Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates
Chief Executive & Town Clerk David Bell

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities and Events Committee** held on **Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 7pm** in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

Present: Councillors; Baker (Chair), Bulmer, Hussey, O'Brien, Shortland (Vice Chair) and Williams.

Apologies: Councillors A Kenton, J Kenton, Hassan & Webb.

In Attendance: Chief Executive & Town Clerk (CE&TC) David Bell, Tim Bickham Events Officer, Kevin Dyer Deputy Town Clerk & Operations Manager, Beverley Newman Democratic Services Officer (DSO)

Public Participation Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes

Section 1 – Standing Items

2025/09 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received by Cllrs, A Kenton, J Kenton, Hassan and Webb

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: Amenities & Events Committee accepted the apologies.

2025/10 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Bulmer made a Pecuniary declaration of interest in relation to Agenda item 2025/16 due to his position in the Chard Rotary Club.

Councillor Baker asked the Committee members if they were happy to consider agenda item 2025/16 last given the declaration from Councillor Bulmer to prevent stopping and starting the meeting. The Amenities & Events committee members agreed to this change of agenda order.

2025/11 **Committee Meeting Minutes**
To approve the Minutes of the meetings on 11th March 2025,

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: Amenities & Events Committee requested Councillor A Kenton be included in the apologies, that brief explanations were provided for agenda items 2025/05, 2025/06 & 2025/07 and the amended version be brought back to the next scheduled Amenities & Events meeting being 15th July 2025.

Section 2 – Items To Note

2025/12 **Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.**
No updates were provided by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk at this time as all relevant information was contained in the Operations Manager Updates & Briefing Report and the Events Officer Updates.

2025/13 **Operations Manager Updates**
The Amenities & Events Committee noted the Operations Manager Updates report. Comments were made on the following items:

Cemetery
Committee discussed the future works required on headstones and commented on an 'excellent piece of work' in relation to the additional graves that will now be able to be accommodated due to the cemetery extension works.

Hanging Baskets
Committee all agreed this initiative was a really good idea and a potential way forward for the future. The Chair further stated the feedback he had received from the public helped to restore a sense of pride in the town.

Flooding
The Committee Chair acknowledged the Operations Manager's perseverance which has led to successful discussions with Scout Group and Bowles Club.

Jocelyn Park Changing Rooms –
A meeting was held between Chard Town Council, Chard United and Wayne Mears Builders to discuss the pathway ahead. An oral update was given.

Allotment Clean Up and Plot Clearance
Due to the demands on the Council Amenities Team we are not where we need to be with plot clearance, however time will be invested in allotments in June and have a forum meeting at the end of the month.

Allotment Clean up happened in May, which was great and benefits the allotments. This is done around Easter and not in our busiest time of year.

Bath Street Toilets
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk gave an additional update on this item explaining that discussions held today with Somerset Council were very positive conversation and centred around how quickly the facilities could be opened. It was suggested by both parties to enter into a Gentlemen's Agreement. This being the preferred vehicle to get things started over either a Licence or lease. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk confirmed further discussions were required to agree the consent of a Gentlemen's agreement.

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: For the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to continue with discussions with Somerset Council to expedite the opening of these facilities.

Committee wished to express their sincere thanks to the whole Amenities team for their hard work and achievements during this period.

2025/14 **Events Officer Updates**

The Amenities & Events Committee noted the Events Officer Updates report. The following comments were made:

The Committee Chair commented there had been a noticeable increase in the number of events being held and thanked the Events Officer for this achievement.

Cllr Bulmer wished to pass on positive feedback he had received form his constituents regarding the Oasis concert who thought the concert was excellent.

Committee all agreed the VE Day events were a real success and credited the Events Officer for achieving this especially in the light of last minutes changes that were required.

Section 3 – Items for Discussion & Decision

2025/15 **Amenities/Parks and Cemetery Mess Room Update**

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

1) **Resolved:** To allow Officer time to be spent investigating the use of current Council land to be converted into a new Mess area and work yard/depot using price option 2 of the Operations Manager Briefing Paper £145,590 allowing a further 15% as contingency.

2025/16 **Rotary Club and Peace Garden**

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

Resolved: Chard Town Council to work in partnership with Chard Rotary Club using the garden adjacent to the old office to create a peace garden

2025/17 **Holcombe Play Park and Bike Dirt Track**

i) Play Equipment

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: To seek permission from Mr Sulley to install new play equipment at Holcombe Park & obtain 3 quotations for the design installation and consultation and for these works to be paid using all available 106 monies. To bring all 3 quotations back to Amenities & Events Committee for consideration.

ii) Dirt Track

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Williams
Unanimous

Resolved: To seek permission from Mr Sulley to install at Dirt Bike Track at Holcombe Park and if permission granted obtain 3 quotations for installation

and consultation and for these works to be paid using all available 106 monies. To bring all 3 quotations back to Amenities & Events Committee for consideration.

2025/18 **Ashcroft Park Disabled Equipment Update**

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: To look into purchasing specialised disabled equipment for Ashcroft Park, by 3 quotations for the design installation and consultation and for these works to be paid using all available S106 monies. To bring all 3 quotations back to Amenities & Events Committee for consideration.

2025/19 **Hep B Injections**

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

Resolved: To request Officer research the legal requirements and processes on this matter and report back to Amenities & Events Committee with a plan of action once all the relevant the information has been procured.

Councillor Bulmer left the meeting at 21.10 (2026/16 was discussed after 2025/19)

2025/20 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the A&E Committee will be on **Tuesday 15th July 2025** in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.20

Sign 01/07/2026