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 8th November 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Carnell (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wootton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Brown and Cllr O'Brian

ALSO PRESENT: Rev Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplin, Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Officer and 47 Members of the Public.

Chaplain's 'Thought for the Day'

Public Participation Time
There were 47 members of the public present. Issues raised included concerns regarding the two recent flood events and an update from Somerset Skills & Learning.

Reports from County and District Councillors

Police Report – Apologies had been received.

2021/68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Orchard (work), Cllr Young (illness) and Cllr Bates (illness)

2021/69 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- He had attended the opening of the new Chard Leisure Centre and had given an interview for the local radio;
- The Future Chard Strategy and Shop Front Grants consultation had taken place;
- The public realm works in the town centre had commenced and would continue until completion in March 2022;
- The Chard Carnival had been held and had been well attended;
- The annual Halloween event had been successful and well supported;
- The Chard Connect meetings continued to be held on a regular basis;
- The annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal had been launched.

2021/70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Eggins: Agenda Item 2021/76(c)
- Cllr J Kenton: Agenda Item 2021/76(c)

2021/71 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Morrison Seconded: Cllr Wootton
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 2021/79 (a) & (b), 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.

Agenda Item 2021/77 Motion

Council **AGREED** to bring agenda item 2021/77 forward for discussion and decision.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Carnell
Unanimous

RESOLVED

- That a public meeting be held as soon as practicable to discuss the flooding and what actions could be taken to help address the issue;
- That a resilience store be set up which would contain equipment for emergency flooding, snow and any other emergencies that Council felt it needed to be ready for future emergencies;
- That a Local Resilience Volunteers Group be set up;
- That funding be identified to help provide financial support to this local initiative.

Open Session
Proposed: Cllr Morrison Seconded: Cllr Williams
Unanimous

Council received a representation from Somerset Skills & Learning.

2021/72 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr Wootton

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wootton, and Cllr O'Brian.

Abstention: Cllr Brown, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr A Kenton.
(Not in attendance)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meetings held on the 28th September 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2021/73 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) **Committee Meeting Minutes –** Council considered the minutes of the Committee meetings presented.

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Williams

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Brown, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wootton, and Cllr O'Brian.

Abstentions: Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Morrison and Cllr Shortland.

RESOLVED to ratify the resolutions contained within the Amenities & Events Committee meeting minutes held on Tuesday 28th September 2021.

Council noted the minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee held on Tuesday 26th October 2021.

2021/74 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the update on submitting its precept request to South Somerset District Council. The deadline to return completed forms was 28th January 2022.

2021/75 UNITARY AUTHORITY

Council discussed the request to consider setting up a Task & Finish Group to review the Unitary Authority Briefing Paper.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Carnell
Unanimous

RESOLVED to defer consideration of this matter until 2022.

2021/76 COMMUNITY MATTERS

(a) **Revised Street Lighting Scheme –** Council discussed the revised street lighting scheme for Fore Street and Howards Row.

Proposed: Cllr Shortland Seconded: Cllr J Kenton

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Brown, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wootton, Cllr O'Brian and Cllr Shortland.

Abstention: Cllr Morrison

RESOLVED to formally adopt and implement the revised street lighting scheme for Fore Street and Howards Row.

(b) **Public Realm Works –** Council noted the update on the programme of works currently being delivered under the HSHAZ public realm programme.

Cllr Eggins and Cllr Mrs Kenton left the room during the discussion of the following agenda item.

(c) **Zembard Lane Car Park –** Council considered the request from Tatworth & Forton Parish Council to pay them £3,000 of the £9,000 received from Somerset County Council for the use of the Zembard Lane car park under licence.

Proposed: Cllr Wootton Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally ratify the request from Tatworth & Forton Parish Council and pay them £3,000 received from Somerset County Council for the use of the Zembard Lane car park and to request that an end date of 31st December 2022 be included in the licence.

2021/77 MOTION
This matter had been discussed under 2021/71

2022/78 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS
Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 10th January 2022 at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

Council agreed to reschedule the Finance & Audit Committee meeting and the Planning & Highways Committee meeting to take place on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

2021/79 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS
As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2021/71 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. Council also noted the draft minutes from the HR & Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 11:30am.

Proposed: Cllr Carnell Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED

- To make the position of Project Officer redundant as recommended by the HR & Personnel Committee;
- To review the staffing cover for the Town Council's Reception.

(b) **Request from Councillor–** Council considered the report tabled.

Proposed: Cllr Morrison Seconded: Cllr O'Brien
For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Brown, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr A Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Williams, Cllr O'Brian and Cllr Shortland.

Against: Cllr Eggins and Cllr Wootton.

Abstention: Cllr Bulmer.

RESOLVED to approve a period of absence for Cllr Young to run from 8th November 2021 to 14th March 2022.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

_____ _____

MAYOR: **DATE:**