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 24th November 2025** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Eggins, Hussey Richter, O'Brien, Shortland & Tribble.
Councillors not present: Crook & Watson

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

Public Participation
A member of the Carnival Committee spoke on behalf of the Carnival.
A representative of anti-hunt group requested to speak.
Two residents requested to speak regarding a wildlife corridor relating to a development.

Council Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors Baker & Payne.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2025/137 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors:
Hassan, A. Kenton, J. Kenton & Williams.

Reasons for absence: Personal.

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Baker
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies declared.

2025/138 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were declared.

2025/139 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Proposed: Councillor Baker Seconded: Councillor Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council approved the draft minutes of the 20th October 2025 Full Council meeting as an accurate account.

2025/140 Committee Meeting Minutes

Council noted:

- F&A minutes will appear on their own agenda at their next scheduled meetings for approval.
- A&E minutes for the 11th November would be submitted at Full Council 15th December
- HR minutes from the 4th November will be submitted at Full council 15th December

2025/141 Financial Checks and Information

a) **Payments List October 2025**
Council APPROVED the October 2025 payments list.

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor Tribble
For: 8 Abstain: 1

Resolved: For Council to approve the October 2025 payment list.

b) **Bank Reconciliation September 2025**
Council noted the bank reconciliation for September 2025.

Section 2: Items To Note

2025/142 Mayors Updates & Announcements

The Mayor gave the following updates:

- The Carnival evening was a success despite the weather,
- Remembrance day had 'a really good turn out'
- Our Helmstedt visitors loved Chard.
- She had the pleasure of opening the new care home in Chard
- Chard Community seemed to really appreciate the Christmas lights

2025/143 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.

Council noted updates from the Chief Executive & Town Clerk on the following:

a) Lloyds Banking Hub - The implementation of this facility has commenced.

b) KIND Chard – the midterm report, required as part of the condition for the grant is being processed and will be sent to SALC next week.

c) Replacement PA system - Chief Executive & Town Clerk & Cllr Tribble will be meeting a specialist to survey the premises to identify appropriate facilities.

19.32 Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor Tribble
Unanimous

19.35 Standing Orders re-instated

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2025/144 **The Hive Young People's Centre**
Council noted Mr Baker's report and the comments from the Chief Executive & Town Clerk

2025/145 **Cleaning Of The Guildhall**
For Council to consider the Chief Executive & Town Clerks proposal to extend the current cleaning contract to the 31st March due to ongoing staff shortages.

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer Seconded: Councillor Eggins
For: 6 Abstain: 3

Resolved: For Council to approve the extended cleaning contract.

Section 4 – Confidential Items For Discussion & Decision

2025/146 Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

To Resolve 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".

2025/147 **Purchase Of Play Equipment.**
Council received the Operations Manager updates. It was acknowledged this was a major job, that it should go to Amenities & Events Committee for discussion then to Full Council for decision.

2025/148 **Complaints & Grievances Update**

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Richter
For: 5 Against: 2 Abstain: 2

Resolved: The Scheme of Delegation be amended, (prior to formal review of the whole document) so that, should the Council be put in a position where it is not possible to summon a quorate body, the Town Clerk (assuming independence of the matter) has delegated authority to act in a reasonable and practical manner to commission external assistance and advice, take

appropriate actions to protect the body corporate, provide duty of care for all staff and ensure fair and transparent means. This should be achieved and then reported back to Full Council along with details of expenditure reasonably incurred. Such matters should be confidential, including reporting back

2025/149 **Devolution Matters**

Council considered the 'devolution' list presented by the Chief Executive and Town Clerk and agreed which ones to progress (subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group) and which ones to reject.

Devolution item for progression:
a) Bath Street Toilets

Proposed: Cllr Richter Seconded: Cllr Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project, subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group.

b) Bonfield Way Allotments

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group

c) All Somerset Council PARKS & Play Areas

Proposed: Cllr Tibble Seconded: Cllr Hussey
For: 6 Abstain: 3

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project, subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group

d) Footpaths (PROW) as per the Definitive Map

Proposed: Cllr Hussey Seconded: Cllr Shortland
Unanimous

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project, subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group

e) Shrub beds including raised planters

Proposed: Cllr Shortland Seconded: Cllr Richter
Unanimous

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project, subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group

f) High St, Fore St Rills

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: To progress with as a devolution project subject to approval from Somerset Council Asset Management Group and to Holyrood St.

Devolution item for rejection

a) Verge & Sightline Cutting

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Richter
Unanimous

Resolved: To reject as a devolution project

b) Youth Club Building

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
For: 9 Against: 1 Abstain: 1

Resolved: To reject as a devolution project

c) Beacon

Proposed: Cllr Richter Seconded: Cllr Hussey
Unanimous

Resolved: To reject as a devolution project but to request more information to clarify whether this item refers to the Beacon only or the surrounding land and if so clarification on land parameters.

d) Boden Centre

Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Shortland
Unanimous

Resolved: To reject as a devolution project

The Leisure Centre is not devolved item for consideration. This forms part of a wider contracted service by Somerset Council.

2025/150 **Hire Charges & Emptions For The Guildhall**
Council agreed to create a Task & Finish Group

2025/151 **Date Of Next Meeting**
Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 15th December 2025. 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 20.50 pm

Date: 18/12/2025 **Signed:**