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**

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Auditorium at the Guildhall, Chard on **Monday 27th April 2026** commencing at 19:00

Cllr Victoria Bates, Mayor of Chard, chaired the meeting.

Present: Approximately 40 members of public; Mayor Victoria Bates, 6 other Councilors, Chief Executive & Town Clerk, Operations Manager, Democratic Services Officer, Events Officer, Finance Officer, Chard Town Cryer and Mace Bearer were in attendance.

1. **Welcome and introduction from the Mayor, Cllr Victoria Bates**

2. **The minutes of the Annual Town's Meeting, 19th May 2025 were agreed**

3. **Mayors Address**
   The Mayor summarised the last Council Year, acknowledging the achievements and progress made.

4. **Chief Executive & Town Clerk Report**
   The Chief Executive & Town Clerk presented the following:
   Turning The Ship Around
   Organisational progress, insights, value for money, community partners, achievements & hope for the future.

5. **Community Grant Recipients**
   The representatives from following groups gave a short presentation:
   - Blackdown Acapella
   - Chard Carnival
   - Chard churches Together
   - Chard Cricket Club
   - Chard Museum
   - Citizen's Advice
   - Somerset Youth Theatre
   - The Scouting Movement

   Trident Swimming Club sent apologies and the following statement:
   Trident Swimming Club would like to say a huge thank you to Chard Council for donating £400 last October. This money has been invaluable at facilitating our youngest coaches through the Swim England coaching programme. They are now poolside training the youngest swimmers in Trident. All these swimmers are already showing the benefits of the coaching input and have already enrolled in local competitions. Many thanks for your support.

6. **Civic Awards Presentation**
   The following received an award and gave a short acceptance speech:
   - Chard Carnival

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- Vince Lean (Chard Museum)
- Sophie Jane Atyeo (Chard Junior Town Crier)

7. **KINDchard – Preview & Progress**
   A video presentation and Q&A Session were given by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Democratic Services Officer.

8. **Public Questions & Discussion Relating to Chard Matters**
   No questions were raised.

Cllr Bates thanked attendees for joining the meeting and welcomed them to stay for refreshments.

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