



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 1st February 2021

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting convened on Monday, 1st February 2021, at 7.30pm. The meeting was held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) which came in to force on 4th April 2020.

Present:

Cllr Mick Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Graham Poulter (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr Fiona Cullen
Cllr Rupert Evill
Cllr Alison Gale

Cllr Paul Harris
Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Roger Weeks
Cllr Keith Wareham

Non-members of this Committee:

Cllr Sharon Cullingford

In attendance:

Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe
Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins

Press and Public:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

173. 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.

174. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr John Robinson for personal reasons and Cllr Dennis Griffin for technical reasons.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the apologies for absence received from Cllr Robinson and Cllr Griffin were accepted.

175. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 11th January 2021, as a true and accurate record. The minutes will be duly signed when it is possible to do so.

176. To receive any questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

There were no questions pertaining to the previous minutes.

177. To receive declarations of interest. Please note; members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

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

a) Allotments and Burials (sub-committee)

Cllr Evill, Lead Member, had nothing to report this month.

b) Annual Christmas Event and Festive Lighting (sub-committee)

There was no report this month.

c) Annual Remembrance Day Parade (sub-committee)

Cllr Griffin, Lead Member, was absent from the meeting. There was no report.

d) Cycle link project – Gillingham to Motcombe (task and finish group)

Cllr B von Clemens, Lead Member, referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **APPENDIX A below**. The report contained four recommendations.

Cllr Poulter apologised that he was unable to attend the meeting of the task and finish group.

Cllr Poulter queried the order of the recommendations and commented that costs would need to be ascertained before authorising any work to be carried out together with full details of the s106 monies and alternative uses.

Cllr B von Clemens referred to paragraph 5 of the report which clarified the s106 monies. All costings would be presented to the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer rather than backwards and forwards between Gillingham Town Council and Motcombe Parish Council. The expenditure would not exceed the money allocated for the project.

The Town Clerk clarified that the recommendations were written with the first two recommendations dealing with the footpath diversion and the last two dealing with the work that needs to be done.

Cllr Poulter did not agree that the work should be authorised without the town council's knowledge of the sums involved.

Cllr B von Clemens commented that the task and finish group had spent a lot of time deciding on an equitable way forward, especially as there was a need to progress the project which had been ongoing for some considerable time.

The recommendations being considered will also be considered by Motcombe Parish Council.

Cllr Poulter proposed that second, third and fourth recommendations contained within the report were amended, to include:

That costs should be ascertained before any work is carried out and presented to Full Council to enable authority to be given to the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer to allocate s106 funds for the work to be carried out.

Cllr Wareham seconded the proposal. A vote was taken on the proposal, as follows:

Against the proposal: Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr A von Clemens, Cllr Harris, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Evill, Cllr Toye, Cllr Weeks (total: 7).

Cllr Poulter withdraw his proposal at this point.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as per the report, as follows:

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Rights of Way Officer and the representative from Motcombe Parish Council establish, through consultation with landowners, whether areas of the bridleway, as detailed in this report, can be diverted.

Voting: unanimous.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** That subject to approval by the landowners and by Motcombe Parish Council, an application for the diversion of Bridleway No. 69/6 is submitted by the Rights of Way Officer and funded by Section 106 money held by Dorset Council.

Voting: the majority in favour, Cllr Poulter did not support the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Rights of Way Officer provides an early estimate of works and project costs for the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer, and, subject to Section 106 funds being able to be allocated appropriately, is instructed to carry out the following work, funded by Section 106 monies:

- Improvements to the drainage of Bridleway No. 69/6 between Gillingham and Motcombe;
- improvements to the surface of Bridleway No. 69/6 between Gillingham and Motcombe;
- replacement of stiles/gates with self-closing gates where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6;
- installation of fingerposts and improvements to way markers where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6, and
- the installation of interpretation boards where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6.

