CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL FORE STREET CHARD TA20 1PP
TEL: 01460 239-567
Mayor: Councillor Mrs J C Shortland Town Clerk: Mr John Furze MILCM

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of Chard Town Council held on Monday 25th January 2010 in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: **Councillors:**
Mrs J C Shortland – Mayor (took the Chair in the absence of Cllr G Shortland)
D R Hill
Mrs. S Wyatt
D Bulmer
Mrs. J Kenton
A Kenton
D Orchard (in his capacity as reserve member)

In Attendance: Mrs. S Robson, Deputy Town Clerk and Mr. A Hensher, Amenities Manager.

There were two members of the public present and no members of the Press

1. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Shortland – due to illness and Cllrs D Keitch and S Dowell – detained at work

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies and approve the reason given.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr D Bulmer declared a personal interest in agenda item 5c as proposer of the motion.

3. Exclusion of the press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #35.

RESOLVED: that agenda item no 7, Allotments, be treated as confidential after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order 35.

3. Amenities Manager's Report

Members commended Amenities Operative, Andy Bourner for his work on the signs placed in parks.

RESOLVED: to accept and note the Amenities Manager's Report with particular reference to the Members' request that the Manager provide design plans and schedules for planting of flower beds.

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4. Amenities matters

a) To consider a letter from Marshall Herbert requesting to use Stringfellow Park for a Fair in the Spring 2010 and for Carnival October 2010.

RESOLVED: to confirm the use of Stringfellow Park for a Fair in the spring 2010 and for Carnival in October 2010 and to request the organiser place generators on the side of the park away from residences.

b) To approve the purchase and installation of three electric heaters for Watts Store at a total cost of £436.00 + VAT. There is no heating in the store at present.

RESOLVED: to purchase three electric 2kw heaters with timers for installation and the Town Clerk to investigate and report on improving the insulation within Watts Bros Store.

c) To consider a motion from Cllr David Bulmer, "That this Council endorses Cllr Dave Bulmer's request to sponsor, at his expense, The Beacon flower bed for the season of 2010."

The Members suggested that this would provide a good opportunity for publicity to encourage other members of the public to offer sponsorship.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to Councillor Bulmer's offer to purchase plants for the Beacon Bed and for the bed to be watered by the Council during the summer season, as necessary.

8.30pm Councillor Dave Bulmer left the meeting.

5. Cemetery – to approve quotation for repair of Cemetery Chapel windows damaged by vandals during the heavy snow.

The members considered the option of installing metal grills at the Cemetery Chapel to avoid further damage. It was requested that costs be obtained for discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: to approve expenditure of £150.00 to replace glass at Cemetery Chapel and the Town Clerk to investigate the cost of installing metal grills to the Chapel.

6. Allotments – To consider the proposed increase in the rent payable by the Council to the landowner for the period 25th March 2011 to 25th March 2014

RESOLVED: – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (agenda item 3 above refers)

RESOLVED: to request that the Town Clerk explore a negotiated settlement with the landowner for a better price. If, however no reduction was forthcoming it was agreed to accept the full rental price.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of Chard Town Council held on Monday 26th April 2010 in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: **Councillors:**
G Shortland - Chair
Mrs J C Shortland – Mayor
D R Hill
Mrs. S Wyatt
Mrs. J Kenton
A Kenton
D Mears
D Orchard (appointed reserve with full voting rights)

In Attendance: Mrs. S Robson, Deputy Town Clerk and Mr. A Hensher, Amenities Manager.

There were no members of the public or press present

5. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Dowell and Mrs C Morrison – conflicting engagements and D Bulmer – detained at work

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies and approve the reason given.

6. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs Mrs J Shortland and Mrs J Kenton declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 regarding the Grit Bins as both Members have purchased bins in their capacity as County Councillors

9. Exclusion of the press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #35.

It was agreed that none of the matters for consideration should exclude the press and public.

