



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 11th January 2021

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting convened on Monday 11th January 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 Paul Harris
Cllr Graham Poulter (Deputy Chairman)	Cllr John Robinson
Cllr Fiona Cullen	Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Rupert Evill	Cllr Barry von Clemens
Cllr Alison Gale	Cllr Roger Weeks
Cllr Dennis Griffin	Cllr Keith Wareham

Non-members of this Committee:

Cllr Sharon Cullingford
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr John Kilcourse

In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins
Deputy Town Clerk, Clare Ratcliffe

Press and Public:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News
Gemma Gibson, The Vale Journal
One member of the public present

164. 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.

165. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

166. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 7th December 2021, as a true and accurate record. The minutes will be duly signed when it is possible to do so.

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

There were no questions.

168. 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.

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

a) Allotments and Burials (sub-committee)

Cemetery Business

Cllr Evill, Lead Member, referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer **Appendix A** below. The report contained two recommendations.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(a) a motion is put to Full Council that Gillingham Town Council reconsider the resolution made at the General Purposes Meeting on 7th September 2020, minute number 135a, (cemetery regulations amendment) and ratified at Full Council on 28th September 2020, minute number 331a.

Cllr Poulter had made further revisions to the Cemetery Regulations some of which had been circulated prior to the meeting and others were made at the meeting. All the amendments were minor and did not change the integrity of the document.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Cemetery Regulations are amended as recommend in the Allotment and Burials sub-committee report (Appendix A attached) and subsequent minor amendments made at the General Purposes Committee meeting and presented to Full Council for approval.

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, reported that the Poppy Appeal in November 2020 raised in the region of £8,000 (exact figure to be confirmed).

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

There was no report this month. A meeting is scheduled for 20th January 2021.

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 seven recommendations; however, an additional recommendation was tabled at the meeting.

The following recommendation was tabled at the meeting:

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Astill Treecare is instructed to carry out a re-survey of all trees in the Higher Use Risk Zone and the Lower Use Risk Zone at a cost of £2,400 and financed from the tree budget FY 2021/22.

The following recommendations were contained within the report (see Appendix B below):

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a sub-committee meeting is arranged to discuss the LAP and LEAP design for Barnaby Mead submitted by Aster Homes and followed up by a meeting with Aster Homes.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that £3,000 is made available from General Reserves to cover tree work necessary for FY 2020/21.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that provision to increase the funds available for tree work in FY 2021/22 by of £6,365 is made available by including £5,000 in the budget for FY 2021/22 and earmarking £1,365 from the General Reserves. N.B. Cllr Toye abstained from voting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the larger open spaces are grouped under one name for ease of reference on future management plans, signage and reports, as follows:

The Stour Public Open Space – to cover public open spaces: Jubilee Fields/Rolls Bridge/King Edmund Green/Hawthorne Avenue

The Shreen Public Open Space – to cover public open spaces: Shires Gate/Shreen Meadow

The Lodden Public Open Space – to cover open spaces: Upper Lodden Meadow, Lower Lodden Meadow/Ham Farm

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the proposed diversion of the desire footpath across Gyllas Green is progressed and that permission is sought from Dorset Council.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that RV are asked to make a film as per their proposal and that £500 is allocated from budget no. 5090 Promotion and Signage, with an additional £400 available if RV is unsuccessful in seeking external funding (note that this project is likely to be delayed due to the Covid pandemic and, therefore, sufficient funds (max £900) will need to be earmarked in General Reserves at the end of the financial year).

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Herbetum project initiated by Gillingham in Bloom is now adopted by Gillingham Town Council.

f) Health and Safety (sub-committee)

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

g) Traffic Management (sub-committee)

The working party now has a new Lead Member following Cllr Val Pothercary's resignations from the role due to other commitments. Prior to the meeting, Cllr Alison von Clemens volunteered to be the new Lead Member and would be calling a meeting later in the month.

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

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

i) Gillingham Gateways (task and finish group)

Cllr Gould, Lead Member, had nothing report this month.

