Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard. TA20 1PP
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Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates
Chief Executive & Town Clerk David Bell

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 27th January 2025** commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, Hassan, Hussey, Richter and Watson.

Apologies: Councillors Crook, Grief-Page, A Kenton, J Kenton Shortland, Webb and Williams

Apologies were also received from Cllr Wale.

In attendance: Chief Executive & Town Clerk David Bell, Deputy Town Clerk Kevin Dyer, Beverley Newman Democratic Service Officer and 29 members of the public.

Tributes were paid and a minute's silence was upheld in acknowledgement of the sad passing of previous Mayor John Bryce.

Public Participation Time

Somerset Councillor Reports
Committee received updates from Councillor Baker

Section 1 – Standing Items

2025/01 **Apologies for Absence**
It was resolved to accept the apologies from Councillors Grief-Page, Hassan and Webb for personal reasons.

Proposed: Councillor Watson Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

2025/02 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs Baker and Bates declared a possible & personal interest depending on any discussion in respect to Agenda item 2025/04 b) i)

Council noted the declarations of interest.

2025/03 **Council Meeting Minutes**

Resolved: To defer the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting on the 18th November and 16th December 2024 to appear on the February 2025 Full Council meeting agenda due to the requirement of some amendments and to implement new processes

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Section 2 – Items to note

2025/04 **a) The Mayor**
The Mayor outlined some of her recent activities as Mayor:

- Support during last night's flooding and the Mayor expressed her sincere thanks to all those who had also contributed support; Counillors, Officers, Volunteers.
- Attendance at Manor Court School Art Show, stating it was an 'absolute privilege' to be asked to judge the children's work and see the joy this event brought to all.
- Collaboration and attending meetings with Officers, Councillors & local community group representatives in planning for Chard's VE celebrations, adding if anyone was interested to get in touch. All ideas and contributions are welcome.

b) Chief Executive & Town Clerk
The Chief Executive Town Clerk gave an opening statement this being his first Full Council and then gave the following updates:

- Application for 35k grant from Somerset Association Of Local Council –
  The monies received have been returned to SALC, The Waffle House is totally self-funding.
- Legal and ICO Casework –
  There has been significant progress made with ICO cases with an update since publication of the agenda being there is now only 1 outstanding.

  Detailed information was request for this update.
  Action Point: Officers to provide an opportunity to discuss with Council.

- Contracts –
  Confirmation of a newly recruited Responsible Financial Officer – Carrie Pillow
- Financial Reports –
  Reports were provided for Income & Expenditure, Balance sheet, Earmarked Reserves and Expenditure over £500

Council noted the updates from the Mayor and Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Section 3- Items for decision

2025/05 **2025/26 Budget**

Resolved: To formerly adopt the 2025/26 Financial Year budget for Chard Town Council.

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Bulmer
Unanimous

2025/06 **Precept**

Resolved: To formerly request a precept of £1,185,00 from Somerset Council for 2025/26.

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Richter
Unanimous

2024/07 **Reserves**
To formerly accept the use of the reserves: Play Equipment, £6,000, CIL (County Infrastructure Levy) £14,000, Cemetery £15,000 and Guildhall £25,000 within the next two months, this being the end of the time frame allowed in which to spend.

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Hussey
Unanimous

2025/08 **Date of Next Meeting**
Council noted the date of the next Full Council meeting: **Monday February 17th 2025 19.00**

Section 4 - Confidential

No confidential items for this meeting.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.18

Mayor: **Date:** 7/5/25