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 14th October 2025 at 7pm** in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

Present: Councillors; Baker (Chair), Bulmer, Eggins, Hussey, A Kenton, J Kenton O'Brien and Shortland

In Attendance: Chief Executive & Town Clerk (CE&TC) David Bell,

Public Participation Time

One member of the public spoke about the Bath Street toilets, specifically requesting the council to consider a changing-places facility.

Section 1 – Standing Items

2025/37 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs: Hassan & Williams.
Personal.

2025/38 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs Baker & J Kenton declared they don't have an interest on as members of Somerset Council agenda item 2025/45
Cllr Bulmer declared am interest in agenda item 2025/45 as he is an employee for Somerset Council. (Transcript is unclear here!)

2025/39 **Committee Meeting Minutes**
As stated in the agenda the outstanding minutes will be provided subsequent to this meeting. There are currently 2 sets of minutes outstanding 17th June and 9th September that will be submitted for approval at a further Amenities & Events Committee meeting.

Section 2 – Items To Note

2025/40 **Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.**

Project Updates:

- Jocelyn Park Changing Rooms. After discussion regarding various aspects of this facility the following recommendation was made.

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor ??.

Unanimous.

Resolved:
That Chard the Amenities & Events Committee recommend to Full Council that the Chief Executive & Town Clerk seeks confirmation on the status of the ownership of the building. If the building is owned by Chard that the Chief Executive & Town Clerk pursues quotes to complete the work.

- Halcombe Play Area & Ashcroft Play Area
  Updates were provide and subsequent discussions included best next steps and the use of106 monies for the costs of any future agreed plans.

- Flooding Resilience.
  The Chef Executive & Town Clerk explained a meeting has been arranged with a specialist but in the interim he and the Operations Manager have visited the site and discovered a series of works that have been undertaken (by person/s unknown) that have made the situation slightly worse. However these could be delt with by the Amenities Team. The plan is to get on ad action this work and follow up after the meeting with the specialist.

- Mess room update
  The Chef Executive & Town Clerk stated previous quotes were now out of date in that they would no longer be honoured by the contractors who had submitted them. In addition further consideration was required to obtain a full understanding of requirements for this work before seeking updated quotes, for example the potential length of time for the work to be completed will be in excess of 30 days.

  A proposal was made a Cllr Baker requiring the Chief Executive and Town Clerk to assess the working conditions of the Amenities staff to ensure they abide by any legal requirements and are on 'par' with the staff facilities who work inside.

  Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr J Kenton
  Resolved: The Chief Executive and Town Clerk will assess the working conditions of the Amenities staff to ensure they abide by any legal requirements and are on 'par' with the staff facilities who work inside.

- Guildhall Business Planning.
  The Chief Executive & Town Clerk explained that this piece of work had not been progressed due to sickness and annual leave,

- Banking Hub Experimental Scheme.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk outlined an experimental scheme offered by Lloyds Bank which will involve them hiring a room in the Guildhall on alternate Tuesday starting in November for a specific period of time. This to compensate in part for the closure in the High St. branch. A review of the experiment will be undertaken by Lloyds to help decide whether to continue providing the service. Chard Town Council will be promoting this service on our website and FB page.

2025/41 **Current Actions Updates**
An update on current actions was provided by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk & noted by the committee

2025/42 **Events Update**
Committee noted the reason for no Events Report but requested one be provided at the next Amenities & Events meeting.

2025/43 **Bath Street Toilet Facilities.**
A full discussion took place after which the committee agreed to the recommendation as put by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk, stipulated in the agenda for this meeting.

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Baker

Unanimous.

Resolved:
To recommend Full Council the Chief Executive & Town Clerk be authorised to appoint (within delegated powers) :
a) a designer to progress the Changing Places Facility aspirations, up to £2,000 and
b) legal representation to assist in securing the longer-term lease regarding the main toilet block facilities and any proposals for changing room facilities.
With a budget of £200,000 and for Full council to set up an EMR from the devolution money to find this project.

2025/44 **Park Staff Mess Facilities**

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bulmer

Resolved: *The CETC to assess the working conditions of the Amenities staff to ensure they abide by any legal requirements and are on 'par' with the staff facilities who work inside.*
A Councillor further recommended asking Full Council to set up an EMR for this work and set the figure at £200,000 to come out of General Reserve.

2025/45 **Somerset Council Discussions Over "Devolution" Matters**
The Chef Executive & Town Clerk explained he had received an e-mail the day before this meeting from Officers at Somerset Council with a list they are going to recommend to the Asset Working Group, so would

suggest this item be deferred when the updated information has been received.
The Chair agreed to defer this item.

2025/46 **Date of next meeting**
The next meeting of the A&E Committee will be on **Tuesday 9th December 2025** in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 19.55

Signed:  Date: 17/3/26