CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
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Mayor: Victoria Bates and Temporary Proper Officer Neil Bloomfield

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on Monday 16th September 2024 commencing at 7:00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates (Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Hassan, Cllr Hussey, Cllr Richter, Cllr Webb and Cllr Williams

OFFICERS & OTHERS PRESENT:
Neil Broomfield; Temporary Town Clerk & Proper Officer, Kevin Dyer; Operations Manager, Helen Nathanson; Locum Responsible Financial Officer, Beverley Newman; Democratic Service Officer, Rev. Georgina Vye (Chaplain).

Chaplain's 'Thought for the Day'
Presented by Rev. Vye.
The Main theme for the thought of the day was:
Try to do the best you can each day for yourself and others.

2024/123 Public Participation Time
There were 30 members of the public present.
There were 3 questions and one group statement
Questions:

- When will the recently published joint letter from Somerset Council Chief Executive and senior Monitoring Officer to Chard Town Council be discussed by the Council, given this appeared on the August Full Council meeting agenda which was adjourned?
  The Mayor replied that this will be discussed at a future council meeting.

- What have the council done since the Rolley Report? Why did the internal review of the Rolley report take precedence over the External investigation and subsequent report in the Council's decision making?
  The Mayor replied she was not able to comment on the Rolley report or the review of the Rolley report at this time due to an ongoing police investigation.

- The temporary Town Clerk read out a question received by a member of the public relating to CCTV cameras and the possibility of live streaming Council meetings

3 members of the Area Youth Club explained what this club does and what it means to them.

Somerset Councilor reports.
Updates were received by Cllrs; M Wale & Cllr Baker.

2024/124 **Apologies for absence**
The following apologies were received:
Cllr Crook (personal), Cllr Watson, (Personal); Cllr Shortland (Personal), Cllr A Kenton (Deputy Mayor), and Cllr J Kenton (Personal)

Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Williams
Unanimous
Resolved: That the apologies received from Councillors as above be accepted.

2024/125 **Declarations of interest.**
Cllr Grief-Page declared an interest in respect to agenda item 2024/128 being a Trustee of the Youth Club

2024/126 **Council meeting minutes**
The council agreed the minutes of Full Council meetings 17th June and 22nd July 2024

2024/127 **Committee meetings**
The Mayor deferred items a) & b) as the Amenities & Events Committee had yet to agree the draft versions.

2024/128 **Finance**

i) **Income and Expenditure report**

Council noted the income and expenditure Report

ii) **Funding request Chard Area Youth Committee**

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bulmer

For: 9 Abstain 1
Resolved: For Council to consider to award £15k to CAYC in this financial year and that this money be found from unused Earmarked Reserves and from the General Reserve. Also, that Council will set up a Task & Finish Group to look specifically at future-proofing of the Chard youth service and building. This Group will consist of 5 councillors, with a lead officer, and will report back to the Full Council

meeting in November. The recommendations from this Group will therefore take into account the CAYC's further request for £40k funding in the next three years.

iii) **Purchase of a ride on lawn mower**

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Grief-Page

Unanimous

For Council to *vire* monies from the unused Hanging Basket funds £2,700 and top up the balance required from an agreed Amenities & Event budget line to purchase a ride on mower at a cost of £5,000.

iv) **CCTV Extension**

Temporary Town Clerk deferred this item

v) **Grant re-submission – Avishayes PTFA**

Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Eggins

Unanimous

Resolved: That Council agree to fund the re-submitted grant by Avishayes PTFA

2024/129 Guildhall Task & Finish Group

Proposed Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Hassan

Unanimous

Resolved: Council accepted the Terms of Reference for the Guildhall Task & Finish Group

The following Cllrs will be on the Task & Finish Group:

- Cllr Baker
- Cllr Bates
- Cllr Bulmer
- Cllr Eggins
- Cllr J Kenton

2024/130 Date of the next meeting

The next Full Chard Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 21st October 2024 and will take place in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

Cllr Hassan left the meeting

2024/131 Exclusion of Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the agenda item that follows, namely staff contracts and financial matters, the council shall resolve to

exclude the press and public as discussion in public would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Section 1(2) Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960

2024/132 Staffing Matters

Council to note that:

1. The contract with LCC who supply the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is due to expire 7th October 2024. Council to note that under authority delegate to the Town Clerk an extension to this contract by 3 months has been granted.

   Council noted the contract with LCC who supply the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is due to expire 7th October 2024.

2. Council to consider the Town Clerks contract which expires 7/10/24

   Proposed Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Webb

   Resolved: For Council to extend the Temporary Clerk's contract.

   For: 0 Against: 6 Abstain: 3

   Proposed Cllr Webb Seconded: Cllr Richter
   Unanimous

   Resolved: For Council to nominate the Mayor and one witness, Cllr Hussey, to inform the current Temporary Clerk of the Council's decision not to extend the temporary contract.

   Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Hussey
   Unanimous

   Resolved: For Council to instruct the RFO to cancel the bank card for the Temporary Town Clerk and withdraw IT access.
3. To consider adopting the NALC recruitment Manual
   This item was deferred to the HR meeting

4. Finance Officer – Changes to job specification. (see attached)
   This item was deferred to the HR meeting

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.30

27/1/25

MAYOR: **DATE:**