CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

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Mayor: Cllr Martin Carnell Town Clerk: Paul Russell

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Town Hall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 14th November 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Beverley Newman Democratic Officer (DSO), Gail Chadwick Grants Officer, Adrian Turner Operations Manager; SCC Cllr Payne.

Celebrant's 'Thought for the Day'

The theme of Thought for the Day was Suitability and Change

Public Participation Time

There were 12 members of the public present at the meeting.
Three members of the public spoke:

- 1 member of the public raised the issue of drug taking at the side of Claire House, stressing the urgency with which she felt it should be addressed, that it was potentially a safeguarding issue and offering her support to resolve where she could.
    - Cllrs, J Kenton, Baker and Bulmer all stated they have existing involvement in helping to address this issue.
    - The Mayor suggested to ascertain the dates of the upcoming PCC road show and establish Somerset County Council policy on the use of cannabis in public places.

ACTION POINT: Officer team to obtain the dates of the PCC Road show and source Somerset County Council cannabis policy.

- 2 Councillors as members of the pubic raised the issue of councillors receiving bullying. They stressed the negative affects to those being bullied and gave a plea for it to stop.

Reservoir Presentation

The Mayor informed Council the presenters were unable to make this meeting, that it would now take place at the next full council meeting on the 24th January

Reports from County and District Councillors.

District and County Councillor reports were received and noted

Police Report
No police report was submitted.

2022/78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from:
Cllr Bates (Personal); Cllr Grief-Page (Work), Cllr Hasson (Personal) and Cllr Jones (personal)

2022/79 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The mayor spoke on the following points:

- St Mary's remembrance Service expressing, his thanks and commenting it was an excellent service.
- The excellent well attended Remembrance Parade and expressed thanks to the support for this event by members of the Town & Carnival teams
- The 2 upcoming concerts on the 2nd & 9th December, acknowledging those who already volunteered to support these events and stating more volunteers would be appreciated.
- The annual Town Cryer event on 16th December, the promotion of drinking real ale, saying all support welcome.

2022/80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The following declarations of interest made:

- Cllr Baker agenda item 2022/84d
- Cllr J Kenton agenda item 2022/85(c)
- Cllr DB agenda item 2022/85(c)
- Cllr Hawkes agenda item 2022/85d

2022/81 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Eggins
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.

2022/82 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Watson
For: 11
Abstention: 1 (Absent)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 26th September 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2022/83 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Amenities & Events Minute 2022/26(a)

Council considered referring the decision to award the demolition contract go back to the Amenities & Events Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr J Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the decision to award the demolition contract go back to the Amenities & Events Committee.

(b) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council noted the resolutions passed at all committee meetings held since 26th September.

Proposed: Cllr Watson Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
For: 8
Abstention: 3 (Absent)

RESOLVED that the minutes resolutions passed at all committee meetings held since 26th September be ratified.

ACTION POINT: DSO to include the details of the resolutions for ratification in the Full Council Agenda as separate document to the minutes provided.

2022/84 COUNCIL MATTERS

(a) Budget Development

Committee considered the commencement of developing a budget for 2023/24, agreed a Task & Finish Group be set up open to all members to join and the suggestion for two meetings to agree the budget.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

RESOLVED that there be two meetings to prepare for the budget 2023/24 and that membership of the Task & Finish group be open to all councillors

ACTION POINT: DSO to coordinate 2 dates for the budget meetings between 21st November 2022 and 13th December 2022

(b) **New Bank Account Report.**
Committee noted the attached report and agreed the recommendations

Proposed: Cllr Hawkes Seconded: Cllr J Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that recommendations on the report provided be adopted.

(c) **Revised Policies**
Committee noted the reviewed and revised policies by the Finance & Audit committee that were:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Scheme of Delegation
- Communications & Public Relations Policy
- Councillor Email, Internet & Device Acceptable Use Policy

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the revised and reviewed policies as listed above be adopted.

