CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL, FORE STREET,
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Mayor: Councillor Mrs. Cath Morrison - Town Clerk: Sarah Robson MILCM

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
of Chard Town Council
Held in the Town Hall, Guildhall, Chard
On Monday 28th January 2013 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs. C Morrison – Mayor
D Bulmer
J Dorse
M Dowell
Mrs. S Dowell
Mrs. B Halse
A Kenton
Mrs. J Kenton
Ms. S Pittwood
G Shortland
Mrs. S Wyatt

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Robson – Town Clerk, Terry Powell – Operations Manager
There was 1 member of the press present.

01. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.
LGA 1972 s85 (1).

Councillor Forsyth – Work Commitment
Councillor Mrs O'Brien – Illness
Councillor Prior - Holiday
Councillor Wale – Family Commitment

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies and approve the reason given

02. Declarations of Interest. Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 SI No.1159. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations). Councillors Bulmer, Dorse, Mrs. Dowell, Dowell, Mrs. Halse, Kenton, Mrs. Kenton, Mrs. Morrison, Ms. Pittwood, Shortland and Mrs. Wyatt declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item #03 on the grounds of having a land interest in Chard, and that this would preclude them from debate in setting the budget and precept. Having made a written request in writing to the Clerk, dispensations have been granted on the basis that that the meeting would otherwise be inquorate. This has been done under authority given in Standing Order 7e.

03. Budget – to receive and consider recommendation from Finance & Guildhall Committee for 2013/2014 budget and set the precept.

Reports previously circulated outlined changes imposed by central government and summarised the impact on the tax base with the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Several options were considered and concerns about safeguarding services were expressed. Results from a consultation undertaken by SSDC revealed that whilst most people didn't wish to see a rise in council tax bills it had been recognised that cuts in the provision of services was not desirable.

Members agreed that careful consideration had already been given to setting a realistic budget and trying to make cuts to expenditure was not an option.

Proposed: Councillor Kenton Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

RESOLVED – to confirm the budget as recommended by the Finance & Guildhall Committee without change and to set a precept of £530,854.00 which includes the Grant Allocation from SSDC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.00 pm