Voting: the majority in favour, Cllr Poulter did not support the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer establish, based on the early estimate of works and project costs, the most appropriate way to provide Section 106 funding, taking into account the different allocations and purposes.

Voting: the majority in favour, Cllr Poulter did not support the proposal.

e) Estate Management and Properties (sub-committee)

Cllr B von Clemens, Lead Member, referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **APPENDIX B below**. The report contained two recommendations.

Members were impressed with the Biodiversity Action Plan that Dorset Wildlife Trust had written for the public open spaces at Shires Gate and Shreen Meadow.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that additional drainage work at Marlott Road play area is undertaken at a cost of £1,350 and financed from budget no. 3316, Marlott Road play area.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a draft SLA with Dorset Wildlife Trust should include the list of items considered by the Estate Management and Properties sub-committee at a meeting held on 21st January 2021.

f) Health and Safety (sub-committee)

Cllr Robinson, Lead Member, had nothing to report this month.

g) Traffic Management (sub-committee)

Cllr A von Clemens, Lead Member, referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **APENDIX C below**. The report contained two recommendations plus an additional item that occurred after the sub-committee had met regarding Dorset Council's Free Car-parking Policy.

Cllr Poulter queried the first recommendation in the report regarding the double yellow lines on Wyke Road. There is no evidence of inadequate or adequate parking for residents. There had been seven responses to the consultation: 3 in favour and 4 against.

Cllr A von Clemens commented that the original application was made some years ago and that the residents concerned do have off-street car parking. Former Town Councillor, Belinda Ridout, worked on the original application which was made at the request of residents.

Cllr Poulter made an amended proposal, as follows:

That the first recommendation in the report is referred back to the Traffic Management sub-committee to provide further evidence regarding the request for double yellow lines at Wyke Road.

Cllr Harris supported the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the item regarding double yellow lines at Wyke Road is referred back to the Traffic Management Sub-committee for more details.

Voting: Cllr B von Clemens, Cllr A von Clemens and Cllr Wareham voted against the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council requests Dorset Council to add Martins Lane, Milton-on-Stour, to the gritting route.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council supports Dorset Council's Free Parking Days Policy.

h) Events – Green Gillingham (task and finish group)

Cllr B von Clemens, Lead Member, had nothing to report this month and asked that the task and finish group is now disbanded.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Event – Green Gillingham task and finish group is disbanded.

i) Gillingham Gateways (task and finish group)

An update report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix D below**. There were no recommendations.

j) Gillingham Royal Forest Steering Group (DWT lead) (task and finish group)

There was no report this month.

k) Greener Gillingham (sub-committee)

Cllr Cullen, Lead Member, reported that the sub-committee will be meeting on Wednesday, 3rd February 2021, to discuss a draft Carbon Management Plan.

l) Town Seating and Planted Areas Refurbishment (task and finish group)

Cllr B von Clemens, Lead Member, had nothing to report this month.

179. To receive a monthly report on enquiries received by Gillingham Town Council.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to **Appendix F below**.

180. 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).

There were no matters pertinent.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

General Purposes Committee – 1st February 2021

Minute no. 178 (d)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham / Motcombe Cycleway Task and Finish Group

Notes of the meeting held via MS Teams on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 2pm

Author: Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk

Present: Cllr Barry von Clemens (BvC)
Cllr Peter Mouncey (PM)
Cllr Paul Harris (PH)
Cllr Fiona Cullen (FC)
Graham Stanley (GS), Dorset Council Rights of Way Officer
Hugh De longh (HdL), Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer
Julie Hawkins (JH), GTC Town Clerk
Clare Ratcliffe (CR), GTC Deputy Town Clerk.

Apologies: Serena Burgess, GTC Project Administrator

1. Welcome

Cllr Barry von Clemens (BvC), Lead Member of the Task and Finish Group welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Background

Graham Stanley (GS), Dorset Council Rights of Way Officer, summarised the background to the project which began over 12 years ago and outlined the difficulties in obtaining landowner permissions.

