Chard Town Council
The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Tricia O'Brien | Town Clerk: Stephen Hill

Full Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Monday 17th August 2026** at 19:00 in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

Councillors present: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Richter.

Also In Attendance: Stephen Hill (Town Clerk and RFO) and Ingrid Edgington (Stakeholder Liaison Officer). There were 15 members of public present.

Section 1 – Standing Items

2026/124 **Apologies for Absence and Acceptance**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Shortland and Williams.

2026/125 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
Cllr Bulmer declared a personal interest in item 2026/129 (accounts).
Cllr Baker declared a personal interest in item 2026/137 (Bath St PC), 2026/129 (accounts) and 2026/144 (complaints policy).

2026/126 **Public participation**
Three questions were raised regarding Somerset Council Lead Member for SEND, Public Health, Equality and Diversity; Chard.info (accessibility, design and call for deferring Decision); and Chard Together (Guildhall charges).

2026/127 **Council Meeting Minutes**
Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bates
For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of 13th April 2026, 20th April 2026 and 20th July 2026.

2026/128 **Committee Previous Meeting Minutes**
Council **NOTED** the draft minutes of:
Amenities and Events committee 14th July 2026
Human Resources committee 13th July 2026
Finance & Audit committee 21st July 2026
Planning & Highways committee 20th July 2026

2026/129 **Accounts**

Council **NOTED** the July 2026 payments list and highlighted two queries: security at Bath St. PC and drone video.

2026/130 **Reports from Somerset Council Councillors**

Report from Cllr Jason Baker

Council **NOTED** the report/s from Somerset Council Chard Ward Councillors Baker (as report) and J Kenton (camber of pavement at Bondfield Way). Question was raised regarding project overspend 26/27.

2026/131 **Reports from Chard Town Council Members on Outside Bodies**

Council **NOTED** reports from Town Councillors on Outside Bodies. Reports were provided only where there were matters to report since the previous Full Council Meeting.

Allotment meeting planned for next month and Youth Council planning meeting. Highlighted water provision at the allotment and meeting with the allotment association.

Section 2 – Items to Note

2026/132 **Mayor's Updates and Announcements**

Council **NOTED** the Mayor's Update and Announcements. The Mayor mentioned some of her recent engagements and thanked people for attending and arranging, those being: Party in the Park, Mayor Making, Police (Come Talk to Us) and event at Cricket St Thomas.

2026/133 Town Clerk & RFO Report

Council **NOTED** the report and asked if a public apology will be given to a member of staff; the Town Clerk is in discussion with the Officer.

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2026/134 Polling District and Polling Places Review

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Richter

9: 0: 0

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Council Chairman and Deputy) to respond to Somerset Council's Polling District and Polling Places Review (if any in Chard) by 3 September 2026.

2026/135 Chard Hub as Outside Body

Council RESOLVED that:

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Baker

9: 0: 0

a. the Chard Hub be designated as an Outside Body; and

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins

8: 0: 1

b. **Town Councillors O'Brien and Richter be allocated as the Council's representatives for the Hub.**

2026/136 Chard.info

Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded Cllr Hussey
7: 0: 2

Following A&E Committee 11.8.26, Council RESOLVED to approve the launch of Chard.info. Thanks were expressed to Officer Ingrid Edgington and ex Town Clerk David Bell. Council queried accessibility and design and looked forward to launch Chard.info.

2026/137 Lease of Bath Street Public Convenience

Council RESOLVED to:

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins
8: 0: 1

a. **approve the lease Heads of Terms of the Bath Street public convenience from Somerset Council;**

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bates
9: 0: 0

b. **Delegate to the Town Clerk to prepare and complete a lease from Somerset Council (in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of A&E Committee); and**

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bulmer
9: 0: 0

c. **appoint Councillor O'Brien to sign the completed lease with the Town Clerk.**

2026/138 **Guildhall Events and Events on Council Land**

Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded Cllr Bates
9: 0: 0

a. **Council RESOLVED to refer free events hiring to a Working Group and consider at a later date; and**

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Bates
9: 0: 0

b. **Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of A&E Committee) to establish Events for which there will no charge for bookings at the Guildhall and outdoor Events at Council land.**

2026/139 **Grants Sub-Committee**

Council RESOLVED to:

Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Eggins
9: 0: 0

a. **appoint Councillors O'Brien, Eggins, Bulmer, Baker, A Kenton and J Kenton to a Grants sub-committee; and**

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded Cllr Bates
9: 0: 0

b. **Delegate Authority to the Town Clerk to revise the Council's Grants Policy (in consultation with Grants sub-committee).**

2026/140 **Finance & Policy Committee**
Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins
9: 0: 0
On the Recommendation of F&A Committee (2026/24/FA) Council RESOLVED to revise that Committee's title to Finance & Policy Committee.

2026/141 **Membership of South West Councils**
Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Bulmer
9: 0: 0
Council RESOLVED to join South West Councils.

2026/142 **Exempt Business**
Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Baker
9: 0: 0
Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public.

Section 4: Confidential

2026/143 **6 Months Councillor Absence**
Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr Eggins
9: 0: 0
As LGA 1972, 85 (1) Council RESOLVED to approve reason/s for Councillor Hassan's failure to attend any meeting of the Council for six consecutive months.

Cllr Baker left the meeting 20:18.

2026/144 **Complaints Policy**
Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Eggins
9: 0: 0
Council RESOLVED matters relating to the Council's Complaints Policy, specifically:
to convene a meeting of the Complaints Panel to review a Council response to a complaint; and
Proposed: Cllr Bates Seconded Cllr Eggins
9: 0: 0
not to appoint an independent review of handling of meeting recording.

2026/145 **Date of next meeting**

The next Full Chard Town Council meeting is **Monday 21st September 2026**. Auditorium, Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 19:00.

The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 20:55.

Signed: T Brown Date: 21/9/26

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