CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
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Mayor: Garry Shortland

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 8th April 2024 commencing at 19:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Shortland (Mayor) Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Richter Cllr Watson, and Cllr Williams

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT: Beverley Newman DSO; Gail Chadwick RFO

Public Participation Time
There was 6 members of public present. Four questions were asked in relation to the agenda item:

- Why is no there no discussion relating to the recruitment of a Town Clerk?
- What is the difference between a Town Clerk and a Proper Officer?
- Have we had Proper Officers before?
- Why have so many Officers resigned?

The Mayor provided the following answers:

- We are seeking to recruit a Proper Office on temporary basis and one the functions will be to support Council to recruit a Town Clerk.
- Roles and qualifications etc.
- Yes, we have had Proper Officers before in between Clerks
- I am unable to answer to this question.

2024/50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Williams
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To receive and accept the following apologies.

- Cllr Crook (Personal),
- Cllr Grief-Page (Personal)
- Cllr Hassan (Personal)

2024/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest made:

2024/52 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
As certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council is, therefore, recommended to resolve "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 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".

The mayor made an additional statement explaining he wished to read out a redacted written statement provided by an applicant for the temporary role of Proper Officer. Parts were redacted due to their confidential nature. That councillors had been provided with a full version of the statement. That agenda item 2024/53 would then be discussed under confidential and asked for a resolution to be passed to continue the meeting on that basis.

Proposed: Cllr Bates — Seconded: Cllr Watson
For 10 — 1 Abstain

RESOLVED: To share the redacted statement of applicant with public and to continue the discussion of the appointment of a Proper Officer under Confidential

2024/53 APPOINTMENT OF A PROPER OFFICER

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted relating to a) sensitive personal information the press and public were excluded during consideration of the following items (Item 2024/52 above and additional statement by the Mayor and subsequent resolution refers):

Proposed: Cllr Watson — Seconded: Cllr Baker

RESOLVED: To move agenda item 2024/53 to Confidential.

For 8 — Against 3

Proposed: Cllr Eggins — Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
For 5 — Against 6

RESOLVED: To approach an alternative applicant for the temporary position of Proper Officer.

Cllr Baker requested a named vote:

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton — Seconded: Cllr Baker
For 6 — Against 5
Cllr Baker — Cllr Bulmer

Cllr Bates	Cllr Eggins
Cllr J Kenton	Cllr Hussey (Abstain)
Cllr A Kenton	Cllr Richter
Cllr Shortland	Cllr Watson (Abstain)
Cllr Williams	

RESOLVED: To accept the offer made by the applicant to be employed as the temporary Proper Officer and give delegated authority to the Mayor and RFO to negotiate terms of employment.

2024/54 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Full Chard Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th May 2024 in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19.31 pm.

22/7/24

MAYOR: **DATE:**