Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard. TA20 1PP
01460 239567 chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Tricia O'Brien
Chief Executive & Town Clerk: David Bell

MINUTES

Chard Town Council Full Council Meeting held in Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 22nd June 2026** commencing at 19:00.

Councillors Present: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Richter

Councillors Absent: Cllr Watson, Cllr Crook

Officers Present:
David Bell (Chief Executive & Town Clerk), Kevin Dyer (Deputy Town Clerk & Operations Manager), Tim Bickham (Events Officer), Ingrid Edginton (Stakeholder Liaison Officer)

Public Participation
There were 13 members of public present.

Unitary Councillor Reports
Unitary Councillors J. Kenton and J Baker both gave oral reports.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/90 **Apologies for Absence**

Council received apologies from the following Councillors: Cllr Hassan, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Tribble and Cllr Williams.

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Baker

Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies received.

2026/91 **Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Bates declared an interest in item 2026/94A.
- Cllr Baker declared an interest in items 2026/94 and 2026/96.
- Cllr Bulmer declared an interest in item 2026/102.

2026/92 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Baker

For: 8 Abstained: 1

Resolved: Council noted the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 30th April and Annual Full Council on 18th May 2026.

2026/93 Committee Meeting Minutes

This item was withdrawn to the next meeting by the Chief Executive and Town Clerk.

2026/94 Financial checks

A) April & May 2026 payments list
B) Bank Reconciliations: April & May 2026

Resolved:
Council thanked the Finance Officer for completing this work and NOTED the financial checks.
A Councillor queried the use of the NAMBA subscription, to which the Operations Manager confirmed this will be used substantially more with expansion of our markets.

2026/95 Reports from Cllrs on external bodies

Council NOTED the reports where they were given.

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr J. Kenton

Unanimous

Resolved: Standing orders were suspended at 19:46

A video presentation and report were provided by the Chair of The Hive Committee.
A Councillor queried staff training at The Hive, to which their Committee Chair explained staff have extensive background and training in youth provision, including recognised awards, with some currently undertaking qualifications.
The Hive Chair confirmed he has responded to the question from a member of the public around access for SEND children.

Resolved: Standing orders were reinstated at 20:11 after the presentation from The Hive Chairman and questions from Council.

Section 2 – Items to Note

2026/96 The Hive Updates

Questions were asked, as noted above.

The Chair of The Hive was thanked for his report. The Chief Executive & Town Clerk commented on the significant progress made for all young people in the Chard area and how this had been achieved in a very short time period.
The content of the video and the report from The Hive Chair were NOTED by Full Council.

2026/97 Tatworth & Forton Parish Council
An update was provided by the Chief Executive and Town Clerk.
It was pointed out that Cllr J. Kenton should be invited to future meetings.
Full Council NOTED the report

2026/98 Training for Councillors & Staff
It was NOTED that two training sessions had taken place, with one to be held on Monday 29th June.

2026/99 Jocelyn Park Changing Rooms – Update on Progress
The Chief Executive and Town Clerk gave an oral update on progress to date and explained that tender documents are in the process of being written.
Full Council noted the report and progress.

2026/100 "Devolution" Update
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk gave an oral update and summarised the report.
Full Council noted the report and list provided.

Section 3 - Items for Decision

2026/101 Schedule of Meetings & Councillor Surgeries

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer

Unanimous

Resolved:

To agree the meeting schedule provided, subject to two amendments.
a) To move the September Amenities and Events meeting to after the 15th of the month
b) to move Full Council meetings to the 3rd Monday of the month.

2026/102 Flooding in Chard
The Chief Executive and Town Clerk was thanked for a comprehensive report and oral update. The recommendations were amended in light of an update from Somerset Council via a Unitary Councillor. These proposed actions by Somerset Council

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bates

Unanimous

Resolved:

1) Officers are to continue to liaise with Somerset Council Officers.

2) An assurance from a Unitary Councillor that Somerset Council would provide more information within two months was noted.

2026/103 Community Safety in Chard

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Eggins

Unanimous

Council Resolved to:

1) Continue to work in partnership with strategic and local organisations to promote Community Safety in Chard.

2) Develop a Chard Community Safety Policy, led by a Council Committee and reported back to Full Council.

3) Develop a Chard Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan to implement a Community Safety Policy to reflect local community safety improvements and the Chard Town Council Strategy agreed in 2025.

4) Continue to promote and strengthen resilience and safety in the community.

2026/104 Pest Control at Chard Town Council Premises

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Eggins

For: 8 Abstained: 1

Resolved:
£3,500 to be taken as the maximum budget to progress this project in the current financial year, to include all council premises.

2026/105 Mayor's Updates
Council received a oral update from the Mayor, which included recently attended events, such as the Old Cerdics Dinner at the Guildhall, while the Deputy Mayor attended The Mayor of Yeovil Elect's Civic Evening and Charity Concert.
The Mayor gave thanks and recognition to the Chief Executive and Town Clerk for the notable improvements made during his 18-month contract with the council.

2026/106 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Update
A summary was provided on the works and projects completed or underway.
Also mentioned were the many successful events that had taken place including the May Family Fun Day, Bingo, Comic Relief, VE Day and VJ Day.
Some notable improvements included a more constructive and effective council, an agreed strategy for the council, and the completion of a comprehensive risk assessment system.
Former Mayor, Cllr Bates expressed her thanks for making these achievements and steps forward for the council.

2026/107 Date of Next Meeting

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 20th July 2026. To be held at The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 7pm

There being no other business, The Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting at 21:35.

Date: 20/7/2026 **Signed:** Tabitha O'Brien