CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
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Mayor: Cllr Martin Carnell Town Clerk: Paul Russell

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Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 11th July 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Carnell (Mayor), Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Baker, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Richter and Cllr Watson.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Officer, Jo Bromley (Celebrant), Cllr Martin Wale (North Chard County Councillor) and sixteen members of the public.

Celebrant's 'Thought for the Day'
Council reflected on the juxtaposition of life and to remembering that there are both good and bad times in life.

Public Participation Time
The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- Council was requested to consider relocating the 1901 horse tough currently sited in Millfield to its original position where the new Eastern Gateway works were currently being carried out;
- Representations were made to Council regarding Agenda Item 2022/54 and the Cotley Hunt.

Council agreed to bring agenda item 2022/54 forward.

Reports from County and District Councillors
District and County Councillor reports were received and noted.

Police Report
The police had sent apologies.

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting all those present observed a minute silence in memory of Mr Steve Jones.

2022/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bates (illness), Cllr Hassan (work) and Cllr Jones (personal).

2022/45 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor had recently abseiled from St Mary's Church to raise funds for the Church alongside Cllr Grief-Page and Cllr Richter;
- The Mayor commented on the number of community groups that were providing a range of support services for the residents of Chard'
- The Mayor had attended the recent CLOKs production of Aladdin and congratulated all those who had taken part and made it happen;
- The Mayor indicated that he was looking forward to getting to know about all the groups, activities and community support that exist in the town.

2022/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Cllr Jason Baker: Personal – Agenda item 2022/53(a);
- Cllr Dave Bulmer: Personal – Agenda item 2022/53(a);
- Cllr Jenny Kenton: Personal – Agenda item 2022/53(a);
- Cllr Carnell: Personal – Agenda item 2022/53(a).

2022/47 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

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.

2022/48 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr A Kenton
For: 11
Abstention: 1 (Absent)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 20th June 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2022/49 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Councillors noted the report from the Town Clerk:

- There were current a number of staff off sick due to COVID;
- A Councillor training session would be taking place on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom;
- The Culturally Chard Consortium would be meeting on Tuesday 12th July 2022;
- An information meeting was being held on 12the July 2022 regarding funding to help communities produce a Community Plan. Chard would be applying for this free support;

- The consultation for the Upper Henson park refurbishment commenced pn Monday 11th July with the Youth Council with further consultations taking place throughout the next few weeks;
- Councillors were reminded that iBabs training wold take place on 18th July 2022 at 6.30pm;
- The Clerk would be attending the Area West meeting on 20th July 2022 to answer any questions regarding the grant application that has been submitted to help fund new air conditioning for the Auditorium;
- Members were informed that Reception had to close on Friday 8th July 2022 due to a power cut;
- Members were informed that the Officers were undertaking research to source a new energy supplier.

Council then considered agenda item 2022/54

2022/50 CONSIDERATION OF MOTION

(a) **Motion –** Council agreed to defer consideration of the Motion tabled under agenda item 2022/54 until further information had been obtained. An invitation had been sent to all members inviting them to the Cotley Hunt Kennels Open Day on Saturday 6th August 2022.

2022/51 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) **Committee Meeting Resolutions –** Council noted the resolutions passed at both the Amenities & Events Committee meeting held on 24th May 2022 and the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on 31st May 2022.

2022/52 UNITARY AUTHORITY

Council noted the verbal update regarding the transition to a Unitary Authority for Somerset. Bi-weekly meetings were held by the County Council and attended by the Town Clerk. Reports from those meetings were shared via email to all Councillors.

2022/53 COUNCIL MATTERS

(a) **Lease, Football Changing Room –** Council considered the proposal to authorise the Football Club Lease Task & Finish Group (Cllr Baker and Cllr Eggins) to commence negotiations with Chard United to finalise the lease for the new Changing Facilities.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr A Eggins
For: 11
Against: 1

RESOLVED to formally Cllr Baker and Cllr Eggins to finalise the lease for the new Changing Facilities with representatives from Chard United. The final lease would be presented to Full Council on 12th September for consideration and adoption.

(b) **Lease, Watts Store –** This item was withdrawn. It was agreed that a draft License would be considered by the Amenities & Events at its meeting on 19th July 2022.

(c) **SSDC Environmental Champion Nomination –** Council considered nominating an Environmental Champion to represent Chard Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Grief-Page
Unanimous

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Richter to be an Environmental Champion to represent Chard Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Crook Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Hawkes to be an Environmental Champion to represent Chard Town Council.

(d) **Draft Action Plan –** Council considered the proposal to adopt the draft Council Action Plan for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally adopt the Draft Action Plan in principal.

(d) **Councillor Surgeries –** Council considered the proposal to agree the format for future Councillor Surgeries, to confirm dates and agree a rota.

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold an official monthly Town Council Councillor surgery in the Guildhall. This would be a Town Council surgery with two Members of the Town Council available to discuss local issues with residents. The dates, time and rota would be confirmed in due course.

It was further agreed that should Councillors wish to hold any additional surgeries in the Guildhall then there would be a cost of £10.00 per hour. Additional surgeries would be subject to the availability of a suitable space.

2022/54 MOTION

(a) **Motion Proposed by Cllr Carnell –** This had been discussed under Minute 2022/50.

2022/55 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted that the next Full Council meeting would be held on Monday 12th September 2022 in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

2022/56 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Watson
Unanimous

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2022/47 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) **HR & Personnel Committee –** Council considered the recommendations from the HR Committee meeting held on 5th July 2022 as outlined in the report presented

Proposed: Cllr J Eggins Seconded: Cllr Watson
Unanimous

RESOLVED to agree all the recommendations proposed by the HR & Personnel Committee as presented in the report.

(b) **Operation LB –** Council noted the information provided. It was agreed to address this as a matter of priority and theTown Clerk was instructed to draft a process and protocol ready for approval at the next Full council meeting 12th September 2022.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8:45 pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**