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

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 commencing at 7.00pm in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

PRESENT: Cllr Williams (Chair), Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Eggins, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr Richter.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Gareth Hughes (Town Clerk) and Gail Chadwick (Responsible Financial Officer).

Public Participation Time:
There were no members of the public present.

2023/56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None

2023/57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No Declarations of Interest were made.

2023/58 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
This item was withdrawn as there were no Confidential items to consider.

2023/59 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Richter
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th October 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record with a minor amendment to show Cllr Bates had offered apologies due to illness.

2023/60 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Committee considered the preliminary budget for 2024/25 which was developed at a workshop of Councillors on 21st November 2023 and is based on current services. It was hoped that the Tree Survey now being undertaken would have been available in time for this meeting to enable a spending strategy for tree work to be considered. In addition, further services may need to be taken from Somerset Council which would result in an additional financial requirement.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To accept the draft budget on the basis that a further Councillor workshop is conducted in January to take account of the output of the Tree Survey and the need to deliver services previously undertaken by Somerset Council, which may result in revisions being made before presentation to Full Council.

2023/61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

(a) Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee would be held on Tuesday 30th April 2024 in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

(b) No specific items were put forward for inclusion on the next agenda.

There being no other business the Chair thanked committee members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.30.

CHAIR: **DATE:** 12/6/24