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 20th October 2025** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, A. Kenton, J. Kenton, Richter, Shortland, Tribble, Watson & Williams.

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

Public Participation
No members of the public asked questions.

Council Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors Baker & J Kenton.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2025/124 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors;
Hassan, Hussey & O'Brien

Reasons for absence: Personal.

Proposed: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies declared.

2025/125 **Declarations of Interest**
Non declared for the register.

2025/126 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Proposed: Councillor J Baker Seconded: Councillor Eggins
For: 8 Abstain: 3

Resolved: Council approved the draft minutes of the 29th September 2025 Full Council meeting as an accurate account.

2025/127 Committee Meeting Minutes

Council noted that minutes for 9th September A&E and F&A outstanding minutes would appear on their next agendas for approval prior to noting at Full Council.

2025/128 Financial Checks and Information

a) **Payments List September 2025**
This item deferred as Councillors were unable to read it.

b) **Internal Audit Checklist**
Council noted the internal audit checklist for Q2.

Section 2: Items To Note

2025/129 Mayors Updates & Announcements

The Mayor provided an update on the recent visit from Helstad, Chard's Twin Town.

2025/130 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk provided updates on the following items which Council noted:

a) Bonds Close – Flooding
b) Jocelyn Park
c) Bath Street Toilets
d) Road Safety in Chard
e) Remembrance Ceremonies
Council noted the Chief Executive & Town Clerk updates.

Additional Item - **Young People's Centre**

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton — Seconded: Councillor Eggins
For: 10 — Abstain: 1

Resolved: For Council to approve virement £6,000 from The Hive Utilities budget to the Hive works budget

Additional Item **Committee Membership Update**

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer — Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to agree Cllr Tibble as a member of the Planning & Highways and Finance & Audit Committee

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2025/131 Matters Relating to The Finance & Audit Committee

a) Council noted the grant decisions made by the Finance & Audit Committee

b) Finance signatories

Proposed: Councillor Williams — Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
For: 8 — Abstain: 2

Resolved: Council agreed that all Finance & Audit committee members will be signatories.

2025/132 Matters Relating To The Amenities & Events Committee

a) Bath St Toilets

Proposed: Cllr Baker — Seconded Cllr J Kenton
Unanimous

Resolved:
a) That the Chief Executive & Town Clerk be authorised to obtain three quotations for a designer for the proposed Changing Places Facility and hold further Officer-to-Officer discussions with Somerset Council with regard to the long term lease prior to bring matters back to Full Council.

Proposed: Cllr Baker — Seconded Cllr J Kenton
For: 10 — Abstain: 1

Resolved:
b) The Chief Executive & Town Clerk create up an EMR taking £200,000 funds from Devolution funds.

b) Jocelyn Park

Proposed: Cllr J Baker — Seconded Cllr Bulmer
For: 10 — Abstain: 1

Resolved: For Council to authorise the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to accept handover of the building from the Contractor on behalf of the Council and seek quotations for completing the works. Quotations to be brought back to Full Council.

c) Parks & Cemetery Staff Mess Facilities

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton — Seconded Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to authorise The Chief Executive & Town Clerk to:
1) Check the working conditions pf the Park & Cemetery Staff, confirming they meet current practices and

2) Obtain three quotations for a designer for the proposed Mess Room.

3) The Chief Executive & Town Clerk to set up an EMR for the project for £200,000 from the General Reserves.

2025/133 Allotment Lease

Proposed: Cllr Shortland **Seconded:** Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to to enter into a new 3 year lease (with the landowner) with the proposed increase in rent for the Chardstock Allotment and recreation site (Halcombe Park) and instruct the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to process the matter. The lease document will be similar to the previous lease but with the cost increase.

2025/134 Purchase Of New Recording Equipment

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr J Baker
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to agree the Chief Executive & Town Clerk with the help of Cllr Tribble look into this further.

2025/135 Somerset Council Discussions Over Devolution Matters
A draft paper based on the Somerset Council officer discussions was noted.

2025/136 Date Of Next Meeting
Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 24th November 2025. 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 20.34 pm

Date: 25/3/26 **Signed:**