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 Extraordinary meeting held in the Guildhall Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 14th August 2023 commencing at 19:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr Shortland (Mayor), Cllr Watson, Cllr Williams.

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT
Gareth Hughes Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Services Officer (DSO)

Public Participation Time
There were 8 members of the public present.

Summary:
5 members of the public spoke. (1 of which was representing 3 people)
There was a mixture of statements and questions on the following:

- Ongoing references to the Rolley report
- The way in which the Council functions.

2023/109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies were received and accepted:

Cllr Brown (Personal) (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer (~~Personal~~), Cllr Crook, (Personal) Cllr Grief-Page, (Work); Cllr Hassan (Personal), Cllr A Kenton (Personal) Cllr J Kenton, personal; Cllr Richter.

2023/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2023/111 Proposed Cllr Baker 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".

2023/112 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next Full Council meeting Tuesday will be held on Monday **11th September 2023** in the Guildhall, Town Hall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP **commencing at 19.00 pm**.

Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Williams

RESOLVED: To suspend standing orders at the request of Cllr Baker for a private meeting with the Town Clerk & Mayor.

Standing Orders were suspended at 19.35.

The Extraordinary meeting reconvened at 19.45

2023/113 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public were excluded in consideration of these items (Item 2023/97 above refers)

(a) Solicitor letter request

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Watson
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To release the recording of the Full Council meeting 17th July under Subject Access Request (SAR) provided the person the solicitor is acting on behalf of is either named or speaks in the recording.

Cllr Baker declared a personal interest in the item below stating he had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer on this who had confirmed this not preclude him from voting.

(b) Request for information

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Eggins
For: 6 Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: To release the information requested under SAR

Cllr Hussey declared a personal interest in the item below

(c) Zero Tolerance Complaint.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL:
To ask Somerset Association Local Councils (SALC) to undertake an investigation regarding the complaint made by a councillor against a member of the public on the grounds of bullying behaviour. (If SALC are unable to undertake the investigation then South West Councils should be approached)

Further that that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to liaise with SALC in agreeing the parameters for this investigation

In addition, the member of public who has had a complaint made against them be suspended from attending Full Council meetings until the investigation is complete and findings been given to the Chard Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bates
For: 2 Against: 3 Abstain 2

RESOLVED: Not to agree the alternative proposal.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL: To ask SLAC to undertake an investigation regarding the complaint made by a councillor against a member of the public on the grounds of bullying behaviour. (If SALC are unable to undertake the investigation then South West Councils should be approached)

Further that that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to liaise with SALC in agreeing the parameters for this investigation.

Proposed: Cllr Shortland **Seconded Cllr Eggins**
For: 5 Against: 2

RESOLVED: To agree the original proposal.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 20.55.

11-9-23

MAYOR: **DATE:**