Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Jason Baker Locum Clerk: Paul Russell

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held remotely via zoom technology on Monday 7th December 2020 commencing at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Kenton (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr G Verdon, Paul Russell, Locum Town Clerk, Tracy Lamb and Rev. Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor informed Members that voting would be by a named vote.

CHAPLAIN'S 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'
The Chaplain reflected on Christmas and the theme of light.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME
There were no members of the public present. No issues were raised.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
District and County Councillor reports had been distributed to Members and were noted.

POLICE REPORT
The Police were unable to attend.

2020/225 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The following apologies for absence were received and accepted:
- Cllr Mrs Bates (work)
- Cllr Carnell (work)
- Cllr Shortland (work)
- Cllr Mrs Young (work)

2020/226 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor made the following announcements:
- Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Mayor had not been very busy attending civic functions;
- The Chard Christmas Lights had now been erected and the Christmas Lights competition would be judged in the next few days.

2020/227 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Baker: Personal interest: Financial 2020/232(d) and 2020/235(b) 20/02982/LBC
- Cllr Kenton: Personal interest: 2020/235(b) 20/02982/LBC
- Cllr Mrs Kenton: Personal interest: 2020/235(b) 20/02982/LBC

2020/228 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 2020/237, 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.

2020/229 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Chard Town Council meetings held on 9th and 26th November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/230 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council received the following report from the Locum Clerk:

(a) **Amended Plan –** Noted that emended planning application16/02874/FUL would be considered under 2020/235(a).

(b) **Football Club –** Council noted the aspiration is to build a 3G All Weather Pitch. Current suggestions received included a permanent space for community with storage space and possibly indoor sports.

(c) **The Future of Transport: Rural Strategy –** Council noted that this consultation had been launched. Submissions needed to be in by 16 February 2021.

(d) **Bus Shelter –** Council noted that planning permission would be required. However, the Locum Clerk would be challenging this advice.

(e) **MTiG –** Council noted that initial estimated costs to refurbish Howards Row and to replace the Victorian lampposts had been received. Howards Row was expected to cost in the region of £48,560 excluding any works to the kerbs, drainage, utility works and street furniture. The cost to replace the Victorian Lampposts would be in the region of £25,000. Grant applications for both these projects and a number of others would be submitted.

(f) **Play Area Quotations –** Council noted that a quotation to repair the skatepark and remove the shelter was expected imminently. A full review of works identified within the recent play area reports was to be undertaken on Wednesday 9th December 2020.

Concern was expressed regarding the removal of the youth shelter following advice received that the unit would not be reusable. Consideration would be given to referring this back to Committee.

(g) **Electric Van –** Council noted that the electric van would be collected on Thursday 10th December 2020

2020/231 CORONAVIRUS

(a) **Update Report –** Council noted the report following the end of the second lockdown on 2nd December 2020.

(b) **Covid-19 Testing Station –** Council noted that it had been approached regarding the possibility of using the Guildhall Auditorium as a Testing Station for Chard and the surrounding area.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

RESOLVED to make the Auditorium available to the Department of Health and Social Care for use as a Covid Testing Station if it met the criteria.

2020/232 FINANCE

(a) **Budget Analysis Report –** Council noted the Income and Expenditure Balance Sheet for the year to date.

(b) **Budget Virements** – Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget virements.

(c) **Direct Debit, BACS and Manual Payments** – Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the Schedule of Payments for December 2020 amounting to £44,266.95.

(d) **Accounts for Payment –** Council reviewed the expenditure for Month 8 as outlined in the report presented.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs Kenton
Unanimous

RESOLVED to pay all outstanding accounts amounting to £39,079.89.

(e) **Review of Fees and Charges –** Council considered the adoption of the revised fees and charges for 2021/22 as recommended by the Property & Services Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous

RESOLVED to formally adopt the new fees and charges to be implemented on 1st April 2021.

(f) **Budget 2021/22 –** Council considered setting the date of Monday 21st December 2020 at 7.30pm for an informal Budget Workshop.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

For: Cllr Baker, Cllr Kenton, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

Against: Cllr Whittaker-Mather

RESOLVED to hold an informal Budget Workshop on Monday 21st December 2020 at 7.30pm

2020/233 COMMITTEE MEETING

(a) **Committee Meeting Minutes –** Council **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Committee meetings below and to ratify the decisions and recommendations within.

- Property & Services Committee – Tuesday 24th November 2020
- Policy & Resources Committee – Tuesday 1st December 2020

(b) **Grant Applications –** Council considered the grant application received from Radio Ninesprings.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous

RESOLVED:

- To defer consideration of this grant application until all the relevant support outlined in the application had been confirmed;
- To request that the grant application is fully updated and any incorrect information is amended;
- That the grant be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee once it has been updated.

2020/234 COMMUNITY

(a) **Community Liaison Report –** It was agreed to defer the receipt of this report.

(b) **Climate Change Working Group Report –** Council noted the update regarding the Climate Change grant application.

(c) **Heritage Action Zone –** Council noted the update regarding the development of the Cultural Programme bid being developed. The deadline for submission was 11th December 2020.

(d) **Task & Finish/Working Group Reports –** Council noted that there were no updates from the various Task & Finish/Working Groups that had been set up.

2020/235 PLANNING

(a) **Planning Application 20/02956/FUL, 11 High Street, Chard –** Council considered a formal response to this planning application.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous

RESOLVED:

- That any repairs following the removal of the ATM must be carried out to ensure that the aesthetics of the building are not compromised;
- That consideration be given to the fact that the building is in a Conservation Area and that any repairs should be mindful of this;
- To note that there would be significant investment in the High Street and the metal plate proposed was not in keeping.

(b) **Outstanding Planning Applications –** Council formally ratified the responses submitted to SSDC in the previous month under delegated authority.

Application 20/0298/LBC:

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien

For: Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Mrs Orchard, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

Abstention: Cllr Bulmer.

Did Not Vote: Cllr Baker, Kenton and Mrs Kenton.

RESOLVED to submit the following comments**:**

- To request that consideration is given to the impact the development will have on parking issues in the surrounding area.

2020/236 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

(a) **Project Update Report –** Council noted the update report.

2020/237 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2020/228 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) **Confidential Minutes –** To confirm and sign the confidential minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 26th November 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Morrison Seconded: Cllr Mrs O'Brien
Unanimous

RESOLVED that the Confidential Minutes of the Chard Town Council meeting held on 26th November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2020/238 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To agree to hold an extraordinary meeting of Chard Town Council on Monday 21st December 2020 commencing at 7:00pm via the Zoom platform.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison
Unanimous

RESOLVED to hold an extraordinary meeting of Chard Town Council on Monday 21st December 2020.

Council noted that the next Full Chard Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 11th January 2021 commencing at 7:00pm via the Zoom platform.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:24pm.

_____ _____

MAYOR: **DATE:**