# Chard Town Council

**The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard. TA20 1PP**
**01460 239567 chard.gov.uk**
Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates
Chief Executive & Town Clerk: David Bell

Minutes of the Chard Town Council Extraordinary Meeting held in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Friday 18th July 2025** at 18:30

**Present:** Councillors Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, A Kenton, J Kenton, Richter, Shortland and Williams

**In attendance:** Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell and 2 members of the public.

**Public Participation Time**
One member of the public spoke.

**2025/70** **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Councillors Hassan and O'Brien

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous

**Resolved**: For Council to formerly accept the apologies declared.

**2025/71** **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs Baker and J Kenton were granted a dispensation after consulting the Monitoring Officer. Cllrs Bulmer and Shortland declared an interest in the County Council building ownership.

Cllrs Baker, J Kenton, Bulmer & Shortland took part in discussions but did not vote on the building lease related matters on the agenda.

Council noted these declarations.

**2025/72** **Youth Provision & Youth Club Building In Chard**
A discussion based on the background paper took place. Each recommendation was considered in turn.

*Recommendation 1*

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous.

**Resolved**:

Members approved continuing the involvement of Chard Town Council in the tripartite approach to enable the group to investigate possible solutions for future youth provision in all three towns, prior to reporting back to Full Council.

*Recommendation 2*

Proposed: Councillor Bates Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous, of those who were able to vote.

**Resolved**:

Council agreed to seek community and youth provision use of the building for the shorter-term.

Council delegated consideration of matters, recommended in the report from the Surveyor, to the Mayor and Chief Executive & Town Clerk and further agreed that a sum not exceeding £20,000 plus VAT be allowed for minor works from the "devolution budget".

*Recommendation 3*

Proposed: Councillor Richter Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous, of those who were able to vote.

**Resolved**:

Subject to resolution 2) above and delegated agreement on the building survey outcome and potential for short-term use, Members agreed that the Chief Executive & Town Clerk, on behalf of the Town Council, should enter into a Gentleman's Agreement with Somerset Council based on early entry and with a view to taking on a short-term lease with associated costs at a peppercorn rent and insurance costs.

*Recommendation 4*

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous, of those who were able to vote.

**Resolved**:

Members agreed to allow the Steering Group to help establish, participate and partner in a new "Youth Provision Group" to be formed to run the day-to-day matters and operate the building as a youth and community facility, including the liaison with any hirers.

It was further agreed that Chard Town Council cover the day-to-day running costs and minor maintenance of the building from the "devolution fund". An agreed figure not exceeding £20,000 plus VAT was allocated. It was agreed that an Officer of Chard Town Council to be one of the trustees / directors of this group and the group would invite interest from people from other organisations, schools and other interested parties.

*Recommendation 5*

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Richter
Unanimous, of those who were able to vote.

**Resolved**:

Subject to the Gentleman's Agreement being in place, Members authorised the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to work with the Steering Group and/or "Youth Provision Group", as appropriate.

It was further agreed that the Chief Executive & Town Clerk secure the building and enter into contracts with the alarm, fire alarm, CCTV provider, utilities and service providers. Delegated authority was also be given to make minor repairs and review or change the security, locks and door entry system and similar matters to be funded from the previously agreed £20,000, at resolution 2, related to the building minor repairs expenditure, from the "devolution fund".

*Recommendation 6*

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous.

**Resolved**:

Council agreed to work with this newly formed group and to fund youth work from the balance of the Youth Provision budget, i.e. the original £40,000 set aside minus the payments already made to Chard Area Youth Committee.

*Recommendation 7*

Proposed: Councillor A Kenton Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous.

**Resolved**:

Members agreed to make additional funding available to undertake any minor changes or signage that may be needed prior to the building being reopened, this to be funded from the "devolution fund" via resolution 2.

Councillor J Kenton left the meeting at 19:42

The Mayor thanked all who attended.

**2025/73 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public**

As certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the item 2025/74 listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous.

The Mayor: Cllr Bates Date: