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 17th July 2023 commencing at 19:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Bates, Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hassan, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Richter, Cllr Watson, Cllr Williams.

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT

Gail Chadwick Finance & Responsible Finance Officer, Gareth Hughes Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Services Officer (DSO); Rev Georgina Vye, Cllr Wales.

Public Participation Time
There were in the region of 30 members of the public present.

Summary:
9 members of the public spoke.
There was a mixture of statements and questions on the following subjects:

- The importance of being involved and staying involved with your community,
- The recent 'alleged issues' of a planning meeting held by Somerset Council where 'alleged decisions were made with no consensus',
- Alleged bullying
- Cost to taxpayer of Chard in relation to staff disputes and staff turnover at the Council in the last 10 years. (£102,841)
- An update on the Young People's Centre,
- Requests for an update on actions in relation to the Rolley Report,
- Volume of road traffic in relation to potential accident issues (Specifically by St Mary's Church) and a plea to act to install traffic calming measures.
- Plans for the new by-pass and the potential safety issues this will cause as well as allegedly making the Reservoir split in half.
- Statements regarding the Rolley Report is a stand-alone document
- Calls for 'some Councillors' to resign.

Specific questions of the Council were also made and will be answered to the members of public who made them

Reports from County and District Councillors
Council received County Councillor reports from Cllr Wale. (reports attached)

Police Report
No police report was received.

Community Plan Presentation
Community Plan Steering Group Chair - Serena Wootton.
See presentation attached.

2023/95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies were received and accepted:

Cllr Grief-Page, work; Cllr J Kenton, personal; Cllr Shortland personal. Cllr Baker. No apologies received.

2023/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2023/97 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".

2023/98 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Bulmer — Seconded Cllr Eggins
For: 8 — Abstain: 2

RESOLVED: To accept the draft minutes from Full Council meeting 13th June agreed as an accurate account.

2023/99 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Council noted the information relating to the By-election.

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

(c) Council noted the Councillor Surgery Timetable and the requirement to inform the DSO if they were unable to make their allotted surgery day.

2023/100 TOWN CLERKS UPDATES:

(a) Council noted the updated information relating to Full Council meetings.

(b) Council noted the change in date to the November Full Council meeting

(c) Council noted the process put in place to support Chairs and Vice Chairs for preparing for committee meetings

2023/101 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Proposed Cllr Bates — Seconded Cllr Bulmer
For: 9 — Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: To note the minutes from the HR Committee held 4th July 2023 and adopt the revised Staff Handbook

(bi & ii) Proposed Cllr Watson — Seconded Cllr Eggins
For: 9 — Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: To note the minutes from the Amenities and Events Committee meeting held 10th July 2023 and accept the recommendations in points; 2, 3, 4ii, 5, 8 ii 9 & 10 of the Town Clerk and Operations report and points 3.0 & 3.2 of the Events Officer's report.

2023/102 STANDING COMMITTEES (previously appearing on 13th June Full Council Agenda 2023/90 – deferred).

(a) Minimum membership

Cllr Hassan requested to be on the HR and Planning & Highways Committees, Cllr Watson requested to be on the Planning & Highways Committee, Cllr Richter requested to be on the Finance & Audit Committee. It was resolved that thee councillors joined these committees All committees now have the minimum number of members according to the Standing Orders.

(b) Additional councillors were requested to join any of the Standing Committees to help reduce the possibility of these committee meetings being inquorate. But no additional councillors joined

2023/103 2023/103 REPORTING PROCESS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES (previously appearing on 9th May Full Council Agenda 2023/74 – deferred).

(a) Council accepted Cllr Hassan and Crook request to be representatives for Chard Museum

(b) Proposed: Cllr Eggins — Seconded Cllr Williams

Unanimous

RESOLVED: To adopt the proposed process for Councillor Representatives on external bodies to report to Council and inform the public of news and events relating to their chosen external body.