10. Amenities Manager's Report

Members commended the Amenities Department on the winter planting especially the beds of wallflowers in Holyrood Street and Helliers Road.

RESOLVED: to accept and note the Amenities Manager's Report.

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11. Planting Scheme

d) to consider and discuss the supply and cost of filling of hanging baskets for the year and to agree the number of council 'matched' hanging baskets.

It was reported that to date 56 baskets have been sold with the aim of selling 100. It is anticipated that the display should be the same as in previous years although hopefully the season should continue longer.

e) To receive an update on the planting of sponsored flowers.

A number of sponsors have come forward which will extend the scope of planting however Members were keen to obtain a more long term commitment of funding to secure the continuance of the scheme into the future. A report was received from Cllr Bulmer that the flower bedding for the Beacon Bed is growing well and he will inform the Town Clerk when it is ready for planting.

12. Notice of Motion received from Cllr Mrs Jenny Kenton on 26th January 2010, 'That this Council, with regard to the recent bad weather produces an emergency plan to improve community resilience'.

It was agreed that the production of an emergency plan to enable local people to take control when an emergency situation arises should be considered. Members were advised the County Council is putting in place insurance cover for volunteers on snow clearance duty and the introduction of snow wardens and designated individuals to collect salt for distribution. After some discussion it was agreed to amend the motion and consider the matter further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: 'That this Council, with regard to the bad winter weather notifies the County Council that it will be producing an emergency plan to improve community resilience'.

13. Lottery Grant for Skate Park at Lower Henson. Committee to agree for the Council to be the 'banker' for handling of the monies in connection with the grant.

Members were informed of the successful bid by the Streetspace Youth Project for a Community Spaces grant of £50,000 to improve the skate equipment at the Lower Henson site. The Town Council has been asked to ask as the Funding Authority and administer the finances of the project.

RESOLVED: to agree that Chard Town Council acts as Funding Authority for Lottery Grant for Skate Park at Lower Henson.

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14. Jocelyn Park Playground. Committee to be updated on the progress of work on the Jocelyn Park playground and to agree an official opening.

A report was circulated to Members giving an update of the progress. The project has involved a new concept for more challenging play equipment and so far appears to have been well received with increased numbers of children using the area. Some concerns were raised regarding recent reports of anti social behaviour from older teenagers using the park after dark.

RESOLVED: to defer the official opening of the playground until all the works have been completed and for the Town Clerk to write to the Police expressing concern over incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm

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COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of Chard Town Council held on Monday 26th July 2010 in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: **Councillors:**

G Shortland – Chair
Mrs J C Shortland – Mayor
D Bulmer – Deputy Mayor
Mrs. S Wyatt
Mrs C A Morrison
D R Hill
Mr A J Prior (Observer)

In Attendance: Mr John Furze, Town Clerk and Mr Paul Thresher, Amenities Supervisor.

There were seven members of the public and one member of the press present

15. Election of Chairman. Members to elect the Chairman of Amenities Committee to serve until such a time as a new Chairman is elected and to consider appointing a new Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr D R Hill and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Wyatt that Cllr Garry Shortland be Chairman of the Committee. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Garry Shortland be Chairman of the Amenities Committee until such a time as a new Chairman is elected.

The Committee decided not to appoint a Vice Chairman.

16. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.

There were no apologies for absence as all members were present.

17. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr D Bulmer declared a Person Interest in Agenda Item #19 as he had planted the Beacon Flower Bed.
Cllr Mrs J Shortland declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item #25 as a member of the County Council.

18. Exclusion of the press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #35.

It was agreed that none of the matters for consideration should exclude the press and public.

19. **Amenities Supervisor's Report** - circulated to all committee members.