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, informed the meeting that the sub-committee will be holding a meeting next Wednesday, 19th January 2021.

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

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

170. To receive and consider a request from North Dorset Rugby Football Club for the Gillingham Town Council to investigate a safe pedestrian/cycle route from Wavering Lane to the Rugby Club.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting, please refer to **Appendix C** below.

This item was withdrawn at the meeting and referred to the Planning Committee which normally deal with Footpaths matters.

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

Please refer to **Appendix D** below.

172. 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 8.06pm.

General Purposes Committee – 11th January 2021

Minute no. 169(a)

GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Allotments and Burials Sub-Committee

Notes of meeting held on Wednesday, 6th January 2021

Author: Mrs Jill Ezzard, Office Manager

Present: Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Paul Harris
Cllr Donna Toye
Cllr Keith Wareham
Julie Hawkins, Town Clerk
Jill Ezzard, Office Manager

Apologies: Cllr Rupert Evill (Lead Member) (due to technical difficulties)

1. Introduction

At the Allotment and Burial working party meeting on Wednesday 6th January 2021, members agreed to recommend changes to the cemetery regulations. As the last changes were made at the Full Council meeting on 28th September 2020, the six month ruling still applies, it was recommended that a motion is made to Full Council by Cllr Rupert Evill, Cllr Paul Harris and Cllr Donna Toye "In accordance with Standing Order No. 7(a) Gillingham Town Council reconsider the resolution made at the General Purposes Meeting on 7th September Minute number 135a, (cemetery regulations amendment) and ratified at Full Council on 28th September 2020, Minute number 331a.

2. Recommended Amendments to Cemetery Regulations

The recommended amendments to the Cemetery Regulations are to add section 7.3 and amend 7.6 and 8.2:

7.3 The right to erect and maintain a memorial on a grave will be granted for a period of 30 years. This period can be extended upon application to The Town Council by the owner (grantee) and following a satisfactory inspection of the memorial by the Town Council. The Town Council may authorise removal of memorials from private graves, where this has expired, or if the memorial has fallen into disrepair and become dangerous, defective or illegible as stated in section 7.10 of these regulations.

- 7.6 No kerb surround/edging will exceed 762 mm in width and 2100mm in overall length (2'6" x 7') and will be made of the same type of material as the approved headstone. **The materials used must be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the headstone.**
- 8.2 No tree or shrub shall be planted in, or removed from the Cemetery, without the express permission of Gillingham Town Council. **Planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs or any other vegetation is not permitted on any grave, and the Town Council reserve the right to remove any that have been planted without notice.**

The Cemetery Regulations are available to view in full on the Town Council website or by clicking on the link below:

www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Cemetery-Regulations-2020.pdf

3. Recommendations

- That in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(a) Gillingham Town Council reconsider the resolution made at the General Purposes Meeting on 7th September, minute number 135a, (cemetery regulations amendment) and ratified at Full Council on 28th September 2020, minute number 331a.
- That the Cemetery Regulations are amended as recommend above.

General Purposes Committee – 11th January 2021

Agenda item no. 169(e)

Gillingham Town Council

Estates and Properties Sub-Committee

Notes of Meeting held on Thursday, 7th January 2021 at 10am

Present: Cllr Barry von Clemens (Lead)
Cllr Alan Frith
Cllr Graham Poulter
Cllr John Kilcourse
Martin Down, Deputy Works Manager
Clare Ratcliffe, Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Mick Gould
Cllr Keith Wareham
Simon Dobie, Works Manager

1. Complaints

- Hawthorne Avenue (2 x residents) – It was suggested that these on-going complaints are dealt with by a face to face meeting when Covid-restrictions permit.
- Gyllas Way / Peacemarsh re management of various sites – the email response was agreed.
- King Edmund Green (boundary hedge) – letter response agreed.

2. Barnaby Mead – adjoining land

- Play area layout (LAP and LEAP combined) supplied on behalf of the housing developer.

It was decided that a separate meeting was arranged to discuss this design and followed by a meeting with the housing developer.