3. Update from Motcombe

Cllr Peter Mouncey (PM), Motcombe Parish Council, informed the meeting that Motcombe is very supportive of a link between Motcombe and Gillingham and the aspiration is included in the Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy MOT21 of the Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan states:

The provision of the Motcombe to Gillingham cycleway is supported, and the route indicated on the Policies Map shall be safeguarded for its implementation, unless an alternative feasible route is identified.

Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed [HERE](#)

PM raised concerns over possible conflicts between equestrian use of the bridleway and use by cyclists.

PM has spoken with a key landowner at the Motcombe end and received a lukewarm response to the creation of a cycleway along existing bridleway/footpath routes, especially in areas where a cycleway would not be compatible with grazing livestock.

PM informed the meeting that during the winter months some parts of the route are virtually unwalkable in wet weather.

4. Update from Gillingham

BvC informed the meeting that he has recently walked the routes between Gillingham and Motcombe and outlined many of the issues he had encountered, including areas that were flooded or too muddy to use safely.

BvC informed the meeting that various alternative routes have been investigated over the past twelve years but following investigations it has been established that these alternative routes are not feasible.

5. Update re. s106 funding

Hugh De longh (HdL), Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer, informed the meeting that there is currently £44,000 of Section 106 money allocated to highway enhancement for the riverside footpath/cycleway link between Shaftesbury Rd at Lodden Bridge and Kings Court Palace. This money is at risk and can be used for improvements to the link between Gillingham and Motcombe.

HdL confirmed that the previously agreed improvement works to Bridleway 69/6 are being funded from another Section 106 budget, which is for 'Informal Recreation at Chantry Fields and the Royal Forest', and which holds £36,839 net of the previously agreed improvements. Improvements to the bridleway can be funded from this budget as the route passes through the Royal Forest.

HdL commented that as the different Section 106 allocations are specific about what they can be used for, it is best that he has an overall view of the projects proposed, so he can achieve the best match between projects and allocations.

6. Viability of the Project

GS informed the meeting that the route of the bridleway is the driest route and it was agreed that no other routes are viable.

Consideration was given to the viability of the project, including: the continued resistance from some landowners; the cost of bridging the River Lodden; flooding, and, obstacles created by future housing development. It was agreed that the diversions of the public rights of way around the south east of Gillingham, including the diversion of the footpath to Woodwater Farm and the removal of the current at-level railway crossing, is not viable. It was agreed that the Task and Finish Group should deal with the section of Bridleway between Gillingham and Motcombe.

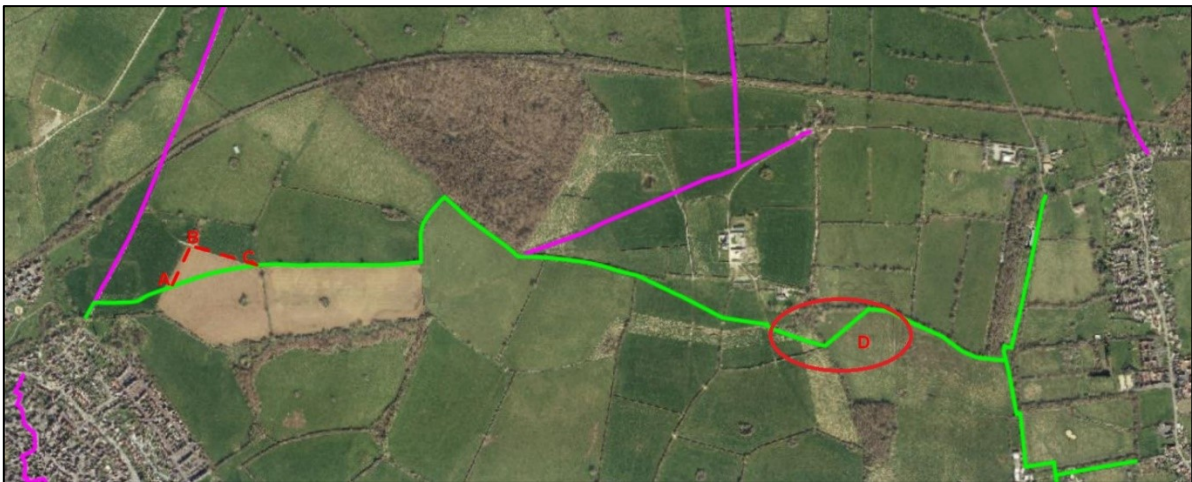
GS informed the meeting that some improvement works to the bridleway will commence shortly, however further work will be required. The planned improvements include work to the culverts, new gates and the addition of stone in some of the gateways.

