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

Extraordinary Full Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Extraordinary Full Council** held on **Monday 12th October 2026** at 19:00 in the Town Hall, Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

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

Officers present: Stephen Hill (Town Clerk and RFO), Ingrid Edgington (Stakeholder Liaison Officer), Kevin Dyer (Deputy Town Clerk and Operations Manager) and Tim Bickham (Events Officer).

Also present: There were 41 members of public present.

Section 1 – Standing Items

2026/175 Apologies for Absence and Acceptance
Apologies were received from Cllr Crook.

2026/176 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations
Cllr J. Kenton declared an interest.

2026/177 Public participation
The Chair read out the following statement ahead of public participation:

"Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone that this is a formal council meeting, and I ask that we treat everyone present with respect, regardless of their views or opinions. We may not all agree, but everyone has the right to be heard fairly and courteously. Please allow all speakers to express their views without interruption, so that we can conduct this meeting in a calm, respectful and constructive manner."

11 questions were raised:

1. Concerns over the funding of the Hive
2. Concerns over provision for Young People in the event of loss of the Hive.
3. Query over a resident that had been in contact expressing their views of the Hive.

4. Concerns around "Busy Bees". Shared views of its attendees showed a poster and gave some feedback on the sensory room and its impact.
5. Concerns over the uncertainty of funds and plead to work with the Hive to support young people.
6. Raised concerns in relation to mental health and food provision.
7. Parent of a SEND child shared appreciation of the support given by the Hive.
8. Seeking clarity over the wording of the motion.
9. Drew attention to the motion – "immediate freeze" in particular. Jocelyn Ward was referred to as one of the most deprived areas.
10. Via email from parent of a child that attends the Hive: Have these projects already been chosen? Have young people or any independent advisors with experience in children's services been consulted in the decisions for the distribution of these funds? Will they be as inclusive to all the young people of Chard?
11. Via email: Representatives of Avon and Somerset Police, have highlighted stronger engagement with local young people and a reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour. This reflects the positive contribution that well-supported youth services can make to a community. I would also like to recognise the dedication of the staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters. Their efforts have provided opportunities for many young people and contributed to the success of a valuable community asset.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their attendance and contributions.

Section 2 – Items to Note

2026/178 **Review and Fiduciary Risk Management of Service Level Agreement Funding**

Council **NOTED** the Motion from Councillors Tribble, Bulmer and Eggins.

Section 3 – Items For Discussion & Decision

2026/179 **Exempt Business**

Council RESOLVED that under section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for items of business in view of the likely disclosure of confidential matters about, information relating to an individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, within the meaning of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see the Local Government

(Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Cllr Eggins requested a named vote.

Proposed: Cllr Tribble Seconded Cllr Bulmer

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Tribble	Cllr Hussey	Cllr O'Brien
Cllr Bulmer		Cllr J. Kenton
Cllr Eggins		Cllr A. Kenton
		Cllr Bates
		Cllr Richter
		Cllr Williams
		Cllr Shortland
3	1	7

Section 4 – Confidential

2026/180 Review and Fiduciary Risk Management of Service Level Agreement Funding

a. Councillors Bulmer and Tribble withdrew the part of Motion I ("an immediate freeze on all further funding tranches"), hence there was no need to Vote on that matter.

Council RESOLVED to only consider the part of Motion 1, "pending a full independent compliance audit".

Proposed: Cllr Tribble Seconded: Cllr Bulmer

6: 0: 5

Councillor Williams Proposed to amend Motion I to instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Hive Young People's Centre and all Councillors to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.

Councillor Bates Proposed to amend Motion I to instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Mayor to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.

Councillor Shortland Proposed to amend Motion I to instruct the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to work in dialogue with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.

Councillor A Kenton Proposed to amend Motion I to instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Hive Young People's Centre to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.

In line with Standing Orders the Chairman agreed to take a Vote on the last amended Motion first.

Council RESOLVED to amend Motion I to instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Hive Young People's Centre to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.

Proposed: Cllr A. Kenton Seconded: Cllr J. Kenton

7: 0: 4

b. **Council RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Hive Young People's Centre to review, write a report and report back to Full Council.**
Council Voted to select the preferred option of undertaking a review.
Option A: continue as defined in the Service Level Agreement:
0 Votes in preference
Option B: appoint an independent reviewer, write a report and report back to Full Council:
3 Votes in preference
Option C: not progressed
Option D: instruct the Clerk to work in dialogue with the Hive Young People's Centre to review, write a report and report back to Full Council:
8 Votes in preference

c. **Council RESOLVED to not accept Motion II.**
Proposed: Cllr Tribble Seconded: Cllr Richter
11: 0: 0

d. **Council RESOLVED to accept Motion III but with amended a word from "instruct" to "request".**
Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
11: 0: 0

e. Not required.

2026/181 Date of next meeting

The next Full Chard Town Council meeting is **Monday 19th October 2026**. Town Hall, Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and at 19:00.
The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 21:20.

Signed: T Bren Date: 14/10/2026