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 March 2026 at 7pm** in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

Present: Councillors; Baker (Chair), Eggins, Hussey, A Kenton, J Kenton.

In Attendance: Deputy Clerk & Operations Manager Kevin Dyer & Events Manager Tim Bickham

Section 1 – Standing Items

2026/18 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Bulmer, Hassan, Richter, Shortland & Williams

Apologies were unanimously accepted.

2026/19 **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.

2026/20 **Committee Meeting Minutes**
Committee approved the minutes for 10th February:

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Hussey
Unanimous
Resolved for the 10th February 2026 minutes to be approved.

Section 2 – Items To Note

2026/21 **Operations & Events Updates.**
Cllr Eggins left the meeting at 19.15 for 10 mins while discussions took place regarding the Community Hub Café and returned at 19.25

Committee received and noted an oral update from the Operations Manager in regard to the recent developments relating to the guildhall and events and in regard to the last informal held relating to the Guildhall.

Committee discussed the following elements:

1. Pricing structure

2. Process for booking events taking into account both Community & Business bookings
3. Required staffing
4. Markets
5. Types of events required

Pricing Structure for the Guildhall

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton — Seconded Cllr A Kenton
For: 3 — Against:2

Resolved: For Committee to recommend to Full Council the following draft pricing structure:

Tiers	Auditorium Existing	Auditorium New	Town Hall Existing	Town Hall New
Tier 1 Existing current set up	£27.50	£30	£15	£17.50
Tier 2 No set up required or equipment	n/a	£25	n/a	£12.50
Tier 3 Civic Events.		free		free

Section 3 –Items For Decision

2026/22 Chard and Ilminster Cycle Path

Committee noted it is still suggested that a joint responsibility and maintenance of the Chard & Ilminster cycle path is undertaken but, given the status, responsibility cannot be devolved yet, whereas it would be possible to fund and undertake the Chard length within a "devolved" task.

Committee considered the 2 alternative recommendations:

a) Consider a recommendation to Full Council to complete the work on Chard length at the expense of the Chard Town Council

b) Decline further consideration until 'devolution' tasks are confirmed

Proposed: Cllr Baker — Seconded A Kenton
Unanimous

"Proposal to hold a joint meeting with representatives from Ilminster, Donyatt, Chaffcombe, Knowles St Giles to reach an agreement on maintenance and funding for the Cycle Path. Kevin to arrange.
Officers to investigate legal/competence issues regarding providing services to other councils without proper delegation.
Plan to update Committee on project manager recruitment and project progress at the next meeting on April 7th.

Resolved: For Committee to:

- Recommend to Full Council to complete the work on Chard length at the expense of the Chard Town Council
- Investigate holding a joint meeting with representatives from Ilminster, Donyatt, Chaffcombe, Knowles St Giles to reach an agreement on maintenance and funding for the Cycle Path. Which the Operations Manager will arrange.
- To investigate providing services to other councils.
- Plan to update committee on project manager recruitment and project progress at the next meeting on April 7th.

2026/23 **Date of next meeting**

Committee noted the next meeting of the A&E Committee is **Tuesday 7th April 2026** in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 20.33.

Signed:  Date: 1st/07/2026