Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk

Mayor Cllr. Jason Baker **Acting Town Clerk Tracy Lamb**

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Town Council held on Wednesday 4th September 2019 in the Town Hall, Chard

Present: Cllrs Baker (Chairman), Bulmer, Gilbert, Mrs. Kenton, Kentonm Mrs. Morrison, Mrs O'Brien, Shortland, Williams, Ms Whittaker-Mather, Mrs. Wootton and Mrs. Young

In Attendance: Tracy Lamb - Acting Town Clerk and Liz Johnson-Idan – Community Liaison Officer

There were No. #11 members of the public and No. #0 members of the press present.

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

7:30pm Chaplain's 'Thought of for the Day'

Public Participation Time
This section (at the Chairman's discretion may last up to 15 minutes) is not part of the formal meeting of the Council.

A member of the public spoke to object to proposed cuts for the fire service in Chard. The number of calls quoted doesn't take all calls into account e.g. road accidents attended. The public consultation was badly managed and members of the public haven't been aware of the proposed changes. There are letters from local businesses stating concerns about the lack of service and the safety of their employees. Employment and housing in the Town has grown and continues to grow but the proposals are to cut services.

Reports from County and District Councillors
District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting Chard and as this is also not part of the meeting minutes will not be produced.

Apologies were given by County Councillor Mrs Broom.

There were no reports from District Councillors

Police Report
The police may attend, when available, to provide information on policing in Chard

No report received

2019/176.
Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given (If you cannot attend please telephone or email your apologies to the Town Clerk). LGA 1972 s85 (1).

None received

Cllrs Mrs Bates, ~~Mrs Orchard~~ and Carnell - absent
mrs Orchard gave her apologies due to work.

2019/177.
Mayor's Announcements.

The plans for the Leisure Centre were agreed at the Area West meeting last night. This is a big step forward for Chard and is just a beginning of the positive changes to come

2019/178. 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).

Councillor	Personal	Prejudicial	Agenda Nos.	Reason
None				

2019/179.
To resolve to exclude members of the press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960

Withdrawn, there being no confidential items to discuss

2019/180.
Council Meeting – minutes - To confirm and sign the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting of the Town Council held on 19th August LGA 1972, Sch 12 para41 (1)

Proposed: Cllr. Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr. Shortland
Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting of the Town Council held on 19th August be adopted with the removal of Cllr Mrs Kenton from the resolution 2019/162, purchase of Truck

The Chairman signed the minutes.

2019/181.
Council Meeting – minutes - To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein: LGA 1972, Sch 12 para 41(1).

Planning and Highways 19th August 2019

Proposed: Cllr. Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr. Mrs Kenton
Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED – that the minutes of Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on the Monday 19th August 2019 be signed as a correct record and to adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein.

2019/182.
Finance - Town Council Year 2019/20 Year to Date Budget to review the income and expenditure / balance sheet for the year to date (Account & Audit Regulations 2011)

RESOLVED – to note the year to date expenditure and balance sheet.

2019/183.
Finance – Budget Virements - to review and note items budget virements that accord with the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulation # 4.2 and seek approval for transfers in excess of £1000.00

RESOLVED – to note budget virements

2019/184 – Special Motion – Under 7.a. of Standing Orders – Moved by Cllrs Mrs Kenton, Kenton, Shortland, Baker and Mrs O'Brien to reverse the decision to Keep General Earmark Reserves at 4 months £287,534 by taking committed expenditure of £32,411 and £231 from the Guildhall Screen Fund and use the Guildhall sinking fund for Guildhall expenditure.

Proposed: Cllr. Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr. Mrs O'Brien
Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED - To reverse the decision to Keep General Earmark Reserves at 4 months £287,534 by taking committed expenditure of £32,411 and £231 from the Guildhall Screen Fund and use the Guildhall sinking fund for Guildhall expenditure

2019/185 - Finance – Management of Council Reserve Funds - to approve the recommendation for Ear Marked Reserves/Sinking Funds (report attached)

Item Withdrawn

2019/186.
Town Clerk's Report – To receive and note the update from the Town Clerk

The Acting Town Clerk confirmed the New Town Clerks start date as 21st October 2019

2019/187.
Town Clerk's Delegated Powers. The Town Clerk will give Council details of any matters dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting of Council.
(LGA 1972 s101)

None

2019/188. Guildhall - Lift – to receive and approve the recommendation for lift testing at a cost of £995 to come from Maintenance/Service Contracts budget 4038/201

Withdrawn

2019/189.
Finance - to agree to fund the use of the Auditorium for one day to host a multi-agency event aimed at road safety for older drivers

Members deferred the item for discussion after the strategic plan had had clarified the future use of the building.

Motions from Councillors where No specific expenditure has been identified

2019/190. Notice of Motion from Councillor Mrs Morrison (received 7th August 2019) '"That Chard Town Council send a letter to Devon and Somerset Fire Service stating that we are against the recommendation to stand down a pump by day, This will have a detrimental effect on Chard and surrounding areas. "

Proposed: Cllr. Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr. Baker
Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED - That Chard Town Council send a letter to Devon and Somerset Fire Service stating that they are firmly against any recommendation to reduce the service in the Town and are concerned for the safety of the residents and visitors to the Town. Housing and employment are growing and services need to grow not reduce.

Motions from Councillors where specific expenditure has been identified

2019/191. Notice of Motion from Councillor Ms Whittaker- Mather (received 21 July 2019)

Street Furniture

That Officers are directed to facilitate the removal of two benches (not at the same time) to enable a group of Cllrs to work together at agreed dates and times within a defined period (that work around officers and workers time), to paint the two benches selected.

Once completed, and agreed of a satisfactory standard, to then hand them back over to officers to facilitate their return.

That the council to consider if benches remain in a traditional paint colour or an alternative colour used. (Brighten up the high street)

Withdrawn

2019/192. Notice of Motion from Councillor Mrs Kenton (received 31st July 2019) 'That this Council considers the purchase of Chard's 4 town centre telephone boxes from BT for the price of £4 in order to preserve the historic nature of our town centre'

Proposed: Cllr. Mrs Kenton Seconded: Cllr. Mrs O'Brien
For : 12 Against : 1

RESOLVED - That this Council bids to purchase Chard's 2 Town Centre red telephone boxes from BT for the price of £2 in order to preserve the historic nature of the town centre.

2019/193. In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item #2019/150 above refers)

Withdrawn

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm.