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 22nd August 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Carnell (Mayor),Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hawkes, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Richter Cllr Bates and Cllr Hassan.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Officer.

Celebrant's 'Thought for the Day'
Apologies were received.

Public Participation Time
No members of the public were present at the meeting.

2022/57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brown (work), Cllr Grief-Page (work), Cllr Baker (holiday), Cllr Jones (personal) and Cllr Watson (personal).

2022/58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest made.

2022/59 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
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.

2022/60 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Full Council meeting would be held on Monday 12th September 2022 19.00 commencing at 19:00hrs in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

2022/61 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

No proposal necessary as no members of the public or press present.

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2022/59 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 matter –** Councillors had been provided with a Staffing Report and four recommendations.

The Mayor informed Members that following discussions with the Town Clerk this meeting would only consider Recommendations 1.2 and 1.4 of the Staff Report due to the urgency of the items.

Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3 would be deferred to the next Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 12th September 2022.

Recommendation 1.2
Settlement Agreement
Proposed: Cllr V Bates Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the settlement Agreement as detailed in the report be formally ratified.

Recommendation 1.4
Delegated authority to negotiate new energy contracts

Clarification was sought on whether the Town Council could exit a three-year contract prior to the completion of the three year contract period. Initial indications were that negotiations to enter a new contract would commence at the start of the third year.

Clarification was sought on any potential penalties that may be charged to the Town Council if it exited a contract prior to its end date. This would be clarified prior to entering into any contract.

Council agreed to the offer from Cllr Hawkes to undertake an energy audit and review of the Guildhall to try to identify any potential savings to help reduce overall consumption.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Richter
Unanimous

RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk and Cllr Hawkes to negotiate with relevant suppliers a new gas contract and refer the new electricity contract back to Chard Town Council for approval.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 19:30 pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**