will be held at Blandford Men's Shed, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs 26 Sep, 4pm - 7pm 6-10 people per session https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/events/fingerpost-restoration/ • Sat 28 Sep, 10am - 1pm 6-10 people per session https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/events/fingerpost-restoration-2/ <p>Please book directly with ANOB.</p>
(d)	<p>South Western Railway – Stakeholders Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillingham Railway Station has been mentioned on page 25 of this report after securing funding from the Department of Transport for new cycle parking which will be installed in summer/autumn 2020. • Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership has been mentioned on page 34 congratulating them on the production of a book that pays tribute to those railway workers who worked on the line between Tisbury and Crewkerne and lost their lives in WWI. The partnership has also produced its first 36-page line guide which gives details of attractions and suggestions for visitors, food and drink stops and activities to keep children amused on the train. A copy of the report has been circulated to members via email and available from the Deputy Town Clerk.
(e)	<p>The Mayor and the Town Clerk attended a Northern Towns meeting today, Monday, 23rd September. along with other Mayor/Chairs and their Clerks. It is intended that the meetings will be held quarterly. Sturminster Town Council will host the next meeting.</p>
(f)	<p>Earlier in September, John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place at Dorset Council invited the Clerks from the fifteen larger towns in Dorset to meet Matt Prosser, Chief Executive, Dorset Council at South Walks House. These meetings will be held regularly.</p>
(g)	<p>The Town Clerk has been invited by John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place at Dorset Council to make a 'café style' presentation to Dorset Councillors. There will also be presentations by other Clerks.</p>
(h)	<p>Gillingham Community Land Trust is now an official legal entity and will be holding its first meeting on Tuesday, 24th September 2019.</p>
<p>There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting closed at 8.44pm</p>	
<p>Signed: _____ Date: 28th October 2019</p>	

The following reports were submitted by Dorset Councillors:

Dorset Councillor, Mrs Belinda Ridout, please see Appendix F
Dorset Councillor, Mrs Val Potheary, please see Appendix G

Minute no. 84(b)

Gillingham Town Council

Town Meadow Group

Author Cllr Sharon Cullingford

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting:

- Volunteer Day – Saturday, October 12th - TMG are asking all volunteers to come along and help with works on the meadow. Tree trunks will be laid as a barrier between Red Lion Car Park and Town Meadow. The ground will be scarified and a general tidy up.
- After a report in the spring from a local resident that the daffodils had a disease, some of the apparent diseased bulbs were dug up and tested. Results showed no disease, just healthy bulbs.
- Dextra lamp bulbs: 2 extra sets with voltage regulator at no cost to us, were kindly donated from Dextra, Clifford T Shean Electrics will install one to the damaged light. Lights have been switched on and the timer has been reset.
- A new robust padlock has been installed on the meadow gates, as the previous padlock disappeared.
- One more lamp, sadly has been vandalized over the weekend of the 14/15 September. With the help of Face Book a narrower time line has been established. The CCTV camera recording will be played back to see if the vandalism has been recorded.

Chair's Report:

- Town Meadow Fete - An extremely well supported great day; however, it clashed with Shaftesbury Gold Hill Fair. Dates will be looked at in future to make sure that it does not clash with another large local event.
- The Town Fair will arrive at the Town Meadow on Sunday, 29th September.
- New water pump, hosepipe and fittings will be purchased to help with the watering of the shrubs and plants during dry spells, the water will be pumped from the river;
- Unfortunately, the Wessex Water could not hook up to the old street supply, a new supply will need to be brought under the road from the Town Car Park side; awaiting quotes from Wessex Water;
- The Town Meadow needs "friends" subscribing to help support the local volunteer Group. It takes a lot of work and funds to look after "The Meadow" - local support is desperately needed. There are Town Meadow leaflets in the reception area in the Town Hall with subscription details inside. Please pick one up and please encourage others to join.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 27th September at 2pm.

Minute no. 86(a)

Gillingham Town Council

Greener Gillingham Task and Finish Group

Notes of meeting held on Monday, 19th August at 6.30pm, Town Hall

Author: Cllr Fiona Cullen

Present: Cllr Fiona Cullen (lead member), Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Cllr Paul Harris,
Town Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Alison Gale, Cllr Mick Hill, Cllr Keith Wareham

1. Feedback

Cllr Cullen and Cllr Gale began the Green Audit of Town Council owned properties/facilities and working practices of GTC. Meeting with Simon Dobie, Works Manager to view the workshop and discuss the vehicles and tools currently in use. Followed by a visit to the chapel.

2. Agree further actions

Look into the following:

- Trade Recycling
 - Bottle refill station
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Points
 - Rain water harvesting on council owned buildings and at the allotments
 - Grants/outside funding available for environmental projects
-

Notes of meeting held on Monday, 16th September at 6.30pm, Town Hall

Author: Cllr Fiona Cullen

Present: Cllr Fiona Cullen (lead member), Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Cllr Alison Gale,
Cllr Paul Harris, Cllr Mick Hill

Apologies: Cllr Keith Wareham

1. Feedback

Cllr Cullingford contacted DWP about trade waste and recycling. Cllr Cullen looked into the Refill Scheme and contacted the South West co-ordinator, James Watt, with a view to setting up the scheme in Gillingham. EVCPs - further research needed.

2. Further Actions

- Continue Green Audit
- Confirm costs and research ways of implementing additional recycling
- Research suitable tanks for rain water harvesting
- Further research on EVCPs

3. Date of next meeting

Monday, 21st October at 6.30pm

Minute no. 92

Gillingham Town Council

Town Hall Refurbishment

Author: Mrs Jill Ezzard, Office Manager

Introduction

At the Full Council meeting on 27th August 2019 a report was circulated regarding the refurbishment of the Town Hall. At the meeting councillors requested additional information on the possibility of the installation of triple glazed units.

Councillors also requested clarification on the sky light specifications in the corridor.

Windows

The window companies were contacted following the request at the full council meeting in August to investigate triple glazing. We have been advised that there would be no real cost savings or energy efficiency unless we replaced all the windows including the frames in the Civic Hall and therefore the additional investment in just the 2 windows either side of the French doors and 1 arch window in the Civic Hall would not be justifiable

Three quotes below are to replace the 2 windows either side of the French doors and the arch window above the French doors with double glazed sealed units. Prices include fitting and all companies hold insurance and belong to FENSA. Councillors should note that company B offers a ten-year guarantee whereas companies A and C only offer 5 years. Company B is a trusted company the Town Council has had previous dealings with.

Company A offers a 5-year guarantee	£579.48 inc vat
Company B offers a 10-year guarantee	£957.75 inc vat
Company C offers a 5-year guarantee	£1,050.00 inc vat

Skylights

To provide natural light in the corridor and safe access to the roof by replacing the 2 faulty skylights.

To the best of our ability the three quotes we have received are for identical specifications. Prices include fitting and all companies hold insurance. Councillors should note that company F offers triple glazed units with a twenty-year guarantee whereas companies D, E and G only offer double glazing. Both companies F and G are trusted companies the Town Council has had previous dealings with.

Company D – Additional information has been requested, but the company has failed to respond as requested.	£2,207 plus vat
Company E – These are double glazed units with a 10-year guarantee (not vat registered)	£1,200
Company F - These skylights are energy efficient triple glazed, tamper proof, impact resistant and come with a 20-year guarantee	£1,706 plus vat
Company G – These are double glazed units with a 10-year guarantee inc vat	£2,990.00

Replacement signage for the Town Hall and Offices

It is recommended that this matter is deferred and that the Office Manager, the Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and Chairman of the Finance Committee meet to consider the various options and colour schemes available and report back to full council in October.

Recommendations

- 2 replacement double glazed windows either side of the French doors and the arch window above the French doors in the Civic Hall are purchased from company A , B or C.
- 2 replacement skylights are purchased for the Town Hall corridor from company D, E, F or G.
- Cllr Von Clemens, Cllr Cullingford and Cllr Hill work with the Office Manager, to consider the signage options available and report back to full council on 28th October.

Please note: All funding to be taken from budget no. 6.17 Town Hall maintenance / refurbishment.

Gillingham Town Council
Christmas Opening Hours 2019

1. Introduction

Dorset Council (DC) will be operating as follows over the Christmas period:

Monday, 23rd Dec – DC open as usual.
Tuesday, 24th Dec – Christmas Eve -DC open as usual
Wednesday, 25th Dec – Christmas Day - **Closed**
Thursday, 26th Dec – Boxing Day - **Closed**
Friday, 27th Dec – DC open as usual
Monday, 30th Dec – DC open as usual
Tuesday, 31st Dec – New Year's Eve – DC open as usual
Wednesday, 1st Jan – New Year's Day - **Closed**
Thursday, 2nd Jan – DC open as usual
Friday, 3rd Jan – DC open as usual

2. Proposal

GTC staff are aware of the DC opening hours and have made a proposal to open over Christmas as follows:

Monday, 23rd Dec – GTC open as usual.
Tuesday, 24th Dec – Christmas Eve -GTC **Closed**
Wednesday, 25th Dec – Christmas Day - **Closed**
Thursday, 26th Dec – Boxing Day - **Closed**
Friday, 27th Dec – GTC **Closed**
Monday, 30th Dec – **GTC open on skeleton staff working from home**
Tuesday, 31st Dec – **New Year's Eve – GTC open on skeleton staff working from home**
Wednesday, 1st Jan – New Year's Day - **Closed**
Thursday, 2nd Jan – GTC open as usual
Friday, 3rd Jan – GTC open as usual

All staff will use their two statutory leave days on Tuesday, 24th December and Friday, 27th December. There will be a skeleton staff working from home on Monday, 30th and Tuesday, 31st December. Those not working from home will take annual leave.

3. Financial Implications

The only financial implication to be considered is the cost of providing street orderly duties over the Christmas period.

Based on the experience of previous years, that street orderly duties over the Christmas period are necessary to keep the town looking clean and tidy. The contractor who carries out the weekend orderly duties and on specified bank holidays has confirmed that he would be able to carry out additional duties over the Christmas period at agreed contract rates of £60 per day.

The Works Manager has requested that additional town orderly duties are covered by the contractor on Thursday, 26th December, Tuesday, 31st December with an optional clean on Thursday, 2nd January should the town orderly still be on leave. This would incur a maximum cost of £180.

Weekend and additional town orderly duties are financed from the Service Devolution budget. Sufficient funds remain in the budget to cover the additional work outlined above.

4. Conclusion

That Gillingham Town Hall offices are closed to the public from Tuesday, 24th December 2019 through to Thursday, 2nd January 2020 with a skeleton staff working from home using laptops.

That additional street orderly duties required over the Christmas period will be carried out by a contractor in the absence of the town orderly being on annual leave.

5. Recommendation

That Gillingham Town Council Offices are officially closed from Tuesday, 24th December 2019 through to Thursday, 2nd January 2020 with a skeleton staff working from home on Monday, 30th December and Tuesday, 31st December 2019.

That the weekend street orderly contractor carries out additional duties over the Christmas period at a cost of £180 financed from budget no. 10.04 Service Devolution.

Gillingham Town Council

Mayor's Report

19th August - 16th September 2019

Date	Event	Comments
26 Aug	Completion of the White Hart Link	It was great to be at this event to mark the completion of the White Hart Link. I was Mayor when it was launched so it has always been a project, I have followed over the past 4 years. Well done to everyone.
2 Sept	25 th Anniversary of NorDDIS	A fabulous morning meeting everyone to mark 25years of this great organisation, that plays a very important part in our community.
6 Sept	Guides County Review	It is always a pleasure to attend the Guides review and catch up on all the fabulous work they have been doing over the past year. A valuable organisation in both our county and our town.
7 Sept	Mental Health expo	It was very interesting to catch up with many of the groups that I am involved with or have had conversations with over the past years. So much is happening in the mental health sector, but there is still so much that needs to be done.
9 Sept	Dementia Friendly Gillingham chair presentation	A dual role at this event as both Mayor and chair of Dementia Friendly Gillingham (DFG) it was a great pleasure to present our fabulous library with a wing chair for those living with Dementia to use on behalf of DFG who raised the funds to buy this chair.
13 Sept	Chickerell's Civic Day	A great day visiting the towns volunteer run library and their historic church. There was a very informative visit to the local business park, to hear how it has been set up and attracted business to the town.
14 Sept	Gillingham Library, Film Screening	Wonderful to see the hard work of local children who with the help of the artist in residence had created a cartoon film call 'Infinity and beyond'. Yet another fabulous example of our library being one of only two cultural hubs in the county. I was also accompanied by our famous Gillingham Space man.
15 Sept	Swanage Civic Day	A beautiful day with fellow mayors in Swanage. The sun was shining and the cakes were out.

Gillingham Ward Monthly Report**Cllr Belinda Ridout – August/September 2019**

Dorset Council/Parish Meetings. Dorset Council meetings quiet during August. However, I attended all available parish meetings until date of this report.

Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel, Dorchester. Our first meeting took place on Tuesday, 20th August. Members of this panel will be tasked with keeping the preparation of the Local Plan for the whole of the Unitary authority area on track for the next 4 years. Members received a briefing from officers and following in depth discussion, it was clear that a key point is keeping residents informed of progress. Timescales to follow.

