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 22nd February 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

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

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

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

CHAPLAIN'S 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'
The Chaplain read a poem entitled "An Imagined Future"

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

Cllr Whittaker-Mather submitted 3 questions relating to an HR report previously commissioned by Chard Town Council. A written response had been provided.

2020/263 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies for absence were received and accepted:
- Cllr Mrs Bates (work)
- Cllr Carnell (work)
- Cllr Shortland (illness)
- Cllr Mrs Young (personal)

2020/264 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:
- Due to the Coronavirus pandemic civic functions were currently not being organised;
- The Mayor had attended a socially distanced meeting with the SSDC tree planting team who were currently planting trees in the area.

2020/265 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The following Declarations of Interest was made:
- Cllr Baker: Personal interest: MTIG;
- Cllr A Kenton: Prejudicial interest: 20/03315/FUL;
- Cllr Mrs J Kenton: Prejudicial interest: 20/03315/FUL;

- Cllr Mrs O'Brien: Personal interest: Chard Youth Committee and 20/03315/FUL;
- Cllr Mrs Wootton: Personal interest: Chard Youth Committee;

2020/266 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
Proposed: Cllr Bulmer 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 2020/275, 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.

2020/267 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

11th January – Cllr Whittaker-Mather abstained as she did not attend that meeting.

25th January – Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Chard Town Council meetings held on 11th and 25th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/268 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
The Locum Clerk had nothing to report.

2020/269 CORONAVIRUS
Council noted the update presented on the current Covid lockdown and the Covid Testing Station at the Guildhall.

2020/270 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 Mrs Kenton
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 February 2021 amounting to £50,804.75.

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- To pay all outstanding accounts amounting to £35,308.03;
- To carry out a review of gas providers to ensure Council was achieving value for money.

2020/271 COMMITTEE MEETING

(a) **Committee Meeting Minutes –** Council considered the following Committee meeting minutes presented.

Proposed: Cllr Wootton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

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

Against: Cllr Whittaker-Mather

RESOLVED to adopt minutes of the **Personnel & HR Committee** meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 and to ratify the decisions and recommendations within.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt minutes of the **Property & Services Committee** meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 and to ratify the decisions and recommendations within.

2020/272 COMMUNITY

(a) **MTIG and Climate Change Grant Applications –** Council discussed the report presented and noted its contents.

(a.i) Proposed: Cllr Mrs O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison
Unanimous

RESOLVED to accept the MTIG grants awarded amounting to £67,711.

(a.ii) Proposed: Cllr Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED:

- To allocate match funding of up to £85,000 from the Town Council's General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves;

- To set up a specific MTIG Earmarked Reserves Fund;
- In consultation with Members, to agree the final transfers from General Reserves and existing Earmarked Reserves at the end of the current financial year for the MTIG EMR.

(a.iii) Proposed: Cllr Whittaker-Mather Seconded: Cllr Bulmer

For: Cllrs Mrs Morrison, Mrs Wootton, Bulmer and Whittaker-Mather.

Against: Cllrs Mrs Kenton and Williams

Abstentions: Cllrs Baker, Kenton, O'Brien and Orchard.

RESOLVED:
- To agree in principle to allocate £35,000 match funding towards the Climate Change grant applications;
- In consultation with Members, to agree the final transfers from General Reserves and existing Earmarked Reserves at the end of the current financial year for a Climate Change MTIG EMR.

(b) Community Liaison Report & Grant Support – Council received and noted the Community Liaison Officer's report and the overview of grant support available.

2020/273 PLANNING & HIGHWAYS

(a) Planning Application 20/03315/FUL (The Erection of 10 No. Dwellings) – Council considered planning application 20/03315/FUL

Proposed: Cllr Whittaker-Mather Seconded: Cllr Wootton

For: Cllrs Mrs Morrison, Mrs Wootton, Mrs Orchard, Williams and Whittaker-Mather.

Abstentions: Cllrs Baker, Kenton, Mrs Kenton, O'Brien and Bulmer.

RESOLVED to object to this planning application on the following grounds:
- The proposal will result in overlooking issues with neighbouring properties and there will be a loss of privacy. There is also concern at the density of the proposal and size of dwelling;
- The proposal provides inadequate space for internal provision for the storage of bicycles, bearing in mind that the estate is aimed at being car free and alternative transport options should be catered for;
- The proposal does not provide any external bicycle storage space or facilities;
- There is inadequate provision for waste and recycling storage;
- There are serious concerns regarding suitable access for emergency and service vehicles. It is understood that the neighbouring car park, which will provide the only vehicular access to the estate, has a weight limit of 3.5 tonnes;

- There is concern at the number of mature trees that are to be removed to enable this proposal to be developed and there appears to be no provision to replace those trees identified for removal;
- There is concern that the walled garden will be removed. It is requested that clarification be sought as to whether the wall is listed and that consideration be given to retaining the walled garden as an important feature of the site;
- There are concerns that the proposal does not fully address the NPPF requirements relating to crime and disorder, and the fear of crime;
- The proposal makes no provision for any energy saving or green solutions to help address climate change issues;
- There is concern that there is no road access to the proposed estate and that pedestrian access is across a car park. This will give rise to highway and safety issues for residents and visitors;
- The proposal does not provide any car parking provision on or near the site. This is of concern that future residents will inevitably own vehicles and will need parking provision near their properties;
- The size of the proposed dwelling, especially the two-bedroom properties, is too small, inadequate and does not meet minimum standards;
- There is no provision for either social or affordable housing;
- It is requested that a basic habitat survey be undertaken to ensure that the proposal will not adversely affect the local habit. The survey should also assess the impact the development may have on local phosphate levels.

(b) **Outstanding Planning Applications –** Council considered the responses submitted to SSDC.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally ratify the responses submitted to SSDC in the previous month under delegated authority.

(c) **Forton Road TRO –** Please see the attached report for consideration and agreement.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally support the request to provide double yellow lines in Forton Road as recommended and outlined in the report.

2020/274 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Council agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of Chard Town Council on Monday 29th March 2021 commencing at 7:00pm via the Zoom platform.

2020/275 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2020/266 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 Council Minutes

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Wootton

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Kenton, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

Abstentions: Cllrs O'Brien and Bulmer.

RESOLVED that the Confidential minutes of the Chard Town Council meetings held on 25th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Whittaker Mather left the meeting at 8.20pm

(b) Personnel & HR Committee Confidential Minutes

Proposed: Cllr Wootton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

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

Abstentions: Cllrs Mrs Kenton, Orchard and Bulmer.

RESOLVED to receive the Confidential Committee meeting minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2021 and to ratify any decisions and consider any recommendations.

(c) Interim Transition Report – Council received a presentation of the Interim Transition Report presented by Mr Corrigan. The update report was noted and the final report would be presented at an extraordinary Full Council meeting on Monday 29th March 2021.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**