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 29th September 2025** commencing at 19:00pm.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker, Bates, Eggins, Hussey, A. Kenton, J. Kenton, O'Brien, Richter, Tribble, Watson & Williams.

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

Council received updates from Unitary Councillors Baker, Payne, J Kenton and Wale

Section 1 Standing Items:

2025/106 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received apologies from the following Councillors;
Bulmer, Crook, Hassan, & Shortland.

Reasons for absence: Personal.

Proposed: Councillor Eggins Seconded: Councillor J Kenton
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies declared.

2025/107 **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs Baker & J Kenton in respect of Christmas Lights and Flower Bed Items.
The potential for interests was noted.

2025/108 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**
The Chief Executive & Town Clerk and Councillor Baker agreed to meet to ensure corrections to previous minutes were undertaken and then posted on the website. Councillors asked for the Action Sheet to be re-introduced.

i) Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
For: 10 Abstain: 1

Resolved: Council approved the draft minutes of the 18th August 2025 Full Council meeting, subject to agreed changes. The Action Sheets should be re-introduced.

2025/109 Committee Meeting Minutes

Council noted that outstanding minutes for A&E and F&A would appear on their next agendas for approval prior to the next Full Council meeting.
Please note urgent items for action will be extracted and taken to Full Council.

2025/110 Financial Checks and Information

a) Payments List August 2025

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr J Kenton
For: 6 Abstain: 5

Resolved: Council approved the August payments list.

b) Internal Audit Checklist

Council noted the internal audit checklist.

Section 2: Items To Note

2025/111 Mayors Updates & Announcements

2025/112 Chief Executive & Town Clerk Updates.

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk provided updates on the following items which Council noted:

a) Road Safety in Chard
b) Land at Bonds Close, Scout Hut, Bowls Club and Park at Bonds Meadow - A Follow Up To Full Council 12th May 2025 'Flooding In Chard – Funding support'.
c) Jocelyn Park – Pavilion
d) Remembrance Ceremonies
e) KINDChard

2025/113 The Hive Young People's Centre – Update

An oral update was provided by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk and the Chair of the Young People's Committee (Cllr Baker) on the youth provision in Chard project.
The Town Clerk and Councillor O'Brien were asked to sit on the Young People's Committee as Observers. Although in the "Items To Note" section, this was agreed unanimously by Council.
Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr A Kenton

2025/14 Implementing The Chard Town Council Strategy – Part A (Public Session) Transformation and Change In Our Organisation

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk gave a short update on progress so far (after only 9 months) and an overview of what may be discussed in the Confidential Session.

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2025/115 Chard Christmas Lighting Display

Proposed: Cllr Watson **Seconded:** Richter
Unanimous

For Council to agree the quotation for £8,974.00 (ex vat) for the replacement and additions process of Christmas lights with agreement this is within the current budget.

2025/116 Mayoral Regalia Repairs

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton **Seconded:** Cllr Baker
For: 10 Against: 0 Abstention: 1

Resolved: Full Council to agree that the regalia should be repaired and maintained and that the Chief Executive & Town Clerk is authorised to have the repairs undertaken according to the cost of gold at that time. That the monies be taken from the Ear Marked Reserves (EMR), if necessary, and that the repairs will be carried out after Remembrance ceremonies.

2025/117 Street Naming

Proposed: Cllr Baker **Seconded:** Cllr J Kenton

Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to agree working with the family of Mr Brice, by writing to them in advance and to suggest to the Street Naming Authority (Somerset Council) to name a road after the late John Brice, a former Mayor of Chard Town Council and to identify a suitable choice of location and formal name.

2025/118 Allotment Policy- Allotment Eviction & Appeals – Policy and Procedure

Proposed: Cllr Baker **Seconded:** Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to adopt the Allotment policy.

2025/119 CCTV Cameras

9.10 p.m. Cllrs Baker & J Kenton left the room

2025/120 Flower Beds In Chard Town Centre Area

Proposed: Cllr Bates **Seconded:** Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to agree the Chief Executive & Town Clerk be authorised to discuss and agree a temporary, informal solution with Somerset Council Officers, pending this matter being discussed fully at Full Council as part of the Somerset Council "Devolution" process.

9.13 p.m. Cllrs Baker and J Kenton re-entered the room

Section 4 Confidential

2025/121 Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: To exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

2025/122 Implementing The Chard Town Council Strategy – Part B (Confidential Session) Staff Structure Review

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk provided a presentation. The content was noted and it was suggested that Councillors meet informally to discuss this further prior to bringing back to Full Council.

2025/123 Date Of Next Meeting
Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 20th October 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 22.15 pm

Date: **Signed:** 19/10/25