- To note s106 agreement and commuted sums contained therein:
 - £41,453 for maintenance of LAP
 - £160,621 for maintenance of LEAP
 - £47 per square metre of open space
 - £778.00 per dwelling for contributions towards Hardings Park (£38,900)

- £386.21 per dwelling for sports facilities at Hardings Park (£19,310.50)
Number of houses to be built 50

3. Tree Budget

Please refer to **APPENDIX B1**

4. Interpretation Panels

Cllr von Clemens, Bob Messer (GANG), Simon Dobie attended an online meeting with Nicki Brunt (DWT) on 16th December 2020. Information will be collated by Clare so that this can be sent to DWT by 21st January. GANG input is also required. Wording about land management required by Simon/Clare.

Interpretation may also include way-markers to help people navigate the sites.

The style of board has yet to be discussed.

Suggest the larger sites have a group name to make it easier for administration purposes, as follows:

- Stour Open Space - Jubilee Fields/Rolls Bridge/King Edmund Green/Hawthorne Avenue
- Shreen Open Space – Shires Gate/Shreen Meadow
- Lodden Open Space – Upper Lodden Meadow, Lower Lodden Meadow/Ham Farm

5. Proposed Orienteering Film

RV have provided further details as follows:

“As promised, I've looked at the budget again and it still stands. We would need £1300 for the two films and I really do think we need the two - the first a more traditional promo video and the second 'how to', a speedy, sparky "this is what you need, this is how you do it, these are the things you look out for, these are the different ways you can do it - ramble, race etc. We have a schedule mapped out with Lou and Bekah recruiting and then leading a YP team to do the research and planning for the how to and the actual event, but all things are open to change!

Realistically we'd be looking at c 12wks based on weekly activity, but bad weather and illness can throw things out. Ideally it would be great to start after February half term with filming in April when the weather is better. However, we do have to be mindful of Covid and if we think that waiting a few weeks means we could have a more relaxed filming and natural planning and working situation with the YP we would prefer to do that.

- **Wk 1-6 Pre-Production** - Recruit young people's film team, YP research and plan the day, input from estates department to identify the areas to be promoted, linking into DofE and identifying participants - eg RV Young Parents Groups grandparents, younger children (Youth Club) etc

- **Wk 7 - Filming (Saturday)** - Film participants from across the ages taking part in the trail, vox pop interviews for soundbites, make sure general views are captured of all the open spaces and any signage and background shots etc needed for the 'how to' film
- **Wk 8 - 9 Review / Editing / Pre production Film 2** -YP review the success of the day and begin to plan film 2, Film 1 edit starts
- **Wk 9-10 - Filming (Thursday evening)** - Filming and voice over recordings take place
- **Wk 11 - Rough cut review** -
- **Wk 12 - Final film**
- **Screening/release**

In terms of funding, we can allocate £400 and if the council would grant something then we can make something happen and fill the shortfall somehow - I'd be happy to approach the Rotary and the Lions, I'm also looking at developing a specific business partnership that this might work for and I also wondered about a crowd-funder. The film had 1.8k views in 3 days so maybe there's a chance - YP, led by the amazing Alisha could film a little video promo for the promo! If we fail (and I don't like to think that I'd fail on the shortfall) then we would revisit what was possible and let you know. There are tokens too and we do have time as it needs to be shot in the spring when everything's not so grey and muddy!"

The film would be an excellent way to promote the town's open spaces plus encourage all ages to exercise and enjoy being outside. The film would be similar to the excellent film RV made about young people and their reactions to the pandemic and lockdowns. [The Rendezvous Dorset - YouTube](#)

Green Flag judges have highlighted that our open spaces need to be better promoted. This has always been a challenge because the open spaces are not visitor attractions but green spaces between housing developments.

Currently budget no. 5090 Promotion and Signage has a balance of £2,500, which could be used for the production of the film.

