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 23rd March 2026** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, Richter, O'Brien, Tribble & Watson.
Councillors Absent: Cllr Crook.

Officers Present:
Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell, Operations Manager Kevin Dyer

Public Participation
Discussion point raised - Boundary review

Council Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors: Baker & Wale.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/29 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors: Hassan, Hussey, A. Kenton, J Kenton, Shortland & Williams

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies received.
Unanimous

2026/30 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Baker declared an interest in agenda item 2026/40 as Chair of The Hive (Young People's Centre).

A brief speech was given by Cllr Bulmer to mark the passing of Tony Prior, former long standing Councillor and Mayor of Chard Town Council and a minute's silence was held.

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2026/31 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Council approved the Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting on the 16th February 2026

Proposed Cllr Bulmer Seconded Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to approve the Full Council January 16th minutes

2026/32 **Committee Meeting Minutes**

Council noted the:

- **F&A** meeting January 20th was cancelled and that minutes from the Extraordinary F&A meetings for 16th March will be submitted for noting at Full Council in due course
- **A&E** minutes from the meeting 17th March '26 will be submitted for noting at Full Council in due course.
- **HR** minutes for 10th December were omitted from pack and will be presented to Full Council April 20th meeting.

2026/33 **Quarterly Checklist**

Council noted the quarterly budget report for the period 1st October to 31st December.

2026/34 **Financial Checks**

a) February 2026 payments list

Council noted the February 2026 payments list

b) Bank Reconciliations: February 2026

Council noted the bank reconciliation statements for February 2026

Credit was given to the Finance Officer by Councillors for her excellent work

Section 2 Items To Note

2026/35 **Mayor's Updates and Announcements**

The Mayor provided the following announcements:

- A Former Chard Town Council Mayor Tony Prior (Mayor **1983–85**, **2004–05**, with **32 years** service has died. His funeral will be held on the 17th April 2026 at 12.00
- Congratulated Chard Together on their successful event Saturday 21st March
- A new High Sheriff Peter has been installed with a focus on children and SEND;

- Mayor's Ball tickets are available to raise funds for **Newsline** and **Scouting Movement.**

2026/36 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Oral Updates

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk provide the Council with updates on the following:

- CCTV and anti-social behaviour
- The Somerset County flooding report obtained via FOI and presently confidential and under review prior coming back to Full Council.
- Finance & Audit Committee meeting:
    - committee recommended allocating up to **£500,000** to earmarked reserves. This is excellent news for the community and projects. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3 of the agenda.
    - Regalia repair: specialist quote due to rising gold prices is estimated **£1,500** plus VAT; recommendation to transfer funds to the regalia budget and re-evaluate asset value. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3 of the agenda.
    -
- Youth services and play areas

2026/37 Reports from Councillors On External Bodies

Council received oral reports from the following:

- Chard Museum: Cllrs Hassan & J Kenton
- Somerset Association of Local Councils: Cllr Bates
- Town Team: Cllrs A Kenton & Hassan
- Allotment Association Forum: Cllrs Baker & Hassan
- Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG): Cllr Hussey
- Chard Town Council Youth Council: Cllrs Baker, Hussey & Richter

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2026/38 Items brought forward from Finance & Audit Committee

Recommendation: It is recommended that Full Council approve the list below for transfers to EMRs

- Sports & Changing Facilities – £100,000
- Play Equipment – £100,000
- Civic Regalia – £25,000
- Guildhall Sinking Fund – £100,000
- Cemetery Sinking Fund – £75,000
- MUGA – £50,000
- Play Areas – £100,000

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: To approve the list above of transfers to EMR's with one amendment; Play areas amount from £50,000 to £100,00.

2026/39 **Mayor's Regalia**

A specialist quote has been received. Due to rising gold prices is estimated **£1,500** plus VAT.
It is recommended to transfer this amount from the General Fund to the regalia budget.

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor O'Brien
Unanimous

Resolved: To transfer the cost of the regalia repairs to the Regalia Budget

Standing Orders were suspended
Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor Tribble
Unanimous
Resolved: To suspend standing orders

Mr Baker provided a short presentation on the updates of The Hive (Young people's Centre)

Standing Orders were reinstated

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous
Resolved: To re-instate standing orders

2026/40 **The Hive (Young People's Centre): A brief presentation from Mr. Baker & review of the Service Level Agreement (SLA)**

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk reported the Service Level Agreement will be delayed to accommodate partner insight.

Council noted Mr Baker's presentation.

Recommendation: To give authority to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to liaise with The Hive committee with a view to minor amendments to changing operating practices that are a result of the success of the youth provision.

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous
Cllr Baker did not vote.

Resolved: To give authority to the Chief Executive & Town Clerk to liaise with The Hive committee with a view to minor amendments to changing operating practices that are a result of the success of the youth provision.

2026/41 **Insurance Pre- Review Declaration**

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk went through the insurance pre-review declaration statement questions. All councillors present replied 'No' to each question.

Cllr Watson gave apologies and left at 19.45

2026/42 **Bath St. Toilets**

For Council to consider a rolling maintenance programme for Bath St Toilets.

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: To:

a) Initially £3,000 be transferred from the General Fund from the first week of the new financial year to a Bath St Toilet Budget line.

and

b) For the situation to be monitored with an update report to be submitted the A&E Committee

2026/43 **To resolve to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as certain items may include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act**

Proposed: Councillor Richter Seconded: Councillor Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For council to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 197 as agenda item 2026/44 will include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

2026/44 **Staffing Matters**

Council noted the confidential oral updates from the Chief Executive & Town Clerk in relation to long term sickness of staff.

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2026/45 **Date Of Next Meeting**

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 20th April 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 8.06 p.m.

Date: 16/7/2026. **Signed:**