Diversion of part of the bridleway was discussed. GS explained the process which could take approximately 5 years to complete.

7. The Way Forward

It was agreed that an application should be submitted to divert part of the bridleway (A to C) at Kings Court onto the walked route (A to B to C). Please refer to the map below.

It was agreed that GS and PM would consult landowners in Motcombe regarding the possibility of diverting part of the route which currently crosses the middle of fields (Area D). Subject to agreement by the landowners, and by Motcombe Parish Council, the application for the diversion of the bridleway should also include this area. Please refer to area D on the map below.



Improvements to the bridleway were considered and it was agreed that a recommendation should be submitted to Gillingham Town Council and Motcombe Parish Council that Section 106 money should be used to fund the application for the diversion of Bridleway No. 69/6 and for improvements to the bridleway, as listed below. It was agreed that improvements to the surface and to drainage should be given priority over way markers, interpretation boards and self-closing gates.

This report and its recommendations will be considered by the General Purposes Committee of Gillingham Town Council on 1st February 2021. The decision of the General Purposes Committee will need to be ratified by Full Council on 22nd February 2021.

Subject to agreement by the Parish Clerk, the recommendations of this report will be considered by Motcombe Parish Council on 9th March 2021.

8. Recommendations

- **That the Rights of Way Officer and the representative from Motcombe Parish Council establish, through consultation with landowners, whether areas of the bridleway, as detailed in this report, can be diverted.**
- **That subject to approval by the landowners and by Motcombe Parish Council, an application for the diversion of Bridleway No. 69/6 is submitted by the Rights of Way Officer and funded by Section 106 money held by Dorset Council.**
- **That the Rights of Way Officer provides an early estimate of works and project costs for the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer, and, subject to Section 106 funds being able to be allocated appropriately, is instructed to carry out the following work, funded by Section 106 monies:**
 - **Improvements to the drainage of Bridleway No. 69/6 between Gillingham and Motcombe;**
 - **improvements to the surface of Bridleway No. 69/6 between Gillingham and Motcombe;**
 - **replacement of stiles/gates with self-closing gates where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6;**
 - **installation of fingerposts and improvements to way markers where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6, and**
 - **the installation of interpretation boards where appropriate along Bridleway No. 69/6.**
- **That the Dorset Council Community Led Development Officer establish, based on the early estimate of works and project costs, the most appropriate way to provide Section 106 funding, taking into account the different allocations and purposes.**

Gillingham Town Council**Estate Management and Properties Sub Committee****Thursday, 21st January 2021 at 10am**

Present: Cllr Barry von Clemens (Lead Member)
Cllr John Kilcourse
Bob Messer (Gillingham Action for Nature Group)
Simon Dobie, Works Manager
Martin Down, Deputy Works Manager
Clare Ratcliffe, Deputy Town Clerk (Convenor)

Apologies: Cllr Graham Poulter, Cllr Keith Wareham, Cllr Mike Gould

1. To receive a quotation for extra drainage at Marlott Road

Following the excellent drainage works carried out at Marlott Road earlier in 2020, it is now evident that additional drainage work is required on the perimeter of the play area.