6. Sherborne Estates

Re reimbursement offered from Sherborne Estates for routine maintenance of land to rear of Waitrose. No response received from Sherbone Estates. A chase email was sent at the beginning of January 2021 (staff may be furloughed due to Covid Pandemic).

7. Gyllas Green

It has been recommended by the arboriculturalist that the desire path over Gyllas Green is diverted to prevent further compaction of the roots at the base of a large Oak tree.

An enquiry has been made with Tree Officer at DC regarding whether or not permission would be required, as it is likely the hedge has been a feature of the landscape prior to 1887 (based on in house researching old maps and aerial photographs).

The response from the tree officer, as follows:

“Looking at the Hedgerow Regulations and the designation of this land as a ‘green space’, I would consider a hedgerow removal notice necessary, unless of course you were looking to plant up the existing opening with new hedging plants (I appreciate this may not be practicable with issues such as shading and wishing to avoid further damage to the rooting area of the oak). Applications can be submitted online via the planning portal, in the same way as tree work notices and applications.”

8. Management Plans

A meeting regarding revision was held on 17th December. Plans will be revised and submitted by Green Flag before 31st January. DWT are currently revising biodiversity action plans.

9. Open spaces FB page

This item came about following review of the Green Flag judges’ comments and also thinking ahead with regards to information that appears on new interpretation boards. It was suggested that a specific FB page would be a good way of engaging with local residents regarding volunteer days and wildlife sightings. Further discussion required at a later date.

10. DWT Service Level Agreement

A draft SLA has been provided by DWT. Further discussion required at a later date.

11. Herbetum Trail

This project was initiated by Gillingham in Bloom (GIB). GIB no longer exists. The project needs to be formally adopted by GTC, so that its progress is monitored by the Estates and Properties Sub Committee.

Currently there is difficulty contracting South Western Trains to request drawdown of grant funding. SWT are short of staff due to Covid pandemic.

12. GANG activities

GANG has secured a site for a tree nursery with plenty of water. Timing depends on volunteers being released from lock down before dormant trees become active again.

Part 1: Seventy young trees will be planted to bring on over two or three years before planting around the town and being offered to land owners to plant nearby. All varieties will be big trees.

Part 2: Smaller garden trees like rowan, wild cherry, etc plus native shrubs such as alder, buckthorn and guelder rose native shrubs.

13. Play Areas

Tenders for play area fencing were sent on Monday, 4th January 2021 to six fencing contractors. Time scale as follows:

Details of the tender timetable are as follows:

Activity	Date
Issue of Invitation to Tender	Monday, 4 th Jan 2021
Receipt of any queries from prospective tenderers	Friday, 15 th Jan 2021
Submissions of tenders	Wed, 20 th Jan 2021
Decision on award of contract by Full Council held at 7.30pm. This is a public meeting.	Mon, 25 th Jan 2021
Successful contractor contacted	Tues, 26 th Jan 2021
Commencement of contract	As soon as possible
Completion of Contract	Wed, 31 st March 2021

However, Covid restrictions may hinder progress with this project and it is unlikely that we will receive tenders by all six contractors.

Cllr Kilcourse kindly checked over the tender document before it was sent out.

Members of the sub-committee will be sent completed tenders during the afternoon on Wednesday, 20th January 2021, for a proposal to be discussed at a sub-committee the following day, Thursday, 21st January 2021 at 10am

14. High Street WC

- Lock: The problem is with the door closure. Contractor due back on site to fix shortly.
 - Signs: These are currently being made.
- The toilet will be available to the public when the door closure has been fixed.

15. Closed Churchyard Boundary Wall

Meeting with Church Architect planned for 15th January 2021. Representatives from GTC and PCC will be in attendance (Covid dependant).

Draft SLA will need to be discussed at a later date.

16. War Memorial

Just before Christmas 2020, Cllr Kilcourse and Deputy Town Clerk met with David Odgers, a highly recommended specialist stone masonry (Odgers Conservation) for further advice regarding war memorial maintenance. Letter with proposals is awaited.

