CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Mayor: Cllr Jenny Kenton Operations Manager & Acting Proper Officer: Adrian Turner

CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held in the Town Hall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Thursday 5th **January 2023** commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Hassan**,** Cllr Hawkes, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton and Cllr Richter.

ALSO PRESENT: Beverley Newman Democratic Officer. Adrian Turner Operations Manager & Acting Proper Officer

Public Participation Time

There were 22 members of the public present at the meeting.
8 people addressed the council in the public participation session. Subjects raised were:

- 2 people raised concerns for the current working relations and effectiveness of Chard Town Councillors.
- Representation from Action Against Foxhunting (AAF) raised concerns regarding non-adherence to legal requirements for health & safety by the Cotley Hunt on Boxing Day and a plea for it to be stopped.
- Representation for the Cotley Hunt, explained how the Cotley Hunt had adhered to legal requirements for health & safety and other precautions taken on the Boxing Day hunt.
- Acknowledgement given to the former Mayor Martin Carnell and his work in this civil duty.
- A request for the Mayors gown to be submitted for cleaning
- A request for reasons for the current and previous Town Clerks resigning.
- Congratulations on the excellent Christmas lights.

2022/88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from:
Cllr Crook (personal) and Cllr Watson (working).

2022/89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2022/90 ELECTION OF MAYOR

Deputy Mayor Cllr Brown invited nominations for Town Mayor and Chairperson of the Council.

Cllr Jenny Kenton was proposed by was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Bates.

Cllr Dave Bulmer was proposed by Cllr Eggins and seconded by Cllr Hawkes

Outcome:
For Cllr J Kenton 8
For Cllr Bulmer 3

RESOLVED
Cllr J Kenton elected as Mayor

2022/91 MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was formally received by the Proper Officer.

2022/92 MAYORS APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor announced the following appointments.

- Chaplain: Rev Cresswell Whitton
- Consort: Andy Kenton

2022/93 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- Thanked and acknowledged all the work of Martin Carnell, both as the previous Mayor and eight years as a town councillor for Chard
- Thanked and acknowledged Cllr Claire Brown, Deputy Mayor for holding the 'mayoral fort' in the last few weeks.
- Pledged to continue with the previous mayor's charities & with his support distribute the money raised to use swimming lessons for those who are unable to afford them.
- Confirmed the start of monthly 'Tea with the Mayor' sessions to foster connections with local groups and organisations. These Tea sessions will be preceded by a walk around one of the sites / lands owned by Chard Town council to a) provide history and b) to gain people's input on the future. The first of these will start in February and the walk will be around the cemetery.

2022/94 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor provided the Council the opportunity to consider appointing a new Deputy Mayor given the soon to be happy event of the birth of her second child. However, Deputy Mayor expressed her commitment to this duty, the Council and the people of Chard.

Cllr Kenton asked if councillors were happy for Cllr Brown to remain as Deputy Mayor given her confirmed commitment.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bulmer

RESOLVED
That Cllr Brown remain in position as Deputy Mayor.

2022/95 RECRUITMENT OF NEW TOWN CLERK
To appoint an additional Member and a Reserve Member to sit on the Recruitment Panel.

Cllrs Brown and Bulmer expressed an interest in the third member of the recruitment panel role
Outcome of vote:
Cllr Brown 7
Cllr Bulmer 3
1 abstain

RESOLVED
That Cllr Brown be the 3rd member of recruitment panel for the Town Clerk role.

Cllr Bates and Cllr Bates expressed an interest in being reserve members of the recruitment panel.
Proposed: Cllr Brown Seconded: Cllr Eggins
Unanimous

RESOLVED
That Cllr Bates & Cllr Bulmer be the reserve members of the recruitment panel

2022/96 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS
The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 in the Guildhall Auditorium, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 19:35 pm.

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MAYOR: **DATE:**