



# CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL, FORE STREET,  
CHARD, SOMERSET TA20 1PP  
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Mayor: Cllr Jill Shortland Town Clerk: John Furze MILCM

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF CHARD TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, CHARD ON  
MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs J Shortland – Mayor  
D Bulmer – Deputy Mayor  
D Hill  
Mrs C A Morrison  
D Orchard

A Prior  
G Shortland  
Mrs A Spencer  
M Wale  
Mrs S Wyatt

### IN ATTENDANCE:

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The Town Clerk Mr G J Furze, the Deputy Town Clerk Mrs S Robson, 17 members of the Public and 3 members of the Press.

### 01. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.

LGA 1972 s85 (1).

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs J Kenton and A Kenton – away on holiday.

**RESOLVED – to note the apologies and approve the reasons given.**

### 02. Mayors Announcements.

The Mayor made a number of announcements;

The Mayor thanked those councillors who had supported the charity event before Christmas and reported that the fund raising had enabled a donation of £200.00 to be sent to the Children's Hospice which was in addition to other moneys raised through donations and a raffle.

Thanks were also given to everyone who had supported the fundraising efforts in 2010. The Mayor reported that she was looking forward to future events, in particular an event by the Kelly Leigh School of Dance in March.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt was thanked for her donation towards the Mayor's Charity which was in lieu of sending Christmas cards this year.

Finally the Mayor thanked Members for their co-operation in resolving the confidential staffing item that should have been discussed at the December meeting which had to be cancelled due to the snow.

**03. Declarations of Interest.** [Local Authorities \(Model Code of Conduct\) Order 2007 SI No.1159.](#)

Councillors Mrs Shortland, Bulmer and Wale and declared a Personal Interest in Item no. 12 being either District /County councillors

**04. Exclusion of the press and public** - To agree any item to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under. [Standing Order #1c.](#)

**RESOLVED – that Agenda item #22 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the public (including the press) has been excluded under Standing Order #1c.**

*At the Mayor's instigation members agreed to bring forward item # 11 as members of the Allotment Holders Association were present.*

**11. Notice of Motion received under Standing Order 11a – Rescission of Previous Resolution signed by Cllrs A J Prior, D Bulmer, Mrs A Spencer, G Shortland and D R Hill,** "We the undersigned councillors give notice under Standing Order 11a that we wish to reconsider the question of the apportioning of the rent payable to the landlord for the field at Chardstock Lane between the allotment and amenity budgets heads and its possible consequential effect on rent to be levied from allotment holders."

Councillor G Shortland proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Bulmer and accepted by Councillor Prior being the proposer of the original motion

**RESOLVED - to reconsider the question of the apportioning of the rent payable to the landlord for the field at Chardstock Lane between the allotment and amenity budgets heads and its possible consequential effect on rent to be levied from allotment holders. In addition Council reviews completely the sustainability of the allotments at the next Amenities Committee and for resolutions and/or recommended to be reported to the February Council meeting.**

**05. Council Meeting - Minutes** - To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010. [LGA 1972, Sch 12 para 41\(1\).](#)

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be signed as a correct record.**

**06. Finance and Guildhall Committee** - To receive and sign the minutes of the Finance & Guildhall Committee meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and to adopt the resolutions and recommendations contained therein. [LGA 1972, Sch 12 para 41\(1\)](#).

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of Finance & Guildhall Committee meeting held on the Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be signed as a correct record and to adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein.**

**07. Planning & Highways Committee** - To receive and sign the minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and to adopt the resolutions and recommendations contained therein. [LGA 1972, Sch 12 para 1\(1\)](#).

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on the Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be signed as a correct record and to adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein.**

Cllr D Orchard, Chairman of the Planning & Highways Committee gave notice that members of the Committee had agreed to cancel the meeting due to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> January as there was only one planning application for consideration. This one item would be passed to the Clerk to use his delegated powers.

**08. Amenities Committee** - To receive and sign the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and to adopt the resolutions and recommendations contained therein. [LGA 1972, Sch 12 para 1\(1\)](#).

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of Amenities Committee meeting held on the Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be signed as a correct record and to adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein.**

**09. Finance - Town Council Year (2010/11) to Date (Y2D) Budget** - To review the budget information previously circulated. [Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 reg 4](#).

**RESOLVED – Councillors noted the Year to Date budget.**

**10. Finance - Accounts for Payment** to review and approve items of expenditure – Cheque signatories to be Cllrs Mrs J Shortland & D Hill. [LGA 1972 s150 \(5\)](#).

The Town Clerk advised Members that the signing of the cheques had gone ahead at the end of December despite the Full Council meeting planned on 20<sup>th</sup> being cancelled due to the snow. The cheque signatories had been Councillors Mrs Shortland and Mrs Kenton. However in the interests of accountability and transparency Members were asked to review and approve the payments in the normal manner.

**RESOLVED – to approve the Accounts for Payment.**

**12. Correspondence** – Members to consider the implication of letters received from Chief Executive Officer of Somerset County Council and Assistant Director – Finance of South Somerset District Council concerning the cuts in funding of the Principal Authorities and the knock-on effect to this Council.

Following debate it was .....