Cllr Kilcourse has investigated possible grant funding for anticipated works.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 21st January 2021 at 10am. Estate Management sub-committee will meet regularly on 3rd Thursday of each month.

**Estate Management
Tree Budget Report – 07 January 2021
Author: Clare Ratcliffe, Deputy Town Clerk**

This report has been written with the assistance of the Deputy Works Manager and the Responsible Financial Officer.

Budget 2020/21: Background

Tree budget FY 2020/21: £9,000 plus earmarked reserves £5,101

Total available funds in FY 2020/21: £14,101

Spend to date (06/01/21): £11,255

Remaining funds from Jan to March 2021: £2,845

Further request for £3,000 required to complete necessary works within FY 2020/21

Budget 2021/22: Introduction

The draft precept for FY 2021/22 has allowed a total of £12,000 for tree work under nominal account 5200 - to include tree risk assessments, tree maintenance, tree emergency work and tree planting.

The table below illustrates how a budget previously recommended of £12,000 is insufficient.

Item	Budget for Tree work	Suggested Budget 2021/22 £12,000	Amended Budget 2021/22
1	Tree Risk Assessment report by arboriculture consultant		
	2021 Full survey due Dec 2021		2,400.00
1a	Ad hoc Tree risk assessments (one off events)		300.00
2	Tree surgery and maintenance		
	Planned work		3,000.00
	Work Risk Assessment in Dec 2021		5,000.00
2a	Tree surgery for emergencies		3,500.00
3	Tree protection and aftercare		
	Tree guards, mulch, stakes and ties, fertilizer		1,765.00
	15 planting kits at £15 each		
	10 steel tree guards at £154 each		
4	New Trees		
	15 established trees at £160 each		2,400.00
			18,365.00

1 Tree Risk Assessment

In March and April 2015, a Tree Condition Survey was undertaken by Astill Treecare of all trees growing on land under management of Gillingham Town Council. A recommendation was made that all trees within the Higher Risk* Zones (Zones 1) were resurveyed on a cycle of 3 years and that all trees in the Lower Risk* Zones (Zones 2) were resurveyed on a cycle of every 6 years.

- Higher Use Zone (Zone 1) - Trees within falling distance of highways, railways, residential dwellings, gardens, commercial buildings, areas used for events, allotments, play areas and land of regular use
- Lower Use Zones (Zone 2) - Trees within falling distance of open space, footpaths, open recreational areas, cemeteries and other areas of lower public use than Zone 1

A re-survey of all trees in the Higher Use Zones was carried out by Astill Treecare in 2018. The re-survey of all trees in both Higher and Lower Use Zones is due by December 2021.

Each tree in the Higher and Lower Use Zones shall be assessed from the ground for physiological health and structural condition. Binoculars, a steel probe and a sounding mallet shall be used where it is deemed necessary. The survey will be compiled purely on a negative reporting system. That is, only trees which reveal a defect or feature predisposing it to failure and a risk of significance to people and property shall be noted on the survey schedule. Where trees do not require remedial works, but exhibit features or defects that require monitoring in future surveys, these shall also be recorded within the schedule.

Where trees have been recorded in previous surveys, but no longer exhibit a condition or any features that require any remedial works or monitoring will be removed from the schedule.

Quote for re-survey of Higher and Lower Use Zones: Total - £2,400.00 (Ex VAT)
This quote is valid for a period of 6 months (until 23rd June 2021).

1a Ad-hoc Tree Risks Assessments

It is not unknown for additional advice to be sought regarding trees, especially with regards to TPO applications or disputes with residents. A sum of £300 should be allowed, based on previous experience.

2 Tree Surgery and Maintenance Works

On average tree works cost a minimum of £530. A budget of £3,000 only allows for approximately 5 to 6 visits by the tree surgeon. To-date £5,018 has been spent on tree surgery work. Only £2,845 remains in this year's budget. Tree work outstanding for this year is valued at between £4,650 and £5,235. Records show that each year at least c. £8,000 is spent on tree surgery work.