Members commended the Supervisor on the quality of his report and asked that he

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pass on their thanks to the Amenities Team for the good work with the Flower Beds and Hanging Baskets

RESOLVED:

1. **to accept and note the Amenities Manager's Report.**

2. **To authorise the purchase of an ECHO SRM-300ESL Brushcutter at £362 plus VAT.**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Chard Town Council approves and authorises the part-exchange purchase of a Ransomes HR3300T Rotary Mower to replace the existing Kubota Cylinder Mower at a cost to the Council of £7,000 plus VAT. This amount being in excess of the Committee's delegated purchasing limit.

20. Review of Charges – Members to review the charges made for:-

a) Cemetery
b) Hanging Baskets
c) Allotments

Following discussion it was ...

RESOLVED:

a) To raise the charges for the Cemetery w/e/f 1st April 2011 by 5%

b) To increase the charges in 2011 made for the Hanging Baskets by 3% with some degree of rounding up/down by the RFO. The new charges to be circulated to the traders as early as possible.

c) **To defer discussion on the Allotment Charges from 1st October 2010 to the next meeting of Chard Town Council (16th August 2010) when the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO can be present to answer specific questions to the options available to the Council.** Members noted the necessity for the three-month period of notice to Allotment Holders but felt they had little choice but to defer the matter.

21. Members to consider the formation of a Working Party to produce an Emergency Plan to improve community resilience in Chard.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Mrs J Kenton, Mrs C Morrison, D Bulmer and G Shortland form a Working Party to produce an Emergency Plan to improve community resilience in Chard.

22. Members to consider the formation of a Working Party to engage with the residents over the planned upgrading of the Ashcroft Play Area.

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RESOLVED; that Cllrs Mrs S Wyatt, G Shortland and D Bulmer plus one other member together with two residents form a Working Party to consider the planned upgrading of the Ashcroft Play Area.

23. Town Clerk to update Committee on the completion of the Play Area in Jocelyn Park.

Town Clerk informed members that completion was waiting on the SSDC Play Officer's recommendation regarding the type of slide to be installed.

RESOLVED: to note the Town Clerk's report

24. **Notice of Motion received from Cllr David Bulmer on Thursday 15th July 2010**, "That this Town Council in the interest of Community Safety, considers moving the seating bench and litter bin outside Chard School, Fore Street to a more suitable location away from the Chard School wall."

The motion was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Shortland

RESOLVED: that it be delegated to the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Bulmer and the Amenities Supervisor to move the litter bin to a location close to the bus shelter.

25. **Notice of Motion from Town Clerk,** "That this Council asks Somerset Waste Partnership to review the opening hours of Beeching Close Recycling Depot, Chard to allow the working population of Chard to use the site."

RESOLVED:

a) that the Town Clerk write to Somerset Waste Partnership requesting discussion on the opening hours of Beeching Close Recycling Depot to enable the working population access to the site.

b) that the Town Clerk writes to Somerset Waste Partnership asking for the early implementation of kerbside collection of plastics.

26. **Committee to consider** making arrangements for Christmas Lights in Chard

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk writes to the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Trade inviting them to submit proposals and any ideas they may have for the provision of Christmas Lights in Chard mindful of the meeting with the Traders planned for Monday 16th August 2010.

27. **Committee to consider** – introducing a three-year planting scheme and possible partnership projects.

Cllr D Bulmer declared a Personal Interest as an employee of Taunton Deane Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Garry Shortland approaches Chard Garden Centre with a view to entering a partnership to produce a three-year planting scheme for the town.

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The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Present: **Councillors:**

G Shortland – Chair
Mrs J C Shortland – Mayor
D Bulmer – Deputy Mayor
Mrs. A Spencer
D R Hill
Mr. A J Prior

In Attendance: Mr. John Furze, Town Clerk and Mr. Paul Thresher, Amenities Supervisor.

There were forty-two members of the public and two members of the press present

28. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.
LGA 1972 s85 (1).
Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Wyatt – family illness. Both reserves had been contacted and both were unavailable.

RESOLVED: - To accept the apology with the reason given.