Climate Change Cross Party Panel Friday, 13th September. An excellent meeting with presentation from Extinction Rebellion, requesting a Citizen Assembly to be set up (agenda item for next meeting). Everyone in agreement that consultation with members, parish and town councils, the community and partner organisations it vitally important to get everyone on board, even cross-county border consultation. It is very clear that we have a huge task ahead but 'Low Carbon Dorset' has already begun work with town and parish councils and a workshop has been set for 18th November for information/available grants. 'Low Carbon Dorset' to coordinate with Executive Advisory Panels (EAP'S) covering all aspects of the Council's business. 'Friends of the Earth' have identified 33 actions for local authorities many of which 'Low Carbon Dorset' is already progressing. Following a review of priorities put forward by panel members (which closely resemble those put forward by 'Friends of the Earth), six 'action' areas have been identified: Leadership and Influence, Transport, Buildings, Waste and Energy and Natural Environment, broken down into level of influence: Direct, Indirect and Partnership. Technical Officers will support the EAP and take the lead in the areas they cover. Task and finish groups to meet monthly over the next 6 months, with a workshop early October, to set strategy and outline plan and to identify 'quick win'/urgent actions before the plan is published in March 2020. External 'experts' to be consulted and members were asked to put ideas forward from their area, i.e. including schools, community groups (ideas welcome). A Climate Change Enquiry to take place on 29th November. Members similarly asked to put forward ideas for speakers from organisations, e.g. Dorset Wildlife Trust/Safewise. Ideas welcome.

Northern Planning Committee Meeting at Sturminster Newton Wednesday, 21st August. Agricultural Building, Sandpits Lane, Madjeston. Erect 4 no. dwellings (demolish agricultural buildings). Recommended for refusal by Gillingham Town Council. Members agreed with the Case Officer's recommendation to approve the application; that the proposal would lead to an environmental enhancement over and above that which would be achieved were the existing buildings to be converted into four dwellings under the extant Class Q permission.

Other matters. I have been working with Sarah Price, Senior Technical Officer, Transport Planning DC and Laura Russ, Transport Strategy Manager, Infrastructure, DC, putting together a bid to Network's Rail Customer & Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) for improvements to Gillingham Station as a transport hub and Station Road. We met in Dorchester to decide a plan of action, subsequently meeting on site to note possible improvements to include in the bid. This will be in partnership with Gillingham Town Team group. A second phase of the bid may be to explore a way of regularly connecting residents of the villages with Gillingham station and the town for services/shopping, through the provision of some sort of community transport model.

The need for this would have to be evidenced and still very much an idea on paper at the moment. I am also progressing a bid to Network Rail's CCIF fund as a member of Gillingham in Bloom for micro 'herbetums' at the station and in the town, providing sensory, culinary and medicinal advice and benefits, complementing the ethos of a 'Dementia Friendly' town.

Gillingham Station. I recently met with Sarah Jason, Franchise and Access Support Manager, Network Rail Wessex, to discuss a bee and butterfly garden on platform 2. This project has at last been given the go-ahead by NR, subject to a land survey for historic cabling, the results of which will be known early December. Working with GTC and Friends of Gillingham Station, I am very much looking forward to progressing this 'Gillingham Gateway's' project, with a possible start date next Spring, giving 6 months to get everything in order.

I shall be holding **surgery on Thursday evenings** at the **Town Hall, Gillingham, between 5-7pm** to discuss any issues you may have. It would be advisable to make an appointment by telephoning 07496413114 or email: cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

All agenda and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Gillingham Ward Monthly Report

Cllr Val Potheary – September 2019

September has been a quiet month and I have been on holiday leave.

Meetings and Events attended:

Roma International Holocaust Day Service
Corporate Plan Seminar
Merchant Navy Day Flag Raising
Domestic Abuse Conference
Northern Area Planning meeting (no applications appertaining to Gillingham)

• COUNCIL NEWS

Several Executive Advisory Panels (EAP's) have been set up to thoroughly investigate issues of great importance to the Council.

Climate Change: The Climate Change EAP met on Friday 13 September to listen to members from Extinction Rebellion and discuss the Council's progress with their plans to tackle climate change. The panel, made up of councillors from across the political divide, is responsible for working with officers to gather information and make recommendations on how the Council can help fight against climate change and support communities to do the same.

Cabinet decisions: At the end of July Cabinet agreed to apply for Housing Infrastructure Funding for the urban extension to Gillingham. This means that Dorset Council will access monies to enable the Council to design and construct the principal street within the Welbeck area and help serve the wider development. The grant is conditional upon the Council ultimately recovering the HIF Funding in full from the benefitting developers but with the agreement that any sums so recovered may be reinvested in housing projects throughout Dorset.

Relationship with Town and Parish Councils: We recently had a Corporate Plan Seminar. When the Plan is produced all councillors will be asked to disseminate it to the Towns and Parishes.

Funding: The Council will receive approx. £10 million from the Chancellor's spending review, to support SEND (Special Education needs and Disabilities)

I am pleased to report that there is a great deal of cross party working – for the benefit of all our residents.

• SURGERY

I hold a weekly surgery at Gillingham Town Council offices. Prior booking is necessary, and appointments can be made on tel 01747 826089 or email: cllrvalerie.potheary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

All council meeting details and decisions can be found at:
<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>