The Works Manager has spoken to the contractor who carried out the works previously and it has been recommended that to insert two drains, one running through the area where the water is holding and the second drain 3 metres apart on the open space area to stop the water from reaching the play area. Both drains would be 40 metres in length connecting into the main carrier drain that was inserted last year.

The drains would need to be done before any fencing work and after the area has dried out.

The cost for this work would be £1350.00 ex. VAT. This price includes the disposal of all trench arisings

2. To receive quotations for Play Area Fencing at Marlott Rd and Weatherby Road

A report summarising the tenders received was dealt with by Full Council on 25th January 2021. The preferred contractor has provided all the health and safety documentation required and the contract has been awarded to PJ and CM Froud for £16,370.

3. Service Level Agreement with Dorset Wildlife Trust

Prior to the pandemic lockdown in March 2020, preliminary discussions had been held with Dorset Wildlife Trust on the contents of a proposed Service Level Agreement (SLA). A comprehensive list was considered, as follows:

- Monitoring and recording biodiversity on Gillingham Town Council open spaces
- Providing an annual biodiversity report on GTC sites highlighting key species
- An annual review of site management plans and updating as required
- Providing general advice and support GTC on matters relating to wildlife and biodiversity
- Assisting GTC in retaining Green Flag status on existing sites and achieving Green Flag status on new sites
- Achieving SNCI designation for appropriate sites
- Supporting GTC to achieve other conservation designations
- Helping and support Gillingham as a Pollinator Friendly Town
- Provide advice on new housing developments at a strategic and detailed level particularly in relation to open spaces and biodiversity
- Assisting with volunteer and community groups
- Providing miscellaneous support - including; photography, interpretation and social media
- Developing projects and opportunities for new environmental initiatives in the Gillingham area
- Providing any other advice and support as appropriate

The sub-committee agreed that all the items listed above should be included in an agreement or memorandum of understanding.

An example of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) recently completed for Shires Gate and Shreen Meadow is appended to this report.

4. Public Open Space at Hawthorne Avenue – Complaints

Issues raised by residents in this area will be dealt with as follows:

- The missing fence will be replaced with post and rail fencing to match existing. This will be inexpensive and can be done in-house.
- The drainage issue will be dealt with by a site visit, when restrictions permit, to involve the following:

Cllr John Kilcourse, Cllr Graham Poulter, Works Manager, Deputy Works Manager and a representative from the local Management Company responsible for local drainage and sewage.

- The tree that was to be planted in on this open space in the autumn 2020, and postponed due to objections by a resident, will be planted before March 2021 with Cllr Graham Poulter in attendance (date to be agreed).

5. Date of Next Meetings

- Interpretation Board meeting¹ no.1 8th Feb – without DWT but including Dorset Tech
- Interpretation Board meeting no.2 18th Feb – with DWT
- Estate Management Meeting – 10th February 2021, 10am – to discuss SLA (TBC)
- Estate Management Meeting – 25th February 2021, 10.00am
- Estate Management Meeting – 18th March 2021, 10am

6. Recommendations

- **That additional drainage work at Marlott Road play area is undertaken at a cost of £1,350 and financed from budget no. 3316, Marlott Road play area.**
- **That a draft SLA with Dorset Wildlife Trust should include the list of items considered by the Estate Management and Properties sub-committee at a meeting held on 21st January 2021.**

¹ Interpretation Board meetings involve the following members only: Cllr B von Clemens, Bob Messer, Works Manager, Deputy Works Manager and Deputy Town Clerk

General Purposes Committee – 1st February 2021

Minute no. 178 (g)

Gillingham Town Council

Traffic Management Sub Committee

Meeting held on 26th January 2021

Author: Cllr Alison von Clemens

Present: Cllr Alison von Clemens, Lead Member
Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Valerie Potheary
Cllr Mike Gould
Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk
Enrico Dimarino, Dorset Council Community Highways Officer
Nicola Fear PCSO
Victoria Biggs PCSO