29. Declarations of Interest. Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 SI No.1159. *(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).*

Cllr D Bulmer declared a Personal Interest only in Agenda Item #35 as he had encouraged the footballers to write to the Council.

Cllr Mrs J C Shortland declared a personal Interest only in Agenda Item #35 as she had discussed the issue with some of the footballers.

30. Exclusion of the Press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #1c.

The Town Clerk asked that Agenda Item #38 be heard with the Press & Public excluded as matters of Commercial in Confidence and Staff in Confidence matters were to be discussed and it would also allow full and frank discussion.

Cllr A Prior objected to this on the grounds that the public were entitled to hear member's deliberations on important matters such as this. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Mrs J C Shortland and seconded by Cllr D Hill that, "The public & press be excluded from Agenda Item #38"

VOTING: For 3 Against 2 Abstentions 1 Motion Carried.

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Cllr Prior asked that his objection be recorded in the Minutes.

The Chairman then asked members if they were willing to bring forward Agenda Item #35 as most of the public present were here to listen to that item.

RESOLVED: To Bring forward Agenda Item #35.

35. Members to Discuss – a joint letter received from Chard United Football Club and Chard Rangers Football Club concerning the provision of changing facilities in Jocelyn Park.

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.02pm to allow a member of public to speak and reinstated at 8.05pm

Following discussion it was.....

RESOLVED: That this Council enters into 'without prejudice' discussions with representatives of the Football Clubs in Chard to improve the changing facilities in Jocelyn Park.

31. Amenities Supervisor's Report
Members complimented the Supervisor on his comprehensive report and asked that Andy Bourner be thanked for his excellent work in repairing the bodywork of one of the Council's vehicles.

RESOLVED: - To note the Supervisors Report.

32. Notice of Motion received from Cllr A J Prior on 24th September 2010 – "That this Committee agrees that the inspection team that visits the allotment site will include members of the Amenities Committee." Motion seconded by Cllr Mrs. A Spencer.

Following debate and amendment to the Proposal it was ….

RESOLVED: That Allotment Inspections carried out by Officers may include any member of the Council.

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs. J C Shortland asked that the date of the next Inspection be included in the Bulletin.

33. Notice of Motion received from Cllr A J Prior on 24th September 2010 – "That this Committee discusses the situation of the public footpaths in Chard and considers making representation to Somerset County Council concerning the future maintenance of these rights of way in Chard."

RESOLVED: - That this Council makes further representations to Somerset County Council concerning the maintenance of footpaths and Rights of Way in Chard.

34. Notice of Motion received from Cllr D Bulmer received on 11th October 2010 - "That Chard Town Council write to SSDC requesting that detailed and specific areas of Town Council land be included in the Dog Control Orders under the terms laid out in the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005 adopted by SSDC District Executive on 7th October 2010 and further that Chard Town Council request details of a training workshops/ programme that SSDC could provide in the near future."

RESOLVED: - That this Town Council writes to South Somerset District Council requesting that all land within Chard owned, or leased, by the Council be included in the District wide Dog Control Orders and further that this Council be notified of any workshops or training sessions to be provided in the future.

36. Ashcroft Play Area – Members to be appraised regarding the development of the project to enhance the facility.

The Chairman updated members on the recent meetings of the Working Party.

RESOLVED: To note the Chairman's verbal report.

37. Chard Allotments - To receive report of Annual Meeting of Allotment Holders and discussion of Matters Arising.

The Town Clerk gave a brief resume of the meeting with Allotment Holders and members of the Allotment Holders Association.

RESOLVED: To engage with members of the Allotments Holders Association in order to update the Conditions of Hiring an Allotment.

38. In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 30 above refers) – Amenities Budget for 2011/12

The Town Clerk presented a Draft Budget for the Amenities Committee and following discussion with questions and answers it was.....

RESOLVED: To approve the Draft Budget and for it to be taken to the next meeting of the Finance & Guildhall Committee set for Monday 15th November 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.

QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL