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TOWN WARD



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Gillingham Town Council

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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
Responsible Financial Officer: Debra Edwards
Works Manager: Simon Dobie
Deputy Works Manager: Martin Down

Meetings

General Purposes: 1st Monday of the month

Planning Committee: 2nd Monday of the month

Finance Committee: 3rd Monday of the month

Full Council: 4th Monday of the month

On 4th April 2020 regulations came into effect which allow local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May 2021. Gillingham Town Council are currently holding meetings via Skype for Business.

The press and public may join the meeting by telephone, quoting the unique conference ID number shown on the agenda. For further details on how to join a meeting via Skype for Business, please contact the Town Council via email: gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk to request joining instructions.

Covid-19

The Town Hall is now closed to visitors, but we are still busy making sure our residents are receiving the support they need during this difficult time. If you need to contact us please telephone or email.

Our priority at the moment is to look after vulnerable members of the community who need support. We have set up a network of volunteers who are providing help and support to residents in all areas of Gillingham and a centralised collection/delivery of prescriptions will start on Friday 24 April.

Vulnerable residents who are self isolating and need to use the prescription service can call or email the Town Council before 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. The Town Council delivery team will then deliver from 3.00 pm the following working day. We can also accommodate urgent/same day delivery requests.

Our grounds team are concentrating on streets cleaning, emptying litter bins and dealing with fly tipping. They are also helping Dorset Waste Partnership respond to any waste issues.

We are working with Dorset Council and other partners to ensure that we can all provide an effect service where it is needed most. This means that grass cutting has had to be delayed but we hope to resume work as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

There will be regular updates on the Town Council's website and Facebook page. You may also contact your Town Councillors using the contact details on the back of this Newsletter.

Gillingham's Community Volunteers

On the 23rd March Gillingham Town Council set up a Community Emergency Management Team (CEMT) and by the 31st of March, the team had put together a network of over 100 volunteers covering every street in Gillingham, from Bainley Bottom to Lox Lane and from Huntingford to Madjeston – a total of 240 areas.

Each volunteer has been issued with a pack containing a high-viz jacket, gloves, an ID badge, lists of telephone numbers and useful information, all of which was delivered by Gillingham Town Council staff and councillors.

These volunteers are providing much needed help by shopping, collecting prescriptions and offering support to shielded, vulnerable and self-isolating residents who have no-one else to turn to, or sometimes talk to.

We also have nearly 30 standby volunteers ready to step in, should the need arise.

We want to make sure that everyone is getting the help they need. Volunteers have posted their contact details through the doors of households in Gillingham. If you have lost your card and need to contact your volunteer please contact us on 01747 823588 or email GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk.

We are proud to have a community that is so kind and compassionate and very grateful to our volunteers for stepping forward to help others during this difficult time.

THANK YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we enter a worrying and uncertain few months due to the Covid 19 virus it has been heartening to see our community rally together to respond to the situation. I would like to thank everyone who is doing their bit to help others during this time of crisis.

Sadly many groups have suspended their meetings and services and a number of events have also been either cancelled or postponed but we look forward to your return once things come back to normal.

There are regular updates coming through from the government on all media platforms I would urge everyone to only take note of the official advice as it is issued by the government and the NHS.

Stay safe and well.

Cllr Barry Von Clemens
Mayor of Gillingham



Fair Trade for Gillingham

At the Full Council meeting on 24th February, Gillingham Town Council resolved to working with the community to achieve Fairtrade Town Status by the end of 2020.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

With Fairtrade you have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices you can get farmers a better deal. And that means they can make their own decisions, control their future and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

If you would like any further information, please contact Cllr Fiona Cullen tel: 01747 837857 or email: cllrfiona.cullen@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk



Proposed New Road For Gillingham

On Tuesday 14th April members of the Planning Committee unanimously agreed to support an application for the construction of a new section of highway referred to as Gillingham Principal Street.

The 1.3 kilometre road will comprise a new junction with the B3092 New Road and run generally west to east to ultimately connect to the B3081 Shaftesbury Road.

A new junction with Shaftesbury Road will be the subject of a separate application.

Members of the public may view the plans via the Dorset Council website.



Flooding in Gillingham

The Environment Agency and Public Health England have produced a leaflet. 'Flooding: Advice for the Public'.

It offers advice on:

- planning for flooding before it happens
- what to do during a flood
- recovering and cleaning up after a flood

If your home is liable to flooding, it is vital you are prepared all year round.

Sign up for free flood warning messages from the Environment Agency's Floodline: 0345 988 1188.

Further information can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-planning-managing-and-recovering-from-a-flood

Gillingham Town Council provides 5 emergency green flood bins located throughout Gillingham. These bins are for emergency use only. If your home is at risk of flooding please be prepared by purchasing and storing your own supply of sandbags in preparation for future flooding.

The Former National Westminster Bank

Gillingham Town Council has been working with Dorset Council on an application to Historic England to add the former National Westminster Bank building in Gillingham to Historic England's list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Historic England considered all the representations made and following an assessment of the building made a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for the building to be listed. Confirmation has now been received from Historic England that the former National Westminster Bank building is added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II.



The local planning authority will now be preparing the statutory notices required under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. However, the Town Clerk confirmed that the listing of the building took effect on the day that the List entry was published on the National Heritage List for England.

Pride in Parks

Staff and volunteers welcomed a judge from South West in Bloom to visit our open spaces in September 2019 for the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks Awards. The results of the Award are normally presented at the South West in Bloom Spring Seminar 2020; however, due to the current crisis the event was cancelled, and the results have only just been received.

We were judged against 30 other entries in the south west and were the only entry from Dorset. The highest award is 5 stars. For the second year running our open spaces did very well and achieved the following:

Shires Gates and Shreen Meadow ★★★★★
Upper Lodden, Lower Lodden and Ham ★★★★★
Jubilee Fields, Rolls Bridge, King Edmund Green and Hawthorne Avenue ★★★★★

Many thanks to the work of Gillingham Action for Nature (GANG), the Gillingham Litterpickers and our grounds team.