(d) **Play Area Funding**
Committee considered the revised recommendations agreed at the Amenities and Events Committee to invest in the Town Council play areas.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the revised recommendations agreed at the Amenities and Events Committee to invest in the Town Council play areas be adopted.

(e) **Bank Account Signatories**
Committee noted the need for additional signatories & online inputters/ authorisers.

Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr A Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the following 2 councillors be additional signatories**:**

- Cllr Richter
- Cllr Brown.

It was further resolved that Gail Chadwick, Grants Officer, and Adrian Turner, Operations Manager, be given authority as additional on-line inputters/authorisers.

(f) Access to Emails and iBabs

Committee noted the options available as laid out in the report and agreed to select on an individual basis which option would be more appropriate to take.

(g) Revised Meeting Schedule

Council noted the revised meeting schedule and agreed to change the Annual Town Council meeting to the 9th May 2023, the 8th May being designated an additional Bank Holiday

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the Town Council Meeting be moved to 9th May 2023

ACTION POINT: DSO - Request by Cllr J Kenton that a meeting schedule be drawn up beyond May 2023 so councillors can arrange their personal and Councillor commitments.

2022/85 MOTIONS

(a) Motion Proposed by Cllr J Kenton:

Committee considered and agreed the proposal.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That Council review the financial income and expenditure report monthly from October 2022 as an agenda item for discussion at Full Council and Finance and Audit Committees.

(b) Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Baker

"That this council agrees to set up a "Warm Spaces" in the foyer of the Guildhall.

Cllr Baker withdrew his motion on the basis had since learned a number of community groups had set up Warm Spaces:

COMMENT: Cllr Hawkes commented that though this was the case there were still 'gaps' during a week period in Warm Space provision and asked Council to consider supporting the existing groups' by looking into the feasibility of filling some those gaps.

Council agreed that the Events Officer and Operations Manager should investigate this request subject to information being provided by Cllr Hawkes as to the current Warm Space cover. The Events Officer and Operations Manager would then be able to identify if there were days times that Warm Space could be provided by the Council.

ACTION POINT: Cllr Hawkes to provide the relevant information on the current situation with Warm Space cover to Events Officer and Operations Manager who would then look into the feasibility of the council being able to contribute to the 'Community Warm Space'.

(c) Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Jason Hawkes:
Council considered and agreed the motion to set up a task and Finish group to begin to consider which of the services currently being delivered by SSDC Chard Town Council may wish to take on

Proposed: Cllr Hawkes Seconded: Cllr A Bulmer
For: 8
Abstain 3 (Councillors for SSDC)

RESOLVED: That Council set up a Task and Finish group to consider what services Chard Town Council may wish to take on due to the impending devolution of SSDC. That Task and Finish Group members shall be:

- Cllr Hawkes
- Cllr Eggins
- Cllr Crook
- Cllr Bulmer
- Cllrs Carnell & J Kenton after April 2023

ACTION POINT: Operations Manager will obtain the relevant information of possible services to take on once these have been identified & agreed.

Cllr. Brown left the meeting at 20.25 and returned at 20.30

(d) Motion Proposed by Cllr Richter.
Council considered the provision of a chat bench and giving delegated authority to the Officer Team to secure grant funding toward the overall funding of the bench. Council felt it was better at this time to have a sign made to erect behind an existing chat bench that promoted the concept and to consider providing an additional bench at a later date. That this would incur less cost.

Proposed: Cllr Richter Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED: That Council support the provision of a Chat Bench.

2022/86 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING
Committee noted that the next Finance and Audit meeting would be Monday 16th January 2023 should the second Budget preparation meeting be held on the 13th December 2022

ACTION POINT: DSO to confirm to councillors.

Committee noted that the next Full Council meeting will be held Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

2022/87 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS
In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of this item (Item 2022/81 above refers)

(a) Council Meeting Minutes

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
For: 7
Abstain: 4 (Not present)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 25th October 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(b) HR Committee Meeting Minutes

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

RESOLVED To note and review the resolutions passed by the HR Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th November

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 21:20 pm.

_____ _____
MAYOR: **DATE:**