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

Chard Town **Full Council** meeting held in Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 16th February 2026** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, Hassan, Hussey, A. Kenton, J Kenton, Richter, O'Brien, & Willaims.

Officers Present:
Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell, Operations Manager Kevin Dyer

Council Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors Baker J Kenton, apologies were received by Cllr Wale.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/16 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors:
Crook, Shortland, Tribble and Watson who has extended leave granted.

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies received
Unanimous

2026/17 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Baker declared an interest in agenda item 2026/24

2026/18 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**
Council approved the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting on the 26th January 2026

Proposed Cllr Bulmer Seconded Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to approve the Full Council January 26th minutes

2026/19 Committee Meeting Minutes

Council noted the: A&E 11th November minutes were subject to a complain and noted the A&E approved minutes for 13th January

2026/20 Financial Checks and Information

a) January payments list

Council noted the January 2026 payments list

b) Bank Reconciliations: January 2026

Council noted the bank reconciliation statements for January 20226

Section 2 Items To Note

2026/21 Mayor's Updates and Announcements

Council received an oral update from the Mayor

2026/22 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Oral Updates

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk informed Council about the existence of a 'Flooding Report' that was currently being withheld by Somerset Council and had yet to be made publicly available.

2026/23 Reports from Councillors On External Bodies

Council received oral reports from the following:

- Chard Museum: Cllrs Hassan & J Kenton
- Somerset Association of Local Councils: Cllr Bates
- Town Team: Cllrs A Kenton & Hassan
- Allotment Association Forum: Cllrs Baker & Hassan
- Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG): Cllr Hussey
- Chard Town Council Youth Council: Cllrs Baker, Hussey & Richter

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2026/24 Fire Protection System At The Hive (Young People's Centre)

Cllr Baker left the meeting

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: To approve the expenditure of £8,951 to upgrade the fire safety equipment at the The Hive (Young People's Centre), to ensure it is compliant with necessary requirements. For these funds to be vired from the General fund

Cllr Baker re-entered the meeting

2026/25 **Financial Support For The Octagon Theatre Project**

Council considered received form Yeovil Town Council asking for a contribution to the redevelopment of the Octagon Theatre

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Baker
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to make a £5,000 contribution subject to the caveat of proof of substantial completion of the refurbishment.

2026/26 **To resolve to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as certain items may include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act**

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: For council to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 197 as agenda item 2026/27 will include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

2026/27 **Appointment of Internal Auditor.**

Council noted the information given in the Oral update

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr A Kenton
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to select 'option 5' auditor to be appointed to undertake the internal audit and for the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to determine the scope of the extended audit.

2026/28 **Date Of Next Meeting**

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 23rd March 2026. To be held at The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 7pm

There being no other business, The Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting at 8.06 p.m.

Date: 23/3/26 **Signed:**

