

Gillingham Town Council

Summer 2019

Quarterly Newsletter Issue No. 23

Gillingham Town Council

Address: Town Hall, School Rd,
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

Telephone: 01747 823588

Email: GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

Mayor: Cllr Barry Von Clemens

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Paul Harris

Town Clerk: Julie Hawkins

Deputy Clerk: Clare Ratcliffe

Mayor's Executive Assistant: Jill Ezzard

RFO Financial Officer: Debra Edwards

Works Manager: Simon Dobie

Meetings

General Purposes: 1st Monday of the month

Planning Committee: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month

Finance Committee: 3rd Monday of the month

Full Council: 4th Monday of the month

Please visit the Town Council website

www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

If you have an event you would like to publicise in Gillingham we can add it to our Events Calendar. Email your details to us at the address above.

Gillingham Welcomes Back Cllr Barry Von Clemens as Mayor for 2019-2020



Mayor Cllr Barry Von Clemens
and Deputy Mayor
Cllr Paul Harris

Message from the Mayor - 'I wish to start by giving my thanks to my fellow councillors for electing me as Mayor, a role that I will do my best to fulfill. I would also, like to take this opportunity to welcome six new councillors to the Town Council following the elections in May .

With hopefully a warm summer approaching, I encourage everyone to visit our award-winning Green Flag open spaces, the perfect place to relax and enjoy the sunshine with family and friends.

I am looking forward to visiting some fabulous events in Gillingham this summer. The Town Meadow Fete take place on Saturday 6th July, our wonderful Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, on 14th August is the highlight of the month and on the 4th — 8th of September we have the Gillingham Walking Festival

Our grounds team have created some amazing themed beds again this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and the 20th anniversary of Wyvern Savings and Loan, which has a close connection with our town and has assisted so many local people.

If you have any suggestions for next year's flower display then please email me at cllrbarry.vonclemens@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

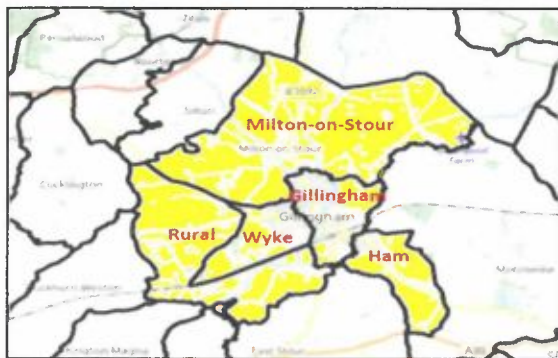
Throughout the year I will be promoting local groups in need of volunteers, so if you are looking for new members, then email me with the information and I will promote your groups at a full council meeting.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer!
Cllr Barry Von Clemens

A NEW COUNCIL FOR GILLINGHAM

In May 2019 a new term of office began. A Notice of Election was published on 15 March 2019 and Gillingham Town Council held open evenings for those interested in standing for election.

Completed nomination papers were submitted to the Returning Officer and following the deadline on 3 April 2019, Gillingham had one contested ward in Wyke. The Town Ward received only six nominations for nine seats; there were no nominations for the Ham Ward and the Milton-on-Stour and Rural Wards were uncontested.



Following the close of nominations, Gillingham Town Council was left with 5 vacant seats (two seats in Ham and three seats in Town). The council were required to fill these vacancies by co-option within 35 days from 6 May.

Following the elections on 2nd May the following were councillors were elected:

Town Ward: Cllr Mike Gould, Cllr Paul Harris, Cllr Mrs Val Potheary, Cllr John Robinson, Cllr Donna Toye and Cllr Barry Von Clemens

Milton Ward: Cllr Graham Poulter

Rural Ward: Cllr Roger Weeks

Wyke Ward: Cllr Sharon Cullingford, Cllr Rupert Evill, Cllr Alan Frith and Cllr Mick Hill

Following a recruitment and interview process, the following councillors were co-opted:

Ham Ward: Cllr Dennis Griffin and Cllr Alison Gale

Town Ward: Cllr Fiona Cullen, Cllr John Kilcourse, Cllr Keith Wareham

Gillingham Town Council now has a full complement of 17 councillors who will serve a five year term from May 2019 to May 2024.

TRIBUTES FOR RETIRING COUNCILLORS

Tributes have been paid to five members of the previous council at the end of their term on office.

Su Hunt, Mayor of Gillingham in 1996, 1999, 2010 and 2018, awarded Freeman of Gillingham in 2010. After an incredible 28 years of service to our town Su has decided to retire. Her devotion and loyalty to our town will never be forgotten.

Anne Beckley joined the town council in 2003 and has been totally dedicated to the council. Anne has represented the town on issues such as the health and wellbeing and local history and her knowledge and understanding of our countryside has been invaluable. After 16 years of service to our town, Anne has decided to retire.

