CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Martin Carnell Town Clerk: Paul Russell

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Monday 20th June 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Martin Carnell (Mayor), Cllr Claire Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Jason Baker, Cllr Victoria Bates, Cllr David Bulmer, Cllr Banah Crook, Cllr Tim Eggins, Cllr Andi Grief-Page, Cllr Shakil Hassan, Cllr Jason Hawkes, Cllr Sarah Jones, Cllr Claire Richter and Cllr Natasha Watson.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Beverley Newman Democratic Officer, Jo Bromley (Celebrant), Cllr Connor Payne (South Chard County Councillor), Cllr Martin Wale (North Chard County Councillor), Cllr Trish O'Brian (SSDC) and one member of the public.

Celebrant's 'Thought for the Day'
Council reflected on new beginnings and taking inspiration from adversity.

Public Participation Time
A request was made to Chard Town Council to make a statement on their position on fox hunting. The member of the public was encouraged to contact a Councillor and request that they place a motion on a Full Council agenda on the subject.

Reports from County and District Councillors
District and County Councillor reports were received and noted.

Police Report
The police had sent apologies.

2022/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Kenton and Cllr J Kenton.

2022/31 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor had attended the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Falklands war;
- The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the Mayor Making event on Saturday 18th June and making it so successful;
- The Mayor held a charity swim on 18th June 2022 at the Leisure Centre and raised approximately £800. The swimmers achieved their goal and swam the length of the English Channel, all 22 miles.

2022/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Baker: Personal – Agenda items 2022/39 (SSDC Councillor) and 2022/40 (helped draft the policy with the Royal British Legion)
- Cllr Eggins: Personal – Trustee of the Chard Community Hub
- Cllr Hawkes: Personal – Member of the Chard Community Hub

2022/33 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Bates
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.

2022/34 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Grief-Page Seconded: Cllr Hassan
For: 12
Abstention: 1 (absent)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 16th May 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2022/35 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted that name badges had now been received and were available for collection and that Councillor laptops had been received and were ready for collection.

2022/36 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-2021 AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2020-2021

(a) Annual Governance Statement

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) as recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee.

(b) Accounting Statements

Proposed: Cllr Grief-Page Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2021-2022 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) as recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee.

(c) Balance Sheet & Variations

Proposed: Cllr Richter Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED to approve the Balance Sheet, Earmarked Reserves and Variances as recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee.

(d) Internal Audit Report – Council agreed to:

- Note the Internal Audit report Action Plan and defer consideration of this to the Finance & Audit Committee to review and to action any recommendations;
- Note the Chard Town Council AGAR Internal Audit Certificate for 2021/22;
- Note the Internal Audit Final Update report and defer consideration of this to the Finance & Audit Committee to review and to action any recommendations.

2022/37 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Council considered the proposal to formally designate the neighbourhood plan area that the Chard Neighbourhood Development Plan would cover.

Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED to:

- Defer the formal designation of the area to be covered by the proposed Chard NDP
- Set up a Task & Finish Group to draw up a map of the proposed area for the NDP;
- To appoint Cllr Carnell, Cllr Baker, Cllr Tim Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page and Cllr Hawkes to the Task & Finish Group;
- To submit an amended proposal to Full Council for consideration and adoption.

2022/38 UPPER HENSON PLAY AREA

Council considered the formal appointment of a suitable contractor to deliver the Upper Henson Play Area enhancements.

Proposed: Cllr Crook Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED to appoint Wicksteed Leisure Ltd to undertake the contract to upgrade Upper Henson Park play area and to carry out public consultation.

2022/39 PROPOSED PLAY AREA INVESTMENTS

Council considered the draft S106 funding allocations being proposed to be invested in the various play area enhancements.

Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr Hawkes
Unanimous

RESOLVED:

- To support the allocations in principle;
- To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to apply for the Section 106 funding from South Somerset District Council based on the approved allocations;
- To instruct the Officer Team to commence the development of a Tender document to obtain proposals from suitable contractors to improve all the play areas identified;
- To instruct the Officer Team to commence the development of a Tender document to obtain proposals from suitable contractors to improve the Lower Henson Skatepark;
- To instruct the Officer Team to investigate additional funding opportunities available.

2022/40 REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION POLICY

Council considered the draft Remembrance Commemoration Policy.

Proposed: Cllr Richter Seconded: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

RESOLVED to adopt the Remembrance Commemoration policy.

2022/41 MARKET CHARTER PROPOSAL

Council considered the report regarding the future management and legal standing of Chard Market.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

RESOLVED to make a declaration that Part III of the Food Act 1984 is to be used to operate and manage Chard Market.

2022/42 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 11th July 2022 at the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

2022/43 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2022/33 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) **Somerset Building Preservation Trust Request –** Members considered the report presented. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision on this item and invite the Somerset Building Preservation Trust to an informal meeting to provide further information and explore options available.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9:18pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**