2023/104 ANNUAL REVIEW OF BANK MANDATES

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Hassan
Unanimous

RESOLVED: To add Cllr Brown and Cllr Eggins as signatories to the Nationwide Building Society account and to add Cllr Eggins as a signatory to the Lloyds Bank.

2023/105 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ROLLEY REPORT

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bulmer
For: 9 Against: 1

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the NALC Dignity & Respect Policy, Sign the NALC pledge, adopt the Somerset Council Code of Conduct and the 1 additional criterion stated and agree proposed training programme 2023/24 for Councillors and Officers

2023/106 MOTIONS:

(a) Development of Chard Town Market (Cllr Eggins)

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Crook
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the motion to create a new sub-committee 'The Chard Market Development Sub-Committee' of the Amenities & Events Committee that will continue until such time significant growth and development of Chard Town Market has been achieved

(b) Community Plan (Cllr Richter)

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the motion to formerly adopt the Community Plan commissioned by Chard Town Council to use the Data Report to help inform the Council strategy 2023- 2028 and agreed to set up a Task & Finish Group with a dedicated end date, to establish a new and appropriate coordinating group, comprised of Councillors and members of the community.

(c) Sustaining 'Culturally Chard' (Cllr Eggins)

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the motion that Council continues to support the sustainability of 'Culturally Chard' beyond the original Historic England funded programme, (March 2024), so that it becomes a fully embedded self-sustaining part of Chards culture by providing both Officer and Councillor time.

2023/107 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**.

The public meeting concluded at 20.30.

2023/108 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)

Cllr A Kenton Declared an interest and left the Town Hall room. 20:40

(a) Legal Matters

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Watson
Unanimous

RESOLVED: Not to grant the request set out in the solicitor letter received on 29th June 2023 and to instruct the Town Clerk to provide a written reply to the solicitors on behalf of the Council relaying their decision.

The Town Clerk invited Cllr A Kenton back to the Town Hall room the 20:55

(b) HR Committee Matters

Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded Cllr Hassan
RESOLVED: That the following vote be a named vote

HR Committee recommendation made at the HR Committee meeting 4th July 2023 That the member of the public cited in a zero-tolerance complaint to the Council on the 26th June is permanently banned from Council premises; Guildhall, Watts Store and the

Cemetery (except for a burial or visiting a grave where prior approval must be given by the Town Clerk). Or that Full Council considers what action should be taken in case the ban is broken by the member of the public.

Proposed: Cllr Kenton Seconded Cllr Eggins

- For: Cllr Bulmer
- Against: Cllrs, Kenton, Bates, Brown, Eggins, Hassan, Richter & Williams
- Abstain: Cllrs; Crook and Watson

RESOLVED not to agree the recommendation.

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Watson
RESOLVED: That the following vote be a named vote

Alternative recommendation:
That the member of the public cited in a zero-tolerance complaint to the Council on the 26th June is banned from Council premises indefinitely; Guildhall, Watts Store (continues to be allowed to visit the cemetery), with an opportunity to review in 12 months.

Proposed: Cllr Watson Seconded Cllr Crook

- For: Cllrs Bulmer, Crook and Watson
- Against: Cllrs Bates, Brown, Eggins, Hassan, A. Kenton and Williams
- Abstain: Cllr Richter

RESOLVED: to not agree to the recommendation

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Watson
RESOLVED: That the following vote be a named vote

Alternative recommendation 2:
That the member of the public cited in a zero-tolerance complaint to the Council on the 26th June is permanently banned from Council premises; Guildhall, Watts Store excluding the Cemetery. Or that Full Council considers what action should be taken in case the ban is broken by the member of the public

Proposed: Cllr Watson Seconded Cllr Crook

- For: Cllrs Bulmer, Crook, Eggins, Richter and Watson
- Against: Cllrs Bates, Brown, Hassan, A. Kenton and Williams
- Deputy Mayor made the casting vote 'Against' concluding in a majority of one.

RESOLVED: not to agree the recommendation

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 21.45

11-9-23

MAYOR: **DATE:**