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 the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 27th May 2025** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Bulmer, Hassan, Hussey, A Kenton, J Kenton, O'Brien Shortland, Richter, Webb & Williams.

Officers Present: Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell; Operations Manager, Kevin Dyer; Beverley Newman Democratic Service Officer.

Public Participation Time
There were 5 members of the public present. There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

Somerset Councillor Reports
Council received updates from Unitary Councillors: Jason Baker & J Kenton

2025/40 Election of Mayor for 2025/26

The outgoing Mayor invited nominations for Town Mayor and Chairperson of the Council.

Councillor Victoria Bates was proposed by Councillor A. Kenton and seconded by Councillor J. Kenton.
There being no other nominations Cllr Bates agreed to accept the nomination and was elected unopposed as Town Mayor and Chairperson of Chard Town Council.

The meeting adjourned whilst the newly elected Mayor formally robed and the Town Crier announced the election of the new Mayor of Chard.

The meeting resumed.

The Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was formally received by the Proper Officer.

2025/41 Mayor's Appointments
The Mayor made the following appointments:

- Consort: Adam Bates husband, children and Councillor Hussey.
- Chaplin: The Reverend Nick Jerrett.

2025/42 Mayors Announcements
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor's chosen charities would be the Scouting Movement to include Guides, Brownies & Scouts and Chard Talking Libraries

2025/43 **Election Of The Deputy Mayor**

Nominations were invited for the Deputy Mayor of the Council.
Councillor O'Brien was proposed by Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor J Kenton.

Councillor Hussey was proposed by Councillor Richter and seconded by Councillor Bulmer.

A vote was taken. 8 votes were in favour of Cllr O'Brien and 4 votes in favour of Cllr Hussey.

Councillor O'Brien was duly elected as Deputy Mayor of Chard Town Council.

The Proper Officer received Councillor O'Brien's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2025/44 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors;
Crook, Eggins & Watson

Proposed: Councillor Hussey Seconded: Councillor Shortland
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to formerly accept the apologies declared.

2025/45 **Declarations of Interest**
The following declarations were made:

- Councillor Shortland declared he is a Trustee of Clare's Hs
- Councillor Hussey declared he is a Trustee of Chard Museum
- Councillor Richter declared she is a Trustee of Chard Museum
- Councillor Bulmer declared he is a member of Chard Area Resilience Group

Section 3 – Items For Decision / Discussion

2025/46 **Standing Committees and Sub Committees**

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Baker
For: 11 Absatin:1

Resolved: to adopt the Committee structure below in accordance with Standing Order 4:

- Finance & Audit Committee
- Amenities and Events Committee
- HR Committee
- Planning & Highways Committee
- Appeals Committee
  With the following changes to membership:
  - Planning & Highways minimum membership would change from 5 to 6

- HR Committee would change from minimum of 5 membership to a maximum of 5

2025/47 **Appointment Of Members To Standing Committees In The Agreed Structure**

Council **Resolved** to appoint the following Members to these Committees:

Finance & Audit Committee:
Councillors; Baker, Bulmer, Hassan, A. Kenton, J Kenton, Richter & Williams

Amenities and Events Committee:
Councillors; Baker, Bulmer, Hassan, Hussey, A Kenton, J Kenton, Shortland, Richter, Webb & Williams

HR Committee:
Councillors; Bulmer, A Kenton, J Kenton, Shortland & Webb

Planning & Highways Committee:
Councillors: Bulmer, Hassan, Hussey, O'Brien & Richter & Bates

Appeals Committee:
Councillors: Baker, Hassan, Hussey & Williams

2025/48 **Appointment Of Chairs To Standing Committees In The Agreed Structure**
Council Resolved to appoint the following Members to Chair each of the Committees:

Finance & Audit Committee:
Councillor Hassan was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Councillor Williams.
There being no other nominations Councillor Hassan was formally appointed as Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee.

Amenities and Events Committee:
Councillor Baker was proposed by Councillor J Kenton, seconded by Councillor Williams.
There being no other nominations Councillor Baker was formally appointed as Chair of the Amenities and Events Committee

HR Committee:
Councillor J Kenton was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Councillor Hassan

Councillor Webb was proposed by Councillor Bulmer, seconded by Councillor Hussey

A vote was taken. There were 9 votes in Favour of Councillor J Kenton.

Councillor J Kenton was formally elected as Cahir of the HR Committee.

Planning & Highways Committee
Councillor Hussey was proposed by Councillor Bates, seconded by Councillor Baker,

There being no other nominations Councillor Hussey was formally appointed as Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee

Appeals Committee

Councillor Baker was proposed by Councillor J Kenton, seconded by Councillor Williams.

There being no other nominations Councillor Baker was formally appointed as Chair of the Appeals Committee.

2025/49 **Appointment Of Vice Chairs To Standing Committees In The Agreed Structure**
Council **Resolved** to appoint the following Vice Chairs to these Committees:

Finance & Audit Committee:
Councillor Williams was proposed by Councillor J Kenton, seconded by Councillor Richter.

There being no other nominations Councillor Williams was appointed Vice Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee.

Amenities and Events Committee:
Councillor Shortland was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor A. Kenton.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Shortland was appointed Vice Chair of the Amenities & Events Committee.

HR Committee
Councillor Webb was proposed by Councillor Bulmer, seconded by Councillor Williams.

There being no other nominations Councillor Webb was appointed Vice Chair of the HR Committee.

Planning & Highways Committee
Councillor Bulmer was proposed by Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Baker.

There being no other nominations Councillor Bulmer was appointed Vice Chair of Planning & Highways Committee.

Appeals Committee
Councillor Williams was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor J Kenton.

There being no there nominations Councillor Williams was appointed Vice Chair of Appeals Committee,

2025/50 **Appointment of any new committees**
No new Committees were appointed by Council.

2025/51 **Representatives On External Bodies**

Organisation	2025/26
Chard Museum	Councillors: Hassan & J. Kenton

Somerset Association of Local Councils	Councillor Bates
Town Team	Councillors: A Kenton & Hassan
Clare House	Councillor O'Brien
Allotment Association Forum	Councillors Baker & Hassan
Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG)	Councillor Hussey
Chard Town Council Youth Council	Councillors: Baker, Hussey & Richter

2025/52 **Schedule Of Meetings**

Resolved: to accept the proposed schedule of yearly meetings with the following amendments:

- Move the Planning & Highway meetings to the same days as the Full Council meetings,
- Move the 10th June Amenities & Events meeting to the 17th June,
- Move the Amenities & Events meeting Tuesday 16th September to Tuesday 23rd September.
- Hold a Full Council meeting 11th August,
- Move the Finance & Audit meeting Tuesday 9th Dec to Monday to 1st December
- Move the Amenities & Events meeting Tuesday 16th December to Tuesday 9th December
- Move the Full Council meeting 22nd December to Monday 15th December

Unanimous.

2025/53 **Annual Governance Accounting Return**

This item was removed as the Chief Executive & Town Clerk as he is currently seeking more information and had not reived answers to his questions by the time of the meeting.

It was agreed that if Councillors had questions regarding this item they should e-mail the Chief Executive & Town Clerk on an individual basis.

2025/54 **Date of next Meeting**

Council noted the date of the next Full Council Meeting Monday June 23rd 2025.

There being no other business, The Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting at 8.27 pm

SIGNED: DATE: 19/10/25