Apologies: Cllr John Robinson
Clare Ratcliffe, Deputy Town Clerk

1. Correspondence - Unadopted Service Road to the rear of Addison Terrace

Concerns have been raised over the condition of this road and speeding. This has been an ongoing concern for a number of years. This road is owned by Sovereign Housing Association. After discussing various options, it was decided the best course of action is to email Sovereign Housing Association express the residents' concerns and report back any response to the next sub-committee meeting

2. Wyke Road – Double Yellow Lines

The consultation on the proposed yellow lines on Wyke Road has now been completed, the result of which was 7 responses, 3 for the proposal and 4 against. We have been asked to confirm that the council is still in favour of this proposal and to provide reasoning for why we are in favour. The committee feels that we should still be in favour of this proposal for the following reasons.

- (a) There is adequate parking for the residents;
- (b) to give better visibility for vehicles leaving Gillingham; and
- (c) safer for vehicles traveling along that stretch of road.

3. Road Safety Concerns – Milton-on-Stour, junction with Martins Lane and Slodbrook Lane

A request to look at lowering the speed limit. Enrico will make a site visit and consider the item again at the next sub-committee. Concerns with regards to icy roads were also raised. Dorset Council will be asked if Martins Lane can be added to the gritting route.

4. Road Safety Concerns - Bay Road

Discussed with PSCO's. Due to the nature of the road and the fact that it is very narrow there is nothing we are able to do to increase the safety along Bay Road.

5. Speeding - Queen Street

In response to resident's concerns, this matter was dealt with at a previous Traffic Management meeting. Awaiting Dorset Council to carry out a pre-feasibility study looking at the issues and options for improving the traffic along Queen Street. At present, there is no date for when this will be undertaken.

6. Request for a Speed Camera - B3081 Shaftesbury Road

Mobile speed van has been in this area in the past, but local residents were unhappy with the vans being there. A speed indicator device (SID) is placed along this road at the Orchard Park roundabout.

7. Road Safety - School Lane

PCSOs have concerns about child safety due to parking along School Lane at drop off and pick up times for the primary school. Various options discussed, Enrico to discuss further with PSCO's.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting set for 23rd February 2021 at 4pm.

9. Recommendations

- **That Gillingham Town Council confirms to Dorset Council that the town council is in favour of the proposal to place double yellow lines on Wyke Road.**
- **That Gillingham Town Council requests Dorset Council to add Martins Lane, Milton-on-Stour, to the gritting route.**

10. Any Other Business

The following information was received after the meeting and a recommendation from the Traffic Management Sub-committee will be presented at the General Purposes meeting:

Email from Dorset Council:

You may recall that prior to Christmas we wrote to you about our planned changes for our Free Parking Policy. It is Dorset Council's intention to standardise and set a clear framework for Town and Parish Councils when applying for 'free' parking days'. Historically these have been used differently in each local area, leading to ongoing perceptions of inequity, and difficulty for officers in trying to make consistent and fair decisions across the county.

The new policy:

To support local economy, Dorset Council will give a total of **six free parking days** in Dorset Council car parks. This is made up of the following:

- At the request of the Town or Parish Council free parking in all Dorset Council car parks for **four** days each year, for events which generate valuable footfall for that town. These four days cannot be used in December
- At the request of the Town or Parish Council free parking in all Dorset Council Town Centre car parks for that town on **one** weekday in December
- Free parking in all Dorset Council Town Centre car parks on **Small Business Saturday** in December

No other days in December will be considered unless the Town Council, Local BID or other organisation(s) are willing to meet the cost of the lost income at an amount to be calculated by the Council's parking team based on average weekend costs for that time of year.

