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 9th September 2025 at 7pm** in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

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

In Attendance: Chief Executive & Town Clerk (CE&TC) David Bell, , Kevin Dyer Deputy Town Clerk & Operations Manager.

Public Participation Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

A presentation on CCTV matters was given by Mr Dan Chard.
The Chairman thanked Mr Chard and suggested that he meet with the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to move matters forward and also consider the wider aspects of CCTV around the town, which could then be brought back to Full Council.

Section 1 – Standing Items

2025/21 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs, A Kenton, J Kenton, Hassan and Shortland.
All personal.

2025/22 **Declarations of Interest**
Councillor Bulmer, for clarity, regarding Item 2025/34 (Flower Beds) sought clarification on his position and intends to stay for that item. There being no financial considerations, this was agreed.

2025/23 **Committee Meeting Minutes**
The minutes had been previously circulated. Some Councillors stated they had not received the minutes and others confirmed they had.

Minutes of the 11th of March 2025:

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Williams

Unanimous

Resolved:

To approve the Minutes of 11th March 2025.

17th of June 2025:

It was agreed the minutes generally reflect matters resolved. Item 2025/16 should read "Rotary Club and Peace Garden", not "see page 4". It was agreed that Chard Town Council to work in partnership with Chard Rotary Club using the garden adjacent to the old office to create a peace garden.

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Hussey.

For: 5, Against: 0, Abstentions 2.

Resolved:

Subject to these minor changes, to accept the Minutes of the 17th June 2025.

Section 2 – Items To Note

2025/24 **Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.**
The Jocelyn Park changing rooms have been made watertight and meetings were being organised to discuss finances and handover.

It was noted and appreciated that there is other work to be done.

Committee noted the current situation.

2025/25 **Ashcroft Park Disabled Equipment**
Officers are in the process of obtaining quotes from specialists. There is a lot of community interest in this, both on social media and directly to the council.

The Committee noted the update.

2025/26 **Halcombe Park**
The landowner has been approached and will not give approval for the Dirt Track due to the earthworks involved. However, he did state he would be amenable to the installation of the gravel pedestrian track around the perimeter.

The Committee noted the update.

2025/27 **Rotary Club and Peace Garden**
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk was happy to proceed with Councillor Bulmer present as the item is to note the current situation and there are no financial matters or decisions to be taken.

The Committee noted that the project is progressing well and does not require funding from Chard Town Council.

2025/28 **Chapel Gates**
Positive comments were made about the design and appearance.

Committee noted that the gates had been installed, and all works are complete under budget.

2025/29 Tree Work

Councillor Baker declared a personal interest on this one, as a member of the PCC for St Mary's Church.
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk was requested to look at the funding situation and consider EMR matters with a view to proposing virement at Full Council, should it be appropriate.

Committee noted that works at St Mary's Churchyard, Henson Park and Stringfellow Park have been completed.

2025/30 Outcomes Somerset and Devon Fire and Rescue Service Operational Review of the Guildhall

Members noted that our caretaking staff are very focused on the safety of the building. A new fire panel had been installed 18 months ago and three fire visits had been undertaken by Somerset and Devon Fire Rescue Team. Councillors thanked the team.

Committee noted the outcome.

2025/31 Allotment Plot Clearance

Councillors noted that plot clearance currently cost between £300 and £400.
15 plots are left unattended. Within this there are, perhaps, five people that are seriously ill.
It was recognised as a credit to the reception team for achieving improvements in the systems and processes.
There are four forum meetings per year, and a very good relationship has been built up with the Allotment Committee. Changes to the eviction process with be brought to Full Council in due course.

Committee noted the item.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 19:43 to investigate the higher than normal rainfall and returned again at 19:45

2025/32 Chard to Ilminster Cycle Path

Responsibilities, ownerships and such matters are all clearly definable.
What is missing is the will to do something on a tripartite approach.
The matter is to be further investigated by the Officers.

Committee note the situation and the way forward.

2025/33 Events Updates

Staff sickness had prevented a written report being produced.
However, the previous report had been comprehensive. The team are endeavouring to bring events across parks as well as at the Guildhall.

Upcoming events were noted and include Carnival, Street Fair, Remembrance and Christmas lights. It was commented that this is a very busy time of year.

Committee noted the events update.

Section 3 Items For Decision

2025/34 **Flower Beds**

There is great interest, particularly from our community, in maintaining all flowerbeds in Chard.

Proposed: Councillor Richter Seconded: Councillor Williams.

Resolved:
That Chard Town Council enters into a Gentleman's Agreement with Somerset Council so that it maintains all flowerbeds in Chard, including those currently maintained by Somerset Council.

Unanimous.

2025/35 **Allotments Eviction and Appeals**

Councillors thanked the team for the work that had gone into this document and the discussions with the allotment holders. The document was considered easy to read.

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor Eggins

Resolved:
That the policy be recommended to Full Council for approval.

Unanimous.

2025/20 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the A&E Committee will be on **Tuesday 14th October 2025 2025** in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

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