# CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
**Mayor: Cllr Jenny Kenton**
**Acting Proper Officer: Adrian Turner**


# CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Town Hall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 31st January 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Brown, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton (Mayor), Cllr Richter, Cllr Watson,

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Gail Chadwick: Grants Officer, Beverley Newman: Democratic Officer (DSO), Adrian Turner: Operations Manager & Acting Proper Officer.

**OTHERS PRESENT**:

**Public Participation Time**
There were 13 members of the public present. No comments or questions were presented to council.

**Chaplin's 'Thought for the Day' Cresswell Whitton**
The theme for the thought for the day was around fear, how it can affect us all and supporting each other through it.

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**
No reports at this meeting

**Police Report**
No police report was submitted.

**2023/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
The following apologies were received and accepted:
Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Hassan

**2023/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Mayor gave the following announcements:

- Protocol at Full council meetings;
  - Everyone's opinion is respected
  - Don't be afraid to ask questions or make a short statement (preparing at home first can be helpful)
  - Please stand up when speaking, this is a sign of the respect for the role of Mayor, not the person who is mayor. It also encourages

the speaker to stay within the time limit of 3 minutes while also making them the focal point, helping ensure the rest of the attendees pay attention.

- Town Talks:
  - Having spoken with our Mace Bearer, Viv Cumming and Town Cryer, Stuart Cumming we have agreed we would like to provide the opportunity for councillors and staff to gain more understanding about the Town's history civic roles, protocol and civic items such as the chain etc. Simple refreshments will be provided. The date for this is 23rd Feb 19.00. Everyone is welcome to bring a guest.
  - Town talks will also be provided for members of the public. For dates please contact Chard Town Council via the Mayor's e-mail or Facebook page.
- Undertakings since taking up Office:
  - Held the first 'Mayor's Tea' with the Mayor's charities about future plans
  - Attended Manor Court School art exhibition
  - Attended the Carnival fund distribution
  - Deputy Mayor Claire Brown attended the opening of Costa Coffee's recently re-furbished premises.
- Fundraising scheme:
  - Having returned from my holiday 8lbs lighter, it provided the idea for raising money by loosing wait and encouraging others to do the same. Full details on how people can get involved to follow soon.

**2023/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made.

**2023/18 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That as certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council **RESOLVED** 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 under Confidential Matters 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.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Baker

**RESOLVED** To exclude the public from agenda item 2023/24 New Lease due to commercial sensitivity

**2023/19 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 24th January be confirmed at the March 13th 2023 Full Council meeting given the very short period of time between this meeting and the last Full Council meeting

**2023/20 COMMITTEE MATTERS – iBabs Software**

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** that the current contract with iBabs be cancelled forthwith in view of the limited use and therefore limited value, thus negating fees for another 12 months.

**2023/21 COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**(a) His Royal Highness Kings Charles III: Coronation Event**

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Watson
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** That a Task and Finish group be created to support in coordinating and manging this event and that the membership should comprise as follows with councillors Grief-Page and Hassan be allowed to join if they wish:

- Cllr Baker
- Cllr Bates
- Cllr Crook
- Cllr J Kenton
- Cllr Richter
- Cllr Watson

**COMMENT** A member of Cllr Hawkes' ward had asked for permission to hold a street party to celebrate this event. It was suggested the member of public be referred to SSDC to apply for a rd. closure – a 6 week notice period is required.

**2023/22 STAFFING MATTERS**

Prior to Councillor consideration of this agenda item Cllr A. Kenton, chair of the HR committee and member of the recruitment panel gave the following additional information:

- A precis of the recruitment and interview process
- Career background of the selected candidate
- Experience of local government and that undertaking the CICA qualification was pre-requisite of the job offer.
- Highlighted the candidates' transferable skills.

- Confirmed the salary and pay scale to be offered

A number of councillors wanted to ask questions of the recruitment panel in relation to the information Cllr A. Kenton had provided.

Cllr J Kenton asked for the meeting to enter into 'confidential matters'
Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

**RESOLVED**
That given the request for questions in relation to the selection of Town Clerk be asked, and that they may divulge personal information, that Council go into *Confidential Matters*.

After a comprehensive discussion, with councillors having their questions answered:

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Brown
For: 7 Abstain: 3

**RESOLVED** that the candidate recommended by the recruitment panel be agreed, namely offer and appoint Gareth Hughes the position of Town Clerk for Chard Town Council.

**2023/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
Council noted the Full Council meeting will be 13th March 19.00

**2023/24 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS - New Lease.**

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** Council noted, reviewed and agreed to the resolution passed at the Amenities and Events Committee 16th January 2023.

**MAYOR:** M Kenton **DATE:** 13/2/23