CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

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Mayor: Garry Shortland Town Clerk: Gareth Hughes

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Tuesday 11th September 2023 commencing at 19:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr Hassan, Cllr A. Kenton, Cllr J. Kenton Cllr Richter, Cllr Shortland (Mayor), Cllr Watson.

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT

Gail Chadwick Responsible Financial and Grants Officer, Kevin Dyer Operations Manager, Gareth Hughes Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Services Officer (DSO);

Rev Georgina Vye, Rob Grimmond - Helmstedt Society, Cllr Wale and Cllr Payne

Chaplin's thought for the day was delivered by Rev Georgina Vye, the key theme being community:

- The importance of community
- The effect of loss of community
- The need to promote and harness community

Public Participation Time

There were in the region of 20 members of the public present.

Summary:

5 members of the public spoke.
Subjects were: Public participation, delivery of Unitary Councillor reports and the Cotley Boxing Day Hunt.

A specific question relating to the progress regarding the training for Councillors and Officers as recommended in the Rolley Report was made to Council and will be answered in writing to the member of the public who asked the question.

Reports from County and District Councillors

Council received County Councillor report from Cllr Wale with additional comments from Cllr Payne, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr Baker.

Police Report

No formal police report was received; however 2 members of the local police were present.

2023/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were received and accepted:

Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Crook, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Williams.

2023/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest made:

- Cllr Baker – Agenda items 2023/119 d) Member of the Carnival Committee & f) Unitary Councillor
- Cllr J Kenton Agenda item 2023/119 f) Unitary Councillor
- Cllr Shortland Agenda item 2023/119 d) Member of the Town Team

2023/116 Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED: TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
As certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

2023/117 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To accept the draft minutes from Full Council meeting 17th July 2023 and Extraordinary Full Council meeting 14th August 2023 as an accurate account with one amendment in the 'Apologies' for the 14th August (now sate Cllr Bulmer's reason for absence was 'holiday')

2023/118 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Council noted the information relating to the Public Engagement Event.

(b) Council noted the Mayor's changes to meeting protocol.

2023/119 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATES:

(a) Motion for applying for the SALC 35K Grant

Proposed Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Baker
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To adopt the amended proposal to;

- Apply for a SALC 35K grant in partnership with key stakeholder groups to address one, two or three inequalities as stipulated in 'What supports Health & Wellbeing' by SALC.
- To refer to the Community Plan Data report (and other key evidence-based data) to identify the 'agreed inequalities' and identify potential key stakeholders highlighted in the Community Plan Draft Action Plan.
- To grant delegated powers to the Town Clerk to determine Officer responsibility in this project.
- To set up a councillor Task & Finish Group for councillors to provide information on and input to, any community organisations to be included in the partnership approach in this grant application.

Task and Finish members are:

- Cllr Baker
- Cllr Bates
- Cllr Bulmer
- Cllr J Kenton
- Cllr Richter
- Cllr Watson.

COMMENT/ ACTION POINT: DSO Beverley Newman will coordinate a zoom meeting for the Task & Finish Group meeting.

(b) Unauthorised Encampment Policy

Proposed Cllr J Kenton Seconded Cllr Baker
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To formerly the adopt the presented Encampment policy

(c) Out of Hours Call Out Policy for emergency's involving Council land / property

Proposed Cllr J Baker Seconded Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To formerly the adopt the presented Out of Hours Call-out Policy and for the necessary virement(s) to cover costs of the policy to be reported for agreement to the next Finance and Audit Committee due to be held on 24th October. In addition, there will be a minor adjustment to the Financial Regulations which will be made and reported back as part of the annual review to Full Council in November.

(d) Watts Store Licence Agreement

Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Hussey
For: 8 Abstain 3

RESOLVED: To provide delegated power to the Town Clerk to review and renew the licence agreement for the Watts Store with Chard & District Carnival Committee Ltd and the Town Team

(e) Cemetery works update
Council noted the work started in the cemetery to progress the repair of the Chapels and gain more plots for burial.

(f) Somerset Council – Planning Department – Crewkerne Rd –
Council noted the document provided and agreed the Town Clerk should give a return reply of "No comment".

(g) Somerset Council, Wessex Water and Somerset River Authority –
Council noted the joint statement which was read out in full by the Town Clerk

2023/120 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bates
For: 8 Abstain: 3

RESOLVED: To note the minutes from the Finance & Audit Committee held 25th July 2023 and adopt the Guidance on Busking.

2023/121 INVESTMENT STRATGEY

Proposed Cllr A. Kenton Seconded Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To adopt the presented Investment Strategy, agree the suggestion for reorganising investments as per the RFO's paper on Investments sections 5.3 and 5.4.

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Richter
Unanimous

RESOLVED: For continuity, those councillors that are current signatories on Lloyds Bank mandate (Cllrs Baker, Brown, Bulmer, Eggins, Kenton and Ricther) be put on the mandate for these investments. In addition, the Town Clerk, Gareth Hughes and RFO, Gail Chadwick are authorised to operate the CCLA account.

2023/122 COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT
Council noted the External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23

2023/123 FINANCE
Council noted the year to date Income and Expenditure Report as at 31st August 2023

2023/124 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following Councillors asked and will be added to the stated Council committee:

-	Cllr Baker	Finance & Audit Committee
-	Cllr Hussey	Planning & Highways Committee
-	Cllr Hussey	Amenities & Events Committee
-	Cllr Baker	Amenities & Events Committee
-	Cllr A Kenton	Amenities & Events Committee
-	Cllr J Kenton	Amenities & Events Committee
-	Cllr A Kenton	HR Committee

COMMENT/ ACTION POINT: DSO Beverley Newman will update the Councillor committee list

2023/125 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Committee noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th November 2023 in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 21.03

17-11-23.

MAYOR: **DATE:**

2023/126 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of these items (Item 2023/116 above refers)

(a) Cemetery valuation

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To adopt the first option as described in the Town Clerk's report, adding the Council would be agreeable to a covenant if desired re limitation of use.

(b) Councillor request – Item withdrawn