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

Chard Town **Full Council** meeting held in Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 18th August 2025** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bulmer, Crook, Eggins, Hassan, J Kenton, O'Brien, Richter, & Williams.

Officers Present: Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell; Beverley Newman Democratic Service Officer.

Public Participation Time
There were approximately 25 members of the public present.
4 members of the public spoke.

Somerset Councillor Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors Baker and Wale

Section 1 Standing Items:

2025/91 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors;
Bates, Hussey, A Kenton, Shortland & Watson.
Reasons for absence: Personal.

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor Hassan
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to formerly accept the apologies declared.

2025/92 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs Baker & J Kenton declared interests as Unitary Authority Cllrs on items related to Youth provision and some elements of the draft strategy dependent on discussions. Cllr Bulmer declared interest for the same agenda items but in his capacity as an employee of the Unitary Council.

2025/93 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

i) Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
For: 8 Abstain:1

Resolved: For Council to approve the draft minutes of the 12th of May 2025 Full Council meeting

ii) Proposed: Councillor J Kenton — Seconded: Councillor Richter
For:8 — Abstain: 1

Resolved: For Council to approve the draft minutes of the 27th of May 2025 Full Council meeting subject to one amendment as proposed at the meeting.

iii) Proposed: Councillor J Kenton — Seconded: Councillor Crook
For: 6 — Abstain: 3

Resolved: For Council to approve the draft minutes of the 23rd of June 2025 Full Council meeting

iv) Proposed: Councillor J Kenton — Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to approve the draft minutes of the 28th of July 2025 Full Council meeting with one amendment – agenda item 2025/85 J Eggins to T Eggins.

2025/94 **Committee Meeting Minutes**
Council noted that outstanding minutes for A&E and F&A would appear on their next agendas for approval prior to the next Full Council meeting.
Please note urgent items for action will be extracted and taken to Full Council.

2025/95 **Financial Checks**

a) Payments List July 2025

Resolved: For Council to approve the July payments list.

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer — Seconded: Cllr Richter
Unanimous

A councillor made an enquiry regarding the expenditure of £13,992 for '239 Arboriculture'. It was agreed the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to provide more information direct to the councillor regarding the detail behind this expense.

b) Payment Checks

Council noted Local Government Service Pay Agreement 2025/26

Section 2: Items To Note

2025/96 **Mayors Updates & Announcements**
The Deputy Mayor said she's had the pleasure of attending both the VJ celebrations hosted and organised by The Museum and crowning the Carnival Queen at the Cricket St Thomas event.

2025/97 **Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.**

1) Youth Provision

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk reiterated the notes provided in the agenda which Council noted.

2) **Jocelyn Ward Election**
Council noted the updated information.

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2025/98 **Amended Committee Meeting Schedule.**
A Cllr request was made for one further amendment – the A&E scheduled meeting for the 23rd September be brought forward to the 9th September.

2025/99 **A Draft Strategy For Chard Town Council Projects**

8.22p.m. Cllrs Baker, Cllr J Kenton & Cllr Bulmer left the meeting

a) Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Crook
For: 6
For clarification, Cllrs Baker, Bulmer & J Kenton did not participate in the vote.

Resolved: For council to approve recommendation a) of the 'A Draft Strategy For Chard Town Council Projects; *That matters outlined in Section 4 of the report provided form the basis of the initial Chard Town Council Strategy.*

b) Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Crook
For: 6
For clarification, Cllrs Baker, Bulmer & J Kenton did not participate in the vote.

Resolved: For council to approve recommendation b) of the 'A Draft Strategy For Chard Town Council Projects; *An organisation restructure be drawn up to facilitate implementation on a rolling programme basis.*

20.26 Cllrs Baker, Cllr J Kenton & Cllr Bulmer returned to the meeting

20.27 Cllr Hassan left the meeting due to work commitments

2025/100 **Formation Of A Policy Working Group**

Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Crook
For: 5 Abstain: 4

Resolved: For council to set up a Policy Working Group made from Chairs of each Committee and for Deputy Chairs to attend in the absence of the Committee Chair.

It was agreed the Chief Executive & Town Clerk would organise a meeting prior to the 29th September for an initial meeting of this working group to agree Terms of Reference and discuss priorities for policy reviews.

2025/101 **Proposal From Tatworth & Forton Parish Council To Set Up A Local Forum**

a) Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Richter
Unanimous

Resolved: For the Council to agree to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to be tasked with further discussions with the Tatworth & Forton Parish Clerk with the objective of setting up a Working Group with the informal aim of discussing matters and concerns for Chard Area and the adjoining Parishes.

b) Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Richter
Unanimous

Resolved: For the Council to agree Cllrs Eggins and Bulmer be members of the combined Forum, (as per their expression of interest) and report back to Full Council at appropriate intervals.

An e-mail be sent to all Councillors not able to attend tonight's meeting offering the opportunity to represent Chard Town Council on this group and that the number be extended to 4 Cllrs should there be that level of interest.

Section 4 Confidential

2025/102 Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed Cllr J Kenton Seconded Cllr Richter
Unanimous

Resolved: To exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

2025/103 Youth Provision in Chard Area
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk withdrew this item due to positive discussions for with Somerset Council.

2025/104 Correspondence In Relation To Somerset Buildings In Chard
The Chief Executive withdrew this item due to item due to positive discussions for with Somerset Council.

2025/105 Date Of Next Meeting
Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 29th September 2025. To be held at The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 7pm

There being no other business, The Deputy Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting at 20.45 pm

SIGNED:

DATE:
19/10/25