CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL, FORE STREET,
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Mayor: Cllr Jason Baker Interim Town Clerk: Nick Randle

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Chard Annual Parish Meeting
in the Auditorium at the Guildhall, Chard
on **Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.00 pm**

Present:
The Mayor of Chard: Jason Baker
Garry Shortland
Deputy Town Clerk/RFO: Tracy Lamb

48 members of the public and 1 member of the press were also present.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm.

The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO welcomed everyone present and explained that the meeting was not a council meeting, it is a meeting for the town electors, who are welcome to speak and ask questions. It was also an opportunity to celebrate both those who have given outstanding services to Chard and also groups which have benefited from the Councils community development awards.

An introductory speech was given by Mr. Mark Hambrey, having been invited to give a presentation by the Mayor.

Mr. Hambrey stated that he noted that the Town Council web site had offered the opportunity to others to give their views to the Council. Recognising that he was giving a "thought for the day", he stated that he thought that he would give some examples of his experiences in his career to explain how the effects of these should be noted by the Town Council to inspire their vision for Chard where he has lived for 41 years.

He gave a history of his career in submarine navigation where he trained Commanding Officers and Navigators and how he had learnt that protocol adherence was paramount and that to work as a Team (know, involve and train your staff) was critical.

He explained that he had graduated from a one-year senior military staff course at the Royal Naval College when it was at Greenwich and worked directly for 2 consecutive Admirals. He knew that you had to work very, very hard to get good results.

Concluding his address, Mr. Hambrey quoted from the C18 German philosopher Leibniz who said that "the present is saturated in the past and pregnant with the future". He thought that this was so significant in the political times of today - at all levels - and that it epitomised his address.

Finally, Mr. Hambrey commended Garry Shortland for his support of Cancer Research as one of his charities and offered his assistance to the new Mayor should the Town Council so wish.

1. Confirm Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 1st May 2018

The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO Clerk read a brief summary of the 2018 minutes.

The mayor was invited to sign the minutes being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

2. Mayor's Annual Report

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the previous Mayor, Garry Shortland, to give a verbal report of his year in office.

Garry Shortland gave details of the annual report.

There were no questions from the public

3. 2019-2020 Precept

The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO confirmed that the Council set a zero percent increase in the precept for 2019-2020 with £159,114 being taken from reserves. The average for band D council tax set by local authorities in England was an increase of 4.9%.

4. Police Report - PC Alan Hollick

PC Hollick gave the police report and invited questions from the public at the close of his presentation. There were no questions raised.

5. Presentation of funds raised for 'Hope for Tomorrow' during 2018/19 by the Outgoing Mayor, Garry Shortland

Garry Shortland spoke about the honour of working to raise funds to keep the mobile unit going. With a cost of £12,000 a year to run the unit he was pleased to say that the Friends of Chard Hospital gave £10,000 earlier in the year and he had given a reassurance that he would raise at lease the remaining £2,000 to run the unit. He was delighted to say that he had raised £4,307.40

6. Presentation of Outstanding Service Awards and Mayors Awards

Outstanding Service Awards

A citation was read by Mrs. Jenny Kenton who had nominated Julian Dorse for his service to the community. Mrs. Kenton described Julian's kindness too all, including

strangers. He had helped a young girl whose mother wasn't able to cope and a young homeless man on drugs to get clean. He has welcomed many people into his home and support them. The main reason for the nomination was a recent event of a homeless man sleeping in a shop doorway who Julian invited to stay in his summer house who has since turned his life around and has held down a job locally for the past 5 months.

A citation was read by Garry Shortland who's partner Jude Additcott had nominated Gary Clarke who organised the disabled strongman competitions. He described that it was commonly known for the strongman competition which we see in the press but that the volunteering side is not so often seen. He has been described as visionary, passionate, supportive and awe-inspiring.

Mayors Award

The Mayor commended the recipients and presented the Outstanding Service Awards and presented the recipients with an award pin.

The Mayor asked the Previous Mayor, Garry Shortland to introduce his Mayor's Awards

The Mayors Award and award pin were presented to Mr & Mrs Herbert.

Garry Shortland described the last six years, four as deputy and 2 as Mayor where he had come to know Mr and Mrs Herbert who had been organising the fairs for somewhere in the region of 50 years. What had been little known is the community involvement that has been taking place where the fair is opened to groups that would not usually be able to use it, for free.

Community Development grant recipients

There were Presentations from recipients of Community Development Grants

Chard & Crewkerne After Stroke Club
Chard Defib Group
Chard Museum & Heritage Centre
Chard Young People's Centre
Chard Town Team
Chard Carnival

They gave some very positive feedback on the difference the money had made and their plans for the future.

7. Public Questions

A member of the public who had recently moved to Chard spoke regarding the regeneration plans and swimming pool. The Mayor suggested that he would be able to help with further information, as a District Councillor, outside of the meeting

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and extended an Invitation to stay for refreshments and closed the meeting

There being no further business the closed at 7:57pm