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 26th January 2026** commencing at 19:00pm.

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

Officers Present:
Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell, Operations Manager Kevin Dyer
Councillors not present: Crook.

Public Participation
Approximately 7 members of the public were preset. No members of the public spoke.

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

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/01 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors:
Hassan, Shortland, Watson & Williams

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor J Kenton
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies declared.

2026/02 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made.

2026/03 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien Seconded: Councillor J Kenton

For: 8 Abstain: 2

Resolved: For Council approved the draft minutes of the 15th December 2025 Full Council meeting as an accurate account with one amendment to agenda item 2025/153.

2026/04 Committee Meeting Minutes

Council noted the:

- F&A approved minutes from F&A meetings: 12/05, 17/06, 23/06, 22/07 & 7/10 2025, that F&A committee have yet to approve the minutes from 2/12/25 and that 20/01/26 meeting did not take place.
- The approved **A&E** minutes for meetings: Minutes from the 9th September, 14th October and 9th December 2025and further noted the minutes from 11th November were deferred
- There has not been an HR meeting in January 2026 so minutes remain unapproved. That recommendations from the November 2025 HR meeting have been noted and or voted at previous Full Council meetings. Council further noted the progress with the recruitment for a new Town Clerk.

2026/05 Current Budget Update

Council noted the budget update.

2026/06 Financial Checks and Information

a) December payments list

Council noted the December payments list

b) Bank Reconciliations: December 2025

Council noted the bank reconciliation statements for December

c) Payments Over £500 1st October – 31st December 2025

Council noted payments over £500 for the period stated

Section 2 Items To Note

2026/07 Mayor's Updates and Announcements

Council received an oral update from the mayor.

2026/08 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Oral Updates

The Council received an oral update from the Chief Executive & Town Clerk on the following:

a) Flooding In Chard
Please note that the Technical Report has now been received and Officers are either dealing with minor items or formulating recommendations for how Full Council should approach further work. A confidential item is included later in this agenda.

b) Confidential Items
It is a matter of regret to me that, given the progress on some matters, there will, inevitably, be more Confidential Items for decision in the near future than has been the rule since my arrival.

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2026/09 Budget 2026/27 –

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor J Kenton
For: 9 Abstain: 1

Resolved: To approve the budget and for 2026/2027 as presented in the document provided and based on previous discussions at the 2 informal meetings

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: To approve the precept and the Chef Executive & Town Clerk to provide the precept information to Somerset Council

Section 4: Confidential

2026/10 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

Resolved: Councill unanimously agreed to enter into confidential session.

2026/11 Appointment of Internal Auditor.

Proposed: Cllr Kenton Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to give the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to pursue additional quotation and bring back to Full Council.

2026/12 **Chard, Tatworth & Forton Forum**

Council noted the updated information regarding this Forum and asked for other adjacent authorities to be involved, especially with regard to potential boundary changes.

Cllr Richter declared an interest in the agenda item below and did not speak or vote.

2026/13 **Flood Investigation – Update**

Proposed: Cllr Kenton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: For the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to pursue the matter of drainage through Town Council Park with regard to easements. It was agreed, should work be required up to £500 could be spent on professional fees.

2026/14 **Safety & Security**

Council received updates from the Chief Executive & Town Clerk on 2 recent specific security & safety issues.

2026/15 **Date Of Next Meeting**

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 16th January 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 8.30 p.m.

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