CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP
01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates Proper Officer: Neil Bloomfield

All Council & Committee Meetings are open to the Public and Press

AMENITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities & Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2024 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Mayors Parlour, The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

PRESENT: Cllr Hussey, Cllr Baker (Chair), Cllr Grief-Page Cllr J Kenton, Cllr G Shortland, Cllr A Kenton (Ex Officio), and Cllr Richter.

ALSO PRESENT: Operations Manager (OM): Kevin Dyer, Events Officer (EO); Tim Bickman, Democratic Service Officer (DSO Beverley Newman

Public Participation Time
No members of the public were present.

2024/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from: Cllr Watson, Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Williams (all Personal)
Committee accepted all the apologies.

2024/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Baker – Unitary Councillor in respect to agenda item 2024/26 (b) 1.1
Cllr J Kenton – Unitary Councillor in respect to agenda item 2024/26 (b) 1.1
Cllr Richter Lives at Crib Close in respect to agenda item 2024/26 (b) 2.1

2024/24 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
There were no confidential items for discussion.

2024/25 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Cllr Baker as Chair of the Amenities & Events Committee deferred this item as no minutes were presented.

2024/26 MANAGER REPORTS

(a) Town Clerk Report
List of projects –

Cllr Baker as chair of Amenities & Events committee confirmed the following were for consideration only, that no decision as required at this time.
Committee then considered the list of potential projects suggested in the Proper Officer report. Below are a summary of comments made per potential project:

- *A program of redecoration with a more contemporary feel without losing sight of the building's history.*

  Check English heritage for authentic colours

  - *Replace or repair damaged items on a rolling program.*
    This could be appropriate for smaller scale items but potentially not so for larger items.

  - *Consider a free lease to the café area with a % of profit to CTC.*
    This has potential problems; Existing clients would no longer have access and we could lose good will, a full-time regular company may wish to store all their equipment which there isn't room for.

  - *Upgrade the auditorium to a full surround cinema. Buy current blockbuster movies and create a Chard Cinema starting with two shows on a Saturday.*
    It was felt that a conversation should be had with Cinema Chard club to see if this is something they could advice and partner

  - *Installing sound absorbing panels*
    It was felt this would benefit all events held at the auditorium.
    Committee asked the Events Officer to obtain costs.

  - *Consider showing major sporting events with the bar open.*
    Potential issues with this idea were; Sky subscription fees, detrimental to other businesses, sports and alcohol can be challenging to manage.
    A potential positive Was – profit sharing between hirer and CTC but not for sporting events, instated shows pantomimes etc.

  - *Better use of the office accommodation. Consider providing an area of rentable hotdesk space.*
    Two committee members present thought this was a good idea.
    It was further stated that the Town Clerk / Proper Offcier had some good ideas for this.

  - *The front entrance has the go ahead and will include changes to reception. A touch through glass information screen available 24 hours a day.*
    The majority of committee members present thought this was good idea.

Consideration of how Council wishes to consult on service provision in relation to the £250k set aside for devolution acquired services.

Concerns were raised in spending monies allocated to the possible services acquired via the devolution process for other work. Not using funds specifically for these services could be counter to the Financial Regulations.

It was suggested the *Action Summary Review* document be reinstated. This helps Council keep a track on what work has been agreed, expected time frames and costs etc.

Financial Commitment of £50k to Open Spaces.

Proposed: Cllr J Baker Seconded: Cllr Hussey

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager contact the grant / award organisations I.E. Green Flag to undertake a survey on all of our parks and open spaces providing a report on each individually with potential costings and provide information on how much grant is available to fund this.

(i) BAR FRANCHISE

Proposed: Cllr J Baker Seconded: Cllr Grief-Page

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That

i) A rolling contract with Somerset Mobile Bars as outlined in their e-mail dated 11/05/24 should commence 1/7/24 for 12 months i.e. total cost of £300 per year. Further that the Events Officer will source three tenders for the A&E December committee meeting providing a 6 month period to review.

ii) The Events Officer will endeavour to trace the existing tender previously used for Somerset Mobile Bars.

(b) OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

1.1

Proposed: Cllr Hussey Seconded: Cllr Shortland

For: 7 Abstain: 2

RESOLVED: That the OM begin negotiations with Somerset Council to ascertain what grass cutting they are committed to for the remainder of the season in order to determine the extent of the work required by Chard Town Council.

It was further suggested that Council agree at the next Full Council meeting 22nd July 2024, a list of possible devolution services CTC would be interested in undertaking and further agree priority.

2.1

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Hussey

For: 6 Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: That the Proper Officer be given delegated authority to process the emergency work and the Operations Manager provided 2 other quotes for non-essential work.

Cllr Grief-Page left the meeting at 20.05

(c) EVENTS OFFICER REPORT

Committee noted the EO's report.

In addition, positive feedback was provided to the Events Officer by Cllrs Baker and Hussey in respect to the Helmstedt Civic Reception and Town Crier's competition. Cllrs received comments about how well organised and how enjoyable these events were, from attendees and those taking part in the events.

2024/27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Amenities & Events Committee would be held on **Tuesday 13th August** (this being the 2nd Tuesday of the month) in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 19.00.

There being no other business the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20:20

CHAIR / VICE CHAIR: _____ **DATE:** 18/11/24