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 12th October 2020 commencing at 7:00pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Russell, Locum Town Clerk, 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 Harvest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME
The following issue was raised by Rev Vye:

- Concern was expressed regarding access along paths and pavements in chard due to overhanging vegetation. It was agreed that this would be dealt with and reported.

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

POLICE REPORT
The Police were unable to attend.

2020/197 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies for absence were received and accepted:

- Cllr Mrs Young (work)

2020/198 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- An indoor carnival event had taken place on Saturday 10th October 2020 in the Guildhall. Over 200 people attended and there had been many positive comments regarding the erection of the bunting;
- Comments regarding access to the Boden Street car park had been passed on to the Project Officer and access would be monitored.

2020/199 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Whittaker Mather: Prejudicial interest 2020/203(d)

2020/200 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Shortland
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 2020/208, 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.

2020/201 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Bates Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

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

Against: Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather.

Not Present: Cllr Carnell.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held on 14th September 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/202 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted that the Locum Clerk had nothing to report.

It was agreed to carry out a review of the way the Council operated during the Covid crisis when the country returned to business as usual and identify the positives and negatives.

2020/203 FINANCE

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

(b) **Budget Virements** – Council noted the budget virements outlined in the report.

(c) **Direct Debit, BACS and Manual Payments** – Council noted the Schedule of Payments for September 2020 amounting to £82,171.18.

(d) **Accounts for Payment –** Council reviewed the expenditure for Month 6 as outlined in the report presented. A number of queries were raised and addressed.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Wootton

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

Abstention: Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather.

RESOLVED to pay all outstanding accounts amounting to £20,111.81.

(e) **BACS Limit –** Council considered the request to increase the current BACS limit set by the Co-op Bank from £30,000 per month to between £60 - £80,000, bearing in mind the number of larger projects that are about to commence in the next few months.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Bates

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

Abstention: Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather.

RESOLVED to increase the BACs limit from £30,000 per month to £80,000 per month.

(f) **Budget 2021/22 –** Council noted that an initial budget was currently in development. The Property & Services Committee had arranged an informal discussion and a budget workshop would be arranged.

2020/204 PROPERTY & SERVICES COMMITTEE

(a) **Committee Meeting Minutes –** Council considered the minutes of the Property & Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Kenton

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

Against: Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather.

RESOLVED to ratify the decisions and recommendations agreed by the Committee.

2020/205 COMMUNITY

(a) **Climate Change Working Group Report –** Council noted the two Climate Change Working Group Report reports outlining recommended initiatives that were currently being developed and costed. It was agreed to request a demonstration of battery powered equipment prior to purchase.

(b) **Task & Finish Group Reports –** Council noted the following Task & Finish Group reports:

- Heritage Action Zone Representatives – This had not yet met but a meeting was being scheduled towards the end of October 2020.
- Community Venue – This group had not yet met.
- There were no other reports from any other Task & Finish Groups that had been set up.

(c) **Remembrance Commemorations 2020 –** Council noted that a meeting had been held with the Royal British Legion Chard Branch to discuss this year's Remembrance commemorations. There would be no parade on Remembrance Sunday and wreaths would be laid in the churchyard, but it would be a much smaller event. A further meeting to discuss final arrangements would be held.

The Remembrance commemoration on the 11th November 2020 would be held in the town centre and the Police would be requested to close the road as in previous years. Current Covid guidelines and social distancing would be observed. Arrangements to enable this to happen would be discussed with the Caretaker of the Guildhall. Councillors were requested to inform the Clerk as to whether they would be attending.

2020/206 PLANNING

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather
Unanimous

RESOLVED to ratify the responses outlined in the report.

2020/207 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Committee Members –** Council agreed to nominate the following additional Members to the Property & Services Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee. It was further agreed to increase the Property & Services Committee membership by one:

Property & Services Committee
Cllr Bulmer
Cllr Bates

Policy & Resources Committee
Cllr Bulmer

(b) **Project Update Report –** To note the update report presented by the Locum Clerk and consider any recommendations.

2020/208 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2020/200 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 14th September 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Bates Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Mrs Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Mrs Morrison, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs Wootton.

Not Present: Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Carnell.

RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held on 14th September 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(b) **Confidential Priority Plan Update Report –** Council noted the report presented and ratified the recommendations contained within the report.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:14pm.

_____ _____

MAYOR: **DATE:**