Chard Town Council
The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Jason Baker Town Clerk: Paul Russell

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 10th January 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Carnell (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bates, Cllr Brown, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Orchard, Cllr Williams and Cllr Wootton.

ALSO PRESENT: Rev Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplin, Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Officer and one Member of the Public.

Chaplain's 'Thought for the Day'
This was kindly provided by Mayor's Chaplin Georgina Vye, the theme being 'Time'.

Public Participation Time
There was one member of the public present.

Reports from County and District Councillors
Cllr Baker provided the following update:

- A meeting to consider the recent flooding events would be held on the 24th January 2022 with a drop-in session being held during the day and a public meeting commencing at 18.30 hours;
- A grant application to refurbish the public toilets at Sainsbury's car park had been submitted;
- A Covid Vaccination Centre had been set up in December in the Guildhall and had been very successful generating a significant uptake. The Mayor thanked those who had contributed to making it happen, particularly given the short lead in time to organise its delivery. The Centre will remain available on a drop-in basis Wednesdays to Fridays from 9:00am to 1:00pm until further notice for those members of the public who were eligible. However, demand had reduced in Chard;

Cllr O'Brien provided the following update:

- Area West - There was still money in the grant pot if anyone had any ideas on how to use this but is only available till April 2022;
- The long-awaited speed bumps for Glynswood had now been agreed. Work would commence this in April and would be sited approximately every 100 metres.

Cllr Bulmer provided the following update:

- Cllr Bulmer confirmed his recent attendance at a site meeting at Tilia with the Planning Officer relating to the Flooding in Chard last year. Future planning applications should be reviewed carefully;

- A number of drains have not yet been emptied. Cllr Bulmer had been advised that this work would be undertaken in the near future;
- The cycle for emptying drains would be increased from four yearly to annually.

Cllr Carnell provided the following update:
- Development of the Jarman Road Play Park was close to completion.

Police Report – Apologies were received.

2021/85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Shortland (work) and Cllr Young (illness).

2021/86 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:
- Thanks were extended for all the help received erecting the Christmas Lights. They were now being taken down and this would be completed by Wednesday 12th January 2022;
- A Youth Council had been set up and meetings were being held on a monthly basis. The most recent meeting was held on Monday 10th January 2022 and had been particularly productive yielding some really good contributions on a number of subjects.

2021/87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:
- Cllr Baker (Mayor): Agenda item 2021/99(b)
- Cllr Mrs Bates: Agenda item 2021/96(a)

2021/88 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Morrison Seconded: Cllr Williams
Unanimous

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 agenda item 2021/9 (a) to (e), 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.

<u>Agenda Item 2021/95 Motion</u>

Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr J Kenton
Unanimous.

Council **AGREED** to bring agenda item 2021/95 forward for discussion and decision.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED

- That the Town Council will submit a full planning application to the Planning Authority for the new changing facility proposed at Jocelyn Park
- That the Town Council allow £1,000 from the budget for the cost of the planning application

2021/89 FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Morrison
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meetings held on the 8th November and 15th December 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2021/90 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Committee Meeting Resolutions – Council reviewed the resolutions passed at all committee meetings held since 8th November 2021.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Morrison
Unanimous

RESOLVED

- To ratify the resolutions the resolutions passed at all committee meetings held since 8th November 2021;
- To ratify the release of £25,360 from the Guildhall EMR Reserves (currently £74,386) for the refurbishment of the Watts Store.

2021/91 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report providing an update on Coronavirus restrictions and the delivery of a Unitary Authority for Somerset was received.

2021/92 UNITARY AUTHORITY

The following update was noted:

- Election papers were currently being drafted for the elections to be held on 5th May 2022;
- The proposed Taunton Town Council elections would be in 2023 then fall in line with the election cycle;
- There will be no other elections in 2023;
- The next elections will then be held in 2027
- There was a link on the County Council Website for more information on the conference relating to the transition process for Councillors who wished to attend.

Cllr Morrison left the meeting at 18.50 and returned at 18.53

2021/93 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR YEAR 2022/23

Council considered the draft budget for 2022/23 that was presented.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt the revised budget for 2022/23 with the agreed amendments mainly focused on reducing staff costs and the use of Earmarked Reserves if required.

Cllr Brown left the meeting at 19.00 and retuned at 19.03

2021/94 PRECEPT

Council considered requesting a precept of £681,615 from South Somerset District Council for 2022/23.

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally request a percept of £681,615 from South Somerset District Council for the 2022/23 financial year.

2021/95 COMMUNITY MATTERS

(a) Application for Planning Permission, Jocelyn Park – The request for the Town Council to submit a full planning application to the Planning Authority for the new changing facility proposed at Jocelyn Park had been considered and agreed under Minute 2021/88.

2021/96 MOTIONS

(a) Motion Proposed by Cllr Baker:

Council considered the motion which was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Morrison:

For: 12
1 Abstention (Cllr Bates had previously declared an interest)

RESOLVED that this Council extends the use of the Guildhall Auditorium by the Clinical Commissioning Group as a Covid Vaccination Centre until the 31st March 2022 if required and that Council gives delegated authority to the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk to negotiate the details of the extension."

(b) Motion Proposed by Cllr J Kenton:

Council considered the motion which was proposed by Cllr J Kenton and Seconded by Cllr Carnell

Unanimous

RESOLVED

- That this Council starts to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the next quinquennium;

- That the Grants Officer research funding available to undertake the project;
- That Council acknowledges that there may be a substantial cost for this which will be funded from reserves when required or included in the budget if possible.

2021/97 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Revised Meeting Schedule –** Council considered the adoption of the revised meeting schedule for 2022.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Carnell
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt the revised meeting schedule for 2022/23 subject to date amendments.

(b) **Mobile Telephone Policy –** Council considered the adoption of the draft Mobile Telephone Policy.

Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr J Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt of the Mobile Telephone Policy and review after relevant period.

Council took a break at 20.45 reconvening at 20.50. Cllr O'Brien left the meeting.

2021/98 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 14th March 2022 at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

2021/99 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2021/88 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 would 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

(a) **IT Report –** Council considered the IT report presented.

Proposed: Cllr A Kenton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
For: 12
Abstention: 1

RESOLVED to accept the quotation provided under Option 3 of the report at a cost of £9,853 plus £1,788 set up costs. Prices exclude VAT.

(b) **Street Cleaning & Amenities Report –** Council noted the report presented which outlined the services being delivered and provided an update on the renegotiation of the Street Cleaning contract with SSDC.

(c) **Potential Cemetery Land –** Council considered the Potential Cemetery Land report.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Carnell
Unanimous

RESOLVED:

- To commence negotiations with Chard Town Football Club and Mitchells and Butler to explore the possibility of purchasing additional land;
- To set up a Working Group to undertake those negotiations made up of the Mayor, Amenities & Events Committee Chair, the Operations Manager, the Town Clerk and Cllr Brown.

(d) **Signage Report –** Council considered the signage report presented.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED to accept Quotation Three, Company C be appointed to carry out the contract at a cost of £37,964.07.

(e) **Guildhall LED Lighting Report –** Council considered the Lighting report presented.

Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to award Company D the contract at a total cost of £38,326.56, subject to a discussion regarding the potential utilisation of existing fittings in the auditorium.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.50pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**