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 13th September 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Carnell (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Mrs Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

ALSO PRESENT: Rev. Ann Kember, Cllr G Verdon (SCC) and Paul Russell, Town Clerk.

Chaplain's 'Thought for the Day'

Public Participation Time
There were no members of the public present. No matters were raised.

Reports from County and District Councillors

Police Report – Apologies had been received.

Citizens Advice, South Somerset
Council received a presentation from Angela Kerr, CEO of Citizens Advice, South Somerset.

2021/56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brown (personal), Cllr A Kenton (holiday), Cllr J Kenton (holiday), Cllr Orchard (holiday) and Cllr Young (work).

2021/57 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor had been invited to by Redstart School at the end of summer to give out medals;
- The Guildhall Heritage Open Days would be held on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th September 2021;
- The Chard Carnival would be held this year under a slightly different format on Saturday 9th October 2021.

2021/58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no Declarations of Interest made.

2021/59 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Wootton Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison
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 2021/67, 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.

2021/60 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr O'Brien

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Morrison, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Wootton.

Abstention: Cllr Eggins (12th July 2021 minutes)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meetings held on the 12th July and 27th July 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2021/61 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) **Committee Meeting Minutes –** Following consideration, Council agreed to adopt the Committee meeting minutes below and to ratify any decisions and recommendations contained therein (Standing Order 5 (iii) & (iv))..

- Finance & Audit Committee – Monday 26th April 2021
- Property & Services Committee – Tuesday 29th June 2021

(b) **Revised Financial Regulations –**Council considered formally adopting the revised Financial Regulations.

Proposed: Cllr Wootton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the revised Financial Regulations be formally adopted by Full Council.

2021/62 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's report:

(a) **Staff Interviews –** Council noted that interviews for additional staff would be taking place on 16th September 2021 for an Operations Manager, and the following week for an Events Officer and Grants Officer.

(b) **Museum Grant –** Council confirmed that the Museum grant application had not been considered and approved by the Grants Sub-Committee.

(c) **Summer Outreach Sessions –** Council noted that the outreach session held at Jocelyn over the summer and have been successful and that permission had been given to continue running the session on Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th September.

(d) **Culturally Chard Update September 2021** – Council noted that the banners, which were currently being designed through a variety of workshops, would be showcased in the Guildhall for the Spring Festival 2022. After the Spring Festival the banners would be shown in different locations in the town with potential for a wider tour around the county to celebrate and promote Chard - people and place. The banners will be jointly owned by the community participants and the project.

(f) **Wessex Water –** Council noted that Wessex Water planned to replace ageing water mains around the following areas of Chard: Bonfire Close, Mintons Orchard, Summerfields Road and Mintons.

2021/63 UNITARY AUTHORITY

Council noted the update on the transition in Somerset to a single unitary authority replacing the County and four District Councils.

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED that to support the proposal that town and parish council elections be moved forward to 2022 so that the new principal unitary authority elections can remain in sync with town and parish council elections in the future.

2021/64 COMMUNITY MATTERS

(a) **Reports from External Bodies –** Council noted that there was nothing to report from SALC. It was agreed to confirm that Cllr Carnell was registered with SALC as the Chard Town Council representative.

(b) **Queens Platinum Jubilee –** Council considered the appoint of Councillors to sit on this Task & Finish Group.

Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Bates

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Shortland and Cllr Williams.

Abstentions: Cllr Morrison and Cllr Wootton

RESOLVED that the following Councillors be appointed to this Task & Finish Group:

- Cllr Baker
- Cllr J Kenton
- Cllr Shortland

- Cllr Wootton

2021/65 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Appointments to Committees –** Council considered Committee appointments:

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the following Councillors be appointed to the Committees identified below:

- Cllr Eggins: Planning & Highways Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee.
- Cllr J Kenton: Finance & Audit Committee.

(b) **Project Development –** Council noted the project development update report.

2021/66 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 8th November 2021 at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

2021/67 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2021/59 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) **Staffing Report –** Council received the staffing report and ratified the staffing update provided.

(b) **Zembard Lane Car Park –** Council noted the update and agreed that the Clerk contact Tatworth & Forton Parish Council for an update on any decisions they had made.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**