**RESOLVED - The Clerk should write to both Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council expressing agreement in principle for this Council to consider accepting any devolved function providing 'revenue follows function' and that there should be no 'double taxation'.**

- 13. Council to consider Guildhall Hire Charges.** Members to agree Guildhall Hire Charges to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

**RESOLVED - to defer this item to the next Finance & Guildhall meeting to allow Members an opportunity to consider further information.**

It was further agreed that members would provide the Clerk with their written suggestions no later than noon on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January in order these can be circulated to members for their with the weekly Bulletin and that only these suggestions would be considered at the meeting.

- 14. Notice of Motion received from Cllr Mrs C A Morrison on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010,** "This Town Council uses any extra income reported to the December Town Council meeting (from Tax Base or Grant for TIC) to create an extra budget line "Power of Wellbeing" for the purpose of town promotion functions or to benefit the people/traders of Chard"

Councillor Mrs Shortland proposed and Councillor Bulmer seconded an amendment to the motion that: This Town Council uses any extra income reported to the December Town Council meeting (from Tax Base or Grant for TIC) to create an extra budget line "Power of Wellbeing" for the purpose of grit/salt requirements during 2011/2012 and extra community grants.

VOTING            For: 4            Against: 6

The amended motion was lost

A vote was then taken on the original motion

VOTING            For: 4            Against: 5            Abstention: 1

The motion was lost.

- 15. Notice of Motion received from Cllr Mrs Jenny Kenton received on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 -** That this Town Council considers appointing Cllr Mrs Jenny Kenton to the Amenities Committee with effect forthwith."

Cllr Prior asked that as the mover of the motion was not present the motion should not be considered citing Standing Order 6c. On a Point of Order the Clerk reminded members the matter could lawfully be considered under Standing Order 5a(x) – Motions Not Requiring Written Notice.

Councillor Mrs Morrison proposed the motion but in the absence of a Member willing to second this motion, the motion failed.

**16. Town Council Budget 2011/12** – Members to approve a budget for Chard Town Council for the year 2011/12. Presented by Chairman of Finance & Guildhall Committee, Cllr David Hill.

Councillor Hill presented the Draft Budget to Council that had been unanimously approved by the Finance & Guildhall Committee. Cllr Hill reminded Members of the difficult times ahead and of the necessity of prudent financial management.

9.25pm Councillor Mrs Morrison left the meeting

9.27 pm Councillor Mrs Morrison returned to the meeting

Councillor Prior proposed and Councillor Mrs Spencer seconded an amendment to the budget, which would have had a net decrease in expenditure of £41,000

On being put to the vote the result was;

VOTING            For 2:            Against: 7            Abstention: 1

The motion was therefore lost

A vote was therefore taken based on the substantive motion which was proposed by Cllr D Hill and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Morrison

VOTING            For: 7            Against: 3

The motion was therefore carried

**RESOLVED – to approve the budget as recommended by the Finance & Guildhall Committee to set the Precept for the year 2011/12 at £533,600 which will give a reduction in our element of the Council Tax.**

**17. Notice of Motion from Town Clerk** – “That in view of the resignation of Cllrs Stephen Dowell and David Mears the Town Clerk is authorised to advertise a Casual Vacancy.”

The Town Clerk advised Members of two options available to them, the Members then unanimously....

**RESOLVED – that under the provisions of the Representation of the People, England and Wales, The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (rule 5 subsections 5&6) not to co-opt new Members but to fill the vacancies at the next ordinary election.**

**18. Notice of Motion from Town Clerk** – “That this Town Council moves the date of the Annual Town Council Meeting from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011”. This date is provisionally set for a Finance & Guildhall Committee meeting and the change is necessary due to the Local Council Elections taking place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**RESOLVED – The Annual Town Council Meeting be moved from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

**19. Progress Report on updating of Guildhall Heating.** Town Clerk to update members on the progress made in evaluating the proposal from the Guildhall Supervisor at the last Finance & Guildhall meeting for the purchase of software to improve the zone control of the Guildhall Heating system.

The Town Clerk advised Members of the difficulties in arranging a meeting with the representative of the preferred supplier. The Members requested that the Working Group continue to make its investigations and will then make a report with recommendations to the next Council.

**20. Town Clerk’s Delegated Powers.** [LGA 1972 s101](#)

**RESOLVED – to note the use of the Town Clerk’s delegated powers.**

**21. Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies.** Please notify the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting if you will be making a report. Members to confirm appointments of Cllr Mrs C A Morrison to SSDC Area West Market Committee, and Cllr A J Prior to SSDC Chard Reservoir Committee.

There were no reports received.

**RESOLVED – to confirm the appointments of Cllr Mrs C A Morrison to SSDC Area West Market Committee, and Cllr A J Prior to SSDC Chard Reservoir Committee.**

9.45pm Members of the Press, Public and the Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting.

**22. In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 04 above refers) – Staff in Confidence (2 Items).**

Cllr Prior left the meeting at 9.46pm.

The Clerk reported on one item of ‘Staff in Confidence’ relating to a staffing matter and commented that the second matter had been disposed of in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Prior returned to the meeting at 9.49pm

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.