CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

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

All Council & Committee Meetings are open to the Public and Press

AMENITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Town Hall, The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

PRESENT: Cllr Shortland, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Bates, Cllr Williams, Cllr A. Kenton, Cllr Hussey

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk: Gareth Hughes, Operations Manager: Kevin Dyer, Events Officer: Tim Bickman

In the absence of Chair and Vice Chair the committee were required to elect a Chair.

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Shortland as Chair

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Hussey

Public Participation Time
No questions were asked from members of the public.

2023/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from: Cllr Richter, (Personal), Cllr Crook (Personal) and Cllr J. Kenton (Personal), Cllr Watson (Personal)

2023/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Hussey declared a personal interest in the Events Officer report, item 3.0 as a member of Chard History Group.

2023/38 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
There were no confidential items for consideration

2023/39 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr Bates

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Amenities and Events meeting on 12th September 2023 be accepted as an accurate account of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

2023/40 MANAGER REPORTS

a) **Operations** – Committee agreed to note the contents of the Operations Managers report with the following comments:
- Cllr Bulmer asked for clarification on training requirements around the use of Amenities Team machinery. Operations Manager responded that an inventory is being compiled on the machines and servicing work being carried out by an external contractor.
- Cllr Shortland raised a comment on the allotments, which the Operation Manager responded that new, more efficient ways of working are being implemented to better manage the plots with improved control.
- Cllr Shortland also commented on the number of allotments plots being a challenge to managed and wished the Operations Manager good luck overseeing it going forward.

b) **Events** – Committee agreed to note the contents of the report with the following comments:
- Councillors were asked if they wished to sit on the Market Development Task and Finish group, those that put themselves forward were: Cllr Bates, Cllr Williams, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Kenton and Cllr Shortland (pending on times of meetings).
- It was agreed that a Task and Finish group would be more appropriate than a Sub-Committee (as previously put forward in the Terms of Reference) and subsequently a change of wording is required.
- Cllr Kenton requested income figures for recent new hirers of the Guildhall over the past 8 weeks, which the Events Officer agreed to circulate.

c) **Update from Town Clerk** – The Town Clerk provided an update to the committee on solar panels.
- Cllr Kenton commented on amount of power being generated and the possible permission required from Western Power to harness over a certain amount. The Clerk responded that he is awaiting the company to come back to him with figures.
- Cllr Bulmer raised a question on battery storage, to which the Clerk responded that the battery will operate as a system that is continually fed in to and topped-up over time.
- Cllr Shortland gave a brief explanation on voltage going to the panels and how it should remain at a constant.

2023/41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Amenities & Events Committee would be held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 in the Guildhall,

Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 19.00. (Subject to change at Full Council on 13th November).

There being no other business the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 19.50

R. N. Crook. 12/12/2024

CHAIR / VICE CHAIR: **DATE:**