David Walsh joined the town council in 2010. In 2015 David served as Mayor of Gillingham and following 9 years of service to the town council, he is now moving on and will be serving as a councillor for Dorset Council.

Belinda Ridout joined the town council in 2011 and has been the driving force behind many of our projects. Belinda served as Mayor of Gillingham in 2011 and following 8 years of service to Gillingham Town Council, she is moving on and will now be serving as a councillor for Dorset Council.

Nicky Purkis represented the rural ward for four years; was a committed member of the planning committee and fought for affordable housing for Gillingham.

Tributes have also been paid to **Steve Joyce** who served as Mayor in 2012–2013 and retired in December 2018 after serving for 11 Years.



Visitors to Gillingham Cemetery are politely reminded that glass is not permitted in the cemetery.

Please **do not** use glass jars for flowers. A copy of the cemetery rules and regulations is displayed in the cemetery notice board or is available on request from the Town hall.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Did you know, you can get married at
Gillingham Town Hall?**



**CIVIL CEREMONIES AT
GILLINGHAM TOWN HALL**

Formally the Magistrates Court, the Civic Hall accommodates 60 people. There is wheelchair access, a small car park and a walled garden suitable for photographs.

For further details please contact:
Gillingham Town Council, Town Hall,
School Road, Gillingham Dorset SP8 4QR
Tel: 01747 823588 or
Email: gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk
Monday – Friday 9.00 am – 3.30 pm

REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Town Council continues to reduce its carbon footprint by changing our working practices and ensuring that environmental issues are considered and implemented, where possible, in all aspects of our business. Our Grounds Team are changing over to battery powered maintenance tools as the old equipment needs replacing.

We will endeavor to ensure that planning applications are scrutinized to ensure that proposed developments are sustainable and that larger developments mitigate environmental impact on surrounding areas by incorporating energy saving initiatives and well-designed amenity spaces that are sympathetic to the natural landscape.

The Biodiversity Action Plans for our larger open spaces will be updated and the areas regularly monitored, which will provide an indication as to whether we have been successful in improving these areas for wildlife, flora and fauna.

On 24 June a group was formed to undertake an audit of the town council's operations and to produce a carbon management plan and programme of action in support of Dorset Council who declared a climate emergency in May

**MEMORIAL TESTING AT
GILLINGHAM CEMETERY**



Gillingham Town Council has a responsibility for public safety at Gillingham Cemetery and annually carry out memorial testing, as unsafe memorials have been the cause of severe injury in some cemeteries across the country.

Town Council staff working at the cemetery understand the importance and significance of the graves and memorials to the remaining family and friends and have received memorial condition training with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

Our trained staff have carried out an inspection programme checking the condition of every memorial. This may have result in unsafe memorials being laid flat to prevent damage or injury. Please be assured that all memorials will be treated with the utmost care and respect.

If a memorial is considered to be unsafe, grave owners will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible, by way of notices on defective graves. The registered owner of the memorial is requested to arrange for repairs to be carried out within twelve months. If the memorial is not repaired within this time, Gillingham Town Council will consider taking appropriate action. Staff are aware that this is a sensitive issue and will do their best to handle situations in a sensitive manner.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

If you would like to discuss an issue with one of our Town Councillors they will be holding an appointment only surgery on the last Friday of the month. To book an appointment please contact the Town Hall. Tel: 01747 823555 or email: gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

If you would like an appointment with one of your Dorset Councillors, then please call them directly using the contact details below.

*Cllr Val Pothe Cary
Cllr Belinda Ridout
Cllr David Walsh*

*Tel: 01747 826089
Tel: 07496 413114
Tel: 07973 228620*

CONTACT YOUR TOWN COUNCILLOR

TOWN WARD



Cllr Fiona Cullen
01747 837857

CllrFiona.Cullen@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Mike Gould
01747 826204

cllrMike.Gould@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Paul Harris (Deputy Mayor)
01747 826991

CllrPaul.Harris@Gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr John Kilcourse
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Cllr Mrs Val Potheary
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Cllr John Robinson
01747 822928

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Cllr Donna Toye
01747 590805

cllrDonna.Toye@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Barry Von Clemens (Mayor)
07835 271287

cllrBarry.Vonclemens@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Keith Wareham
01747 821341

cllrKeith.Wareham@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

CONTACT YOUR TOWN COUNCILLOR

HAM WARD



Cllr Alison Gale
07815 942379

cllrAlison.Gale@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Dennis Griffin
01747 824857

cllrDennis.Griffin@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

MILTON WARD



Cllr Graham Poulter
07890 007347

cllrGraham.Poulter@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

RURAL WARD



Cllr Roger Weeks
07703 570905

cllrRoger.Weeks@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

WYKE WARD



Cllr Sharon Cullingford
07426 499813

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Cllr Rupert Evill
01747 822886

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Cllr Alan Frith
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Cllr Mick Hill
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