2a Emergency Tree Works

From experience, just to remove one large tree as a result of a storm about four to five years ago cost £2,500.

3 Tree Protection and Aftercare

To make sure that every tree planted stands a chance of reaching maturity, each tree is planted with care and the necessary protection depending on location. On occasions a steel tree guard is used at a cost of £154 each depending on how many are purchased at one time and the price of steel.

4 New Trees

The cost of new trees depends on size, variety, container or bare rooted. Inexpensive whips are normally planted in hedges.

For individual trees planted in a formal location or copse, larger trees are planted, costing from £120 to £160 depending on variety.

Each tree is planted with a soil improver, fertilizer, stake and tie costing c. £15 each

Example 1:

New established tree (3-5 years old): £160

Plus tree planting kit: £15

Plus steel guard: £154

Total cost £329

Example 2:

To plant 15 no. trees x £329 = £4,935

Businesses use tree planting to offset their carbon footprint. Communities need to offset their carbon footprint. We also need to replant trees in areas where trees have failed due to age, weather or disease. It is likely that many of our ash trees will need to be replaced due to disease next year. Changes in the climate will cause more disease amongst the tree population.

Since 2012 we have planted 834 trees on town council land; 400 of these are at Jubilee Fields. Not all the whips will reach maturity as thinning will need to take place to ensure the strongest survive. We have lost 200 trees since 2012. Net gain 634 trees.

Government is concerned that we need to plant a good mixture of trees not only those with a life span of 50 to 100 years but those like Oaks and Hornbeams that have a life span of many hundreds of years.

A tree planting plan is in progress and it may be possible to ask local residents to sponsor a tree, but the trees would be a particular variety and planted at specific locations. The uptake of this kind of project is unknown, especially given the current economic climate.

The Council should set a good example by planting trees. This year we have planted 18 mature saplings and 20 whips. GANG have planted 24 fruit trees.

5 Conclusion

That the budget for FY 2020/21 will be exhausted ahead of necessary tree works required for this year and that £3,000 will need to be taken from General Reserves to pay for this work.

That the proposed budget for FY 2021/22 of £12,000 is unrealistic.

6 Proposals

That £3,000 is made available from General Reserves to cover tree work necessary for FY 2020/21.

That provision to increase the amount of funds available for tree work by £6,365 is either:

- a) included in the budget for the budget for FY 2021/22, or**
- b) earmarked in the General Reserve.**

General Purposes Committee – 11 January 2021

Minute no. 170

Gillingham Town Council

Safer pedestrian/cycle route to Rugby Club

Author: Serena Burgess, Project Administrator

1. Background

- A footpath to give safer access to the North Dorset Rugby Club was included in the Neighbourhood Plan – Table 9.3:

“Extend Footpaths N64/64 and N64/65 from their north eastern ends at Milton Lane, eastwards across farmland to North Dorset Rugby Football Club house. This would also allow connectivity northwards along Longbury Hill Lane with Footpath N64/25 at its southernmost point on Field Lane.”

- Following a discussion with Cllr Barry von Clemens in September, the Rugby Club have written to the Town Council as follows:

“The need for a safe off-road access to the Club is even greater now as traffic flow makes the North section of Wavering Lane ever more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians and the option of car transport is bad for the environment.”

2. Recommendation

- **That a task and finish group is set up to investigate the feasibility of a safe off-road access from Wavering Lane to the Rugby Club to include a maximum of two town councillors, a facilitator(s) and external bodies, as appropriate.**

General Purposes Committee – 11th January 2021

Minute no. 172

GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Gillingham Enquiries December 2020 – January 2021

1. Traffic is backing up along station road to the High Street on a regular basis. This could be a traffic light phasing issue. Logged with Dorset Council ref. 1159858
2. The shrubs are growing over the pavement along Le Neubourg Way near Asda and need cutting back. Logged with Dorset Council ref. 1159709
3. Assisted a collapsed and unconscious lady.
4. Abandoned vehicle on the corner of Fairey Crescent and Bay Road. Logged with Dorset Council ref. AV292177482