Chard Town Council
The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Jason Baker Locum Clerk: Paul Russell

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held remotely via zoom technology on Monday 11th January 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Kenton (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr G Verdon, Paul Russell, Locum Town Clerk, Tracy Lamb (Deputy Clerk & RFO), Liz Johnson-Idan (Community Liaison Officer) and Rev. Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor informed Members that voting would be by a named vote.

CHAPLAIN'S 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'
The Chaplain reflected on the difficulties of decision making and the challenge it presented to those in public life.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME
There were no members of the public present. The following matter was raised:

Cllr Morrison updated the meeting regarding the food parcels she was currently involved in distributing. Over 400 parcels had been sent out prior to Christmas and more boxes would be distributed in January. This was in addition to the Lord's Larder.

The Community Trigger Plan was activated in November 2020 by the Skate Park. This had now been progressed through the Chard One Team and the fencing would be repaired by the Social Landlord.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
District and County Councillor reports had been distributed to Members and were noted.

POLICE REPORT
The Police were unable to attend.

2020/244 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies for absence were received and accepted:
- Cllr Mrs Bates (work)
- Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather (Illness)
- Cllr Mrs Young (childcare issues)

2020/245 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:
- Due to the Coronavirus pandemic civic functions were currently not being organised;

- The Christmas lights had now been taken down. This had been undertaken using smaller groups.
- A conversation had been held with Blood Donors. They were very low on blood supplies and everyone was encouraged to give blood. The creation of Covid testing stations across the country had had a serious impact on blood supplies and collection.

2020/246 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest was made:

- Cllr Baker: Personal interest: Cheque payment 2020/251(d)

2020/247 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Wootton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison
Unanimous

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed under agenda item 2020/256, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2020/248 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Chard Town Council meetings held on 7th and 21st December 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/249 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council received the following report from the Locum Clerk:

(a) **Personnel & HR Committee –** Noted that this Committee would meet on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 5pm. The agenda would be sent to all Members.

(b) **Organisational & Staffing Structure Tender –** Council noted that meetings had been held with two of the four Tenderers invited and an informal discussion with a third Tenderer.

(c) **Energy Audit –** Council noted that an energy audit had been undertaken on 5th January 2021 at the Guildhall and the Cemetery. A grant had been secured from Salix to meet the costs.

2020/250 CORONAVIRUS

(a) **Update Report –** Council noted the update following the implementation of a National Lockdown that came into force on 4th January 2021 and the actions taken.

(b) **Covid-19 Testing Station –** Council noted the update regarding the delivery of a Testing Station at the Guildhall. A meeting with Serco and the Ministry of Health & Social Care would be held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 to finalise details.

2020/251 FINANCE

(a) **Budget Analysis Report –** Council noted the Income and Expenditure Balance Sheet for the year to date.

(b) **Budget Virements** – Council reviewed the budget virements that accord with the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulation

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt the budget virements as outlined in the report.

(c) **Direct Debit, BACS and Manual Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to note the Schedule of Payments for January 2021 amounting to £91,409.90.

(d) **Accounts for Payment –** Council reviewed the expenditure for Month 9 as outlined in the report presented.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Shortland

For: Cllr Kenton, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs. Wootton

Abstention: Cllr Baker

RESOLVED to pay all outstanding accounts amounting to £19,328.56.

(e) **Budget 2021/22 –** Council reviewed the draft budget and considered amending 102/4184 Council run events reduce by £506.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally approve the draft budget developed at the Budget Workshop held on Monday 21st December 2020 with the agreed amendment included.

2020/252 PRECEPT

Council considered requesting a precept of £661,056 from South Somerset District Council for 2021/22.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to request a precept of £661,056 from South Somerset District Council for 2021/22. This would result in a Band D charge of £152.71.

2020/253 COMMUNITY

(a) **Community Liaison Report –** Council received the report from the Community Liaison Officer.

It was agreed to send the link to enable Members to respond to the public consultation of toilet provision. The closing date was 29th January 2021.

(b) **Heritage Action Zone –** Council noted the update on the Cultural Programme bid that had been developed. A comprehensive bid was submitted on 11th December 2020.

(c) **Task & Finish/Working Group Reports –** It was noted that there were no reports to receive from the Task & Finish/Working Groups. Council noted that Somerset County Council had delayed assessment of the Climate Change grant applications it had received due to redeployment of staff to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

2020/254 PLANNING

(a) **Outstanding Planning Applications –** Council agreed to formally ratify the responses submitted to SSDC in the previous month under delegated authority.

Council agreed to submit the following comments relating to 16/02874/FUL:

Council wished to bring the following matters to the attention of the Planning Authority and that they be taken into consideration:

- Concern was expressed that the material amendments to the main application did not go far enough to meet the concerns of local residents;
- The proposal will have a detrimental impact on local residents;
- The proposal will inevitably place additional demand on the existing infrastructure within Chard;
- There are no proposals to improve the highway network which will be unable to cope with the additional impact of this development;
- The local schools do not have sufficient capacity to meet the additional demands this development will place on them.

2020/255 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Project Update Report –** Council noted the update report. It was agreed to include projected completion dates for each project.

2020/256 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2020/247 that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

(a) **Confidential Minutes –** Council considered the confidential minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 21st December 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Kenton, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs. Wootton

Abstention: Cllr Carnell.

RESOLVED that the Confidential Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held on 21st December 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/257 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** to hold an extraordinary meeting of Chard Town Council on Monday 25th January 2021 commencing at 7:00pm via the Zoom platform.

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 8th February 2021 commencing at 7:00pm via the Zoom platform.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:03pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**