We would like to implement this policy as soon as possible so that you can start planning your free parking days for 2021. Please could you send any queries or comments regarding the new policy to elizabeth.murray@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 19th February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Bryan
Portfolio holder for Highways, Travel and Environment

General Purposes – 1 February 2021

Minute no. 178 (i)

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Gateways Sub Committee

Update Report – February 2021

1. Station Mural

The Station Mural sub group met on 18th January 2021. The group members working on this project are Cllr Wareham, Cllr Weeks, Deputy Town Clerk and the Project Administrator. Below is a list of activities undertaken and progress to-date:

- The grant application to South Western Railway was unsuccessful
- A grant application has been made to Dorset Council Leisure Development Fund for £2,500
- Locating the mural at the station would give access to other funding. Permissions are currently being sought
- Quotes are currently being obtained for the artwork and production
- A meeting will be arranged at the end of February 2021.
- A report and recommendations will be submitted to the General Purposes Committee in March.

2. Butterfly and Bee Garden

Former Town Councillor, Belinda Ridout, is still keen to progress this project on behalf of Gillingham Town Council and the Friends of Gillingham Station.

In November 2020, Network Rail released a 'Business and Technical Clearance' for the work so that a Community Licence can now be applied for, which will take about six weeks. The licence is for two years and will then need to be revalidated but this is not an issue.

A quotation from a Gillingham based landscaping company who specialise in wildlife gardens was received in May 2020 for £7,495. It is this design on which the licence has been granted. The garden will be wildlife friendly. Any trees and shrubs would need to be kept in a container.

A team of Network Rail employees will be on site in early to mid-February 2021 to take down and remove the trees on site (a dead fir tree). A white picket fence will be installed along the pathway.

The landscaping contractor will prepare the ground in August 2021, with planting in the autumn. The garden should be low maintenance, requiring attention two to three times

a year. The Community Licence will be issued to the Friends of Gillingham Station, who will also be undertaking the future maintenance.

3. Peacemarsh Roundabout

A sculpture of a White Hart, which matches the sculptures that were installed just before Christmas 2021 on the roundabout at Ham, has now been positioned on the roundabout at Peacemarsh.

Dorset Council Landscaping team have completed all their work for the time being and will return in the autumn to plant the spring bulbs that were unable to be planted late last year due to a supply problem.



4. Landscaping – Highway Verge - Mole Valley and Howdens

There is still no response from Dorset Council Highways about when any landscaping works will be started next to the Factory Shop, therefore, it is not possible to progress any ideas for landscaping the highway verge near Mole Valley/Howdens.

5. Newbury Planted Area

Plans to enhance this area have not been fully discussed.

6. Remaining Funds

The summary of anticipated expenditure for the roundabouts and estimated costs for other stages of the project, appears on page 3 of this report.

The cost for refurbishing the highway verge to the side of Mole Valley and Howdens is unknown and therefore has not been included in the summary; however, sufficient funds will remain when it is possible to do this work.

Description	Amount	Totals
Grant Award		70,000
Refurbishment of roundabouts (expected costs – not all invoices received)	28,704.00	
Butterfly and Bee Garden (expected costs)	7,500.00	
Entrance Signage - landscaping (estimated costs)	8,000.00	
Newbury - additional planting (estimated costs)	1,000.00	
Newbury - public art (estimated costs)	4,000.00	
Total Anticipated project costs		49,204.00
Remaining Funds		20,796.00

7. Date of Next Meeting

A meeting will be arranged in late February 2021.

Gillingham Town Council

Gillingham Enquiries January – February 2021

1. The utilities cover in the road at Scotchy Hill heading towards East Stour has dropped and the road surface is breaking up around it. Logged with Dorset Council ref. 1161273
2. Footpath from Brewery Lane to Oak tree meadow is too muddy and slippery to use. Logged with Dorset Council ref. MNT50597
3. Cracks along road - top of Bowridge Hill. Logged with Dorset Council ref. 1161444
4. Concerns raised regarding a poorly maintained tree in Casterbridge Way. Logged with Dorset Council ref.1161594.
5. Uneven and sometimes wet/icy pavement at the edge of the Town Car Park next to the fence at Rawson Court. Logged with Dorset Council ref.1161622