CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

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

01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk

Mayor: Cllr Jenny Kenton

Acting Proper Officer: Adrian Turner

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council Extraordinary meeting held in the Town Hall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Wednesday 26th April 2023 commencing at 19:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates**,** Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton (Mayor), Cllr Williams.

OFFICERS Beverley Newman: Democratic Services Officer (DSO), Adrian Turner Proper Officer and Operations Manager

Public Participation Time.

There were in the region of 35 members of the public present.

8 members of the public spoke

Unfortunately, due to technical problems the majority of the questions did not get audio recorded. However, the questions and replies are provided below:

1. Concerning the Vape shop in Howard Row: Is this a suitable shop to have in the town especially in such a popular walk way given the risks associated with this product, in particular young adults?
   Reply: From the Chair – I believe this shop has been there for some time now, however I will contact the new Somerset Council to see if any special planning permission is required.

2. 3 questions:
   i. Can the Council commit to publishing the letter of instruction to legal in respect to the Rolley Report?
   Reply: From Chair Having conferred with the Proper Officer, I will need to give a reply after this meeting
   ii. Can the minutes from 29th March be amended in respect to the Public Participation section, to confirm the Deputy Mayor & chair of that meeting gave a commitment to all public participation questions being replied to in writing?
   Reply: From Chair. Yes, the minutes will be reflected to show this.
   iii. What actions as recommended in the Rolley Report have been undertaken?
   Reply: From Chair: None at the present time however there is an agenda item on the 9th May Full Council meeting asking the Council to agree and adopt the NALC version of code of conduct – Civility Pledge
3. Would all those Councillors who are not accused of bullying please raise their hand?

Reply: From Chair: I can't ask Councillors to do this. In line with the Rolley report 'this is not a witch hunt' and in accordance with data protection. To do this would be to provide names.

4. Why is the Council spending money on legal advice and staffing and not on the Chard Area Youth Committee?
   Reply: From Chair: Monies spent on legal advice and staffing have been done so having sought professional support specific to Local Government sector. The council have provided funds for Chard Area Youth Committee, they have awarded a grant for the last 4 years and will be doing so again this year.

5. A statement was made to, refute any association between Chard Friends' and political parties placed on social media platforms in terms of their opinions on bullying or in any way of association.
   No response required

6. 2 questions:
   i. Why haven't the 3 individuals, not named in the Rolley Report but who know who they are, resigned?
   ii. Why are the national Liberal Democratic party protecting these 3 – is it to protect the party at County level?
   Reply: From Chair: I am unable to reply

7. In view of the summation of the Rolley Report it seems that bullying has happened on a regular basis but as no names are mentioned how will I know to vote for councillors that are not bullies?
   Reply: From Chair: I can only advise that you vote with all the information available to you.

8. An in-depth definition and description of bullying and the associated traits was provided. No specific questions were asked. The statement culminated in the member of the public asking for the 3 councillors accused of bullying to resign. Please note this statement was audio recorded and will be available on the Chard Town Council website.

2023/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were received:
Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Hassan, Cllr Richter, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Hawkes & Cllr Watson

Proposed Cllr Bates — Seconded Cllr Baker
For: 8 — Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: To accept apologies provided.

2023/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made:

2023/49 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

2023/50 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded: Cllr Crook
For: 8 Abstain: 1

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 29th March 2023 have a sentence added to clarify written answers to the Public Participation questions will be provided.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Bates
For: 8 Abstain: 1

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 29th March 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2023/51 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this 2023/42

(a) LEGAL ADIVCE: 10199429

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Grief-Page
For: 7 Abstain: 2

RESOLVED that the legal advice document for which privilege permission has been given be published

2023/52 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next Full Council meeting Tuesday will be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 being the Annual Town Council Meeting being held at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at19.00 pm.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19.35

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MAYOR: **DATE:**