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 **Monday 17th February 2025** commencing at 18:30pm.

Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, A Kenton, J Kenton & Webb

Apologies: Councillors: Crook, Hassan, Hussey, Shortland, Richter and Watson

In attendance: Chief Executive & Town Clerk (CE TC) David Bell, Deputy Town Clerk & Operations Manager (DTC- OM) Kevin Dyer, Beverley Newman Democratic Service Officer and 10 members of the public.

Public Participation Time

Excellent service received.

A letter of thanks and appreciation was given to Cllr Baker regarding the service a member of Chard Community received for the recent burial of their spouse.

2025/09 **Apologies for Absence**

It was resolved to accept the apologies from the following Councillors;
Crook (Personal), Hassan (work), Hussey (personal), Richter (Work), Shortland (Personal) and Watson for personal.

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to formerly accept the apologies declared.

2025/10 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Baker and J Kenton declared a personal interest in respect to Agenda item 2025/11 as they are customers of Lloyds Bank.

Cllr Baker also declared there is Political Party interest form the Liberal Democrats.

Council noted the declarations of interest.

2025/11 **Notice of Motion from Councillor Json Baker in respect to the recent Link Group decision to not supply a banking hub in Chard.**

Cllrs Baker and J Kenton provided the following as reasons for appealing the Link decision:

- Refute the transport / bus Link argument both feasibility and cost of. (Cllr baker has researched the bus times and routes and can quantify this)
- Higher population than Crewkerne
- Demographics of Chard are different of those assumed by Link, in particular higher volume of older people (65 & over) & higher volume of social deprivation.
- There are 75 shops in Chard High St. They all concur they need banks to support the day to day function of their business.

Other points raise:

- There is unconfirmed information to suggest that Lloyds bank will be providing a 'Community Banker' but no further information to say how often or what days of the week.
- Current demographics in Chard should mean Chard meets the Link criteria, the forecast increase to Chard's population should also be considered.
- Cllr Baker confirmed the closure of a bank automatically triggers a Link review. The report from the review was published 29th January 2025 and there are 28 days to submit an appeal.

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor J Kenton
Unanimous

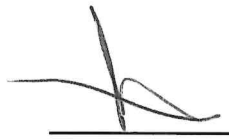
Resolved: To support local residents, businesses and visitors (given the recent announcement of the Lloyds Bank closure in Chard) by formerly appealing the decision of the Link Group not to supply a banking hub in Chard.

Action: CE TC David Bell, Cllrs Baker & J Kenton, to include feedback from other Cllrs and involvement of the owners of Chard Post Office will submit an appeal to the Link decision.

2025/12 **Date of Next Meeting**

Council noted the date of the next Full Council meeting: Monday March 17th 2025 19.00

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19.10



7/5/25

Mayor: **Date:**