Chard Town Council

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

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Chard Annual Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 14th June 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Carnell (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Ms Brown, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Wootton and Cllr Mrs Young. (One Vacancy).

ALSO PRESENT: Rev. Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplain, Paul Russell, Locum Town Clerk, Tracy Lamb (Deputy Clerk/RFO) and Liz Johnson-Idan (Community Liaison Officer.

CHAPLAIN'S 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'

The Chaplain reflected on when to make a comment and the importance of choosing words carefully. Providing input was often the difference between change and indifference.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There were four members of the public present. The following matters were raised:

- Concern was expressed regarding the future proposals relating to taxi ranks. A request was made for SSDC to review the proposed changes to enable businesses to operate as previously;
- Concern was expressed regarding the proposed route of the new road that was intended to serve the proposed development in the Oaklands Avenue area, and the impact the route would have on residents currently living in the Oaklands area. A request for SSDC to review the route was made. The matter was to be considered by the SSDC Regulations Committee and residents were encouraged to attend and speak at that meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The following reports were received from County & District Councillors:

Cllr Baker

- The HSHAZ Culturally Chard programme would be launched on Saturday 10th July 2021;
- An election to fill the vacancy on the Town Council had been called;
- A report on car parking charges was to be commissioned and it was hoped would be available by the next Town Council meeting;
- The referendum on the unitary authority options had now bene completed. 65% had been in favour of two unitary authorities serving Somerset.

Cllr Mrs O'Brien

- The consultants appointed by SSDC to undertake the development of the Future Chard Strategy would be in Chard on the 15th and 16th June 2021.

Cllr Bulmer

- The Local Plan was currently being reviewed as it was in need of updating.

Cllr Verdon

- Discussions were currently being held with the Town Council and the County Council regarding the use of the car park to service the Holyrood School expansion. The Town Council was requested to review its initial request.

POLICE REPORT

The Police were not in attendance.

2021/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from the following Councillors:

- Cllr Mrs Bates (work);
- Cllr Mrs Kenton (Councillor commitment)
- Cllr Mrs Orchard (work);
- Cllr Shortland (family commitment).

2021/28 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- A thanksgiving service was currently being organised for Covid volunteers, Councillors and visiting Mayors, subject to Covid restrictions;
- The Annual Parish Meeting was to be postponed and would be rescheduled to take place late August or early September;
- A request for two volunteers to assess the civic awards was made. Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Carnell and Cllr Kenton volunteered.

2021/29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

2021/30 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential items to consider.

2021/31 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Wootton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 7th June 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2021/32 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted that the Locum Clerk had nothing to report.

2021/33 CORONAVIRUS

Council noted the update on the Covid pandemic and the phased return to work of office staff.

2021/34 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-2021 AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2020-2021

(a) Council **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

(b) Council **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2020-2021 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

2021/35 FINANCE

(a) **Budget Analysis Report –** Council noted the Income and Expenditure Balance Sheet and budget analysis report for the year to date.

(b) **Budget Virements** - Council reviewed the budget virements and agreed to adopt the budget virements as outlined in the report presented.

(c) **Direct Debit, BACS and Manual Payments** – Council reviewed the payments report.
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous
RESOLVED to ratify the schedule of regular payments amounting to £70,801.60.

(d) **Accounts Paid –** Council reviewed the accounts paid report.
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous
RESOLVED to ratify the schedule of regular payments for May and June 2021 amounting to £32,462.82.

(e) **Internal Audit Report –** Council noted the final Internal Audit report for the 2020/21 financial year. This would be deferred to the Finance & Audit Committee to address any matters raised.

2021/36 COMMUNITY

(a) **Community Liaison Report & Grant Support –** Council noted the Community Liaison Officer's report presented. This included an update on the Culturally Chard programme, the banners and storytelling projects, the commencement of the monthly markets, the attendance of BBC Any Questions at the end of July 2021 and additional leaflets for the Council reception.

(b) **Grant Applications –** Council considered the grant application report.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous
RESOLVED to award the following grants:

- Radio Ninesprings - £1,000
- Chard United - £1,000

(c) **Reports from External Bodies –** Council noted the reported presented by Cllr Mrs Wootton on behalf of the Chard Area Youth Committee and by Cllr Williams on behalf of Chard Museum.

It was agreed to include reports from these two organisations following the summer break.

It was noted that Chard Town Council was in line to receive a £20,000 grant as part of the Welcome Back fund. Chard Carnival Committee would be supporting part of the project delivery.

2021/37 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Project Delivery Update –** Council noted the Project Delivery progress report presented by the Locum Clerk.

(b) **Delegated Decision –** Council considered the delegated decision report.

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to ratify the additional works to the Guildhall amounting to £4,535 + VAT

2021/38 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 12th July 2021 at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

Council noted that the Annual Parish Meeting had been postponed until the end of August/beginning of September 2021.

2021/39 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

There were no items for consideration.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:13pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**