CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Garry Shortland

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 29th April 2024 commencing at 18:30pm.

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

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT: Beverley Newman DSO

Public Participation Time
There was 7 members of public present. Questions were asked by 3 members of the public, 2 in relation to the recruitment of a Proper Officer and 1 in relation to Council Tax:

- Does the Council have recruitment policy?
- Was the role of Town Clerk/ Proper Officer advertised and why has the role changed from *Proper Officer* to *Town Clerk / Proper Officer?*
- Was the candidate interviewed and is so by whom?
- Have references been requested?
- What qualifications does Mr Bloomfield have suitable for this role?
- Why was there a named vote for the acceptance to recruit Mr Bloomfield at the last Extraordinary meeting but not a named vote for the alternative candidate?

The Mayor provided the following answers:

- I will provide an answer in writing.
- I will provide an answer in writing.
- No, Mr Bloomfield was not interviewed.
- No, references have not been requested for Mr Bloomfield
- Mr Bloomfield has had relevant experience, he is currently in position as Town Clerk in another Parish
- Any Councillor can request a named vote.

Other comments included a loss of Trust in Council, and comments relating to the lack of suitability of Mr Bloomfield for this post, stating all the information is freely available on the internet.

2024/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Council accepted the following apologies.

- Cllr Crook (Personal),
- Cllr Watson, (Personal)
- Cllr Hassan (Personal)

2024/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made:

2024/57 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: To move agenda item 2024/58 to Confidential.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton	Seconded: Cllr Williams
For 7	4 Against

2024/58 APPOINTMENT OF A PROPER OFFICER

Cllr Eggins requested a named vote

RESOLVED:

Proposed: Cllr Bates	Seconded: Cllr Williams
For: 7	**Against: 4**
Cllr Baker	Cllr Bulmer
Cllr Bates (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Eggins
Cllr Greif-Page	Cllr Hussey
Cllr A Kenton	Cllr Richter
Cllr J Kenton	
Cllr Shortland (Mayor)	
Cllr Williams	

RESOLVED: To recruit Mr. Neil Bloomfield on a temporary contract and give delegated authority to the Mayor to sign the contract of employment on behalf of the Council.

2024/59 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 19.11 pm.

02/7/24

MAYOR: **DATE:**