



# CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL FORE STREET CHARD TA20 1PP

TEL: 01460 239567 FAX: 01460 65710

Mayor: Councillor Mrs. Cath Morrison Acting Town Clerk: Sarah Robson MILCM

## COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting of Chard Town Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

G Shortland – Chair

Mrs. T Aherne

D Bulmer

M Dowell

Mrs. S Dowell

G Forsyth

Ms S Pittwood

Mrs. S Wyatt

**In Attendance:** Sarah Robson, Acting Town Clerk and Mr. Paul Thresher, Amenities Supervisor.

**18. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given.**

Councillors Mrs. J and A Kenton, Mrs. C Morrison and A Prior – conflicting engagements  
Councillor Prior asked for his apologies to be made on the basis that the meeting date had been changed and therefore clashed with another meeting. He asked for his strong objection to this to be noted.

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

**19. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Forsyth declared a Personal Interest in items # 21, 23, 24 & 25 on the basis that he is an allotment holder.

Councillors Bulmer, Ms Pittwood and Shortland all declared a Personal Interest in items # 21, 23, 24 & 25 due to their involvement and/or membership of Chard in Bloom-Chard 2000.

**20. Exclusion of the press and public - To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded under Standing Order #35.**

It was agreed that none of the matters for consideration should exclude the press and public.

**21. To re-appoint an Allotments Sub Committee and agree Terms of Reference**

**RESOLVED - That this Committee appoints an Allotments Sub Committee consisting of the Chairman – Councillor Shortland, and two Members namely Councillors Prior and Mrs. Wyatt and a member of the Allotment Holders Association. The Terms of Reference will be as before**

**- to carry out an inspection twice yearly together with an officer and a representative of the AHA and to monitor expenditure for the next twelve months and report back to this Committee.**

**22. Amenities Supervisor's Report** - circulated to all members.

Members thanked the Supervisor for his report and asked that he pass on their thanks to the Amenities Team for the good work with the Flower Beds and Hanging Baskets. It was also noted that recent compliments had been received from visitors to the area regarding the good standard of cleanliness in town.

**RESOLVED - to accept and note the Amenities Supervisor's Report.**

**23. Review of Charges** – Members to review the charges made for:-

- a) **Cemetery**
- b) **Hanging Baskets**
- c) **Allotments**

Following discussion it was...

**RESOLVED -**

- a) **To raise the charges for the Cemetery with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 by 5%**

Proposed: Councillor Ms Pittwood      Seconded: Councillor Bulmer

- b) **Not to increase the charges in 2011 made for the Hanging Baskets but that Chard in Bloom-Chard 2000 would work by negotiating with traders to try and increase the take up and encourage more sponsorship of baskets for 2012/2013**

Proposed: Councillor Forsyth      Seconded: Councillor Mrs Wyatt

- c) **To convene a meeting of the Allotments Sub Committee with a view to reach a consensus with allotment holders regarding how the deficit would be met. It was agreed to propose an increase of £2.00 to £25.00 and also to consult about a suggestion to extend the current site to make more plots available.**

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer      Seconded: Councillor Ms Pittwood

**24. To receive Administrator's report and review allotments waiting list and consider Council's policy to let plots**

After consideration and some discussion of the report several action points were agreed. Members proposed that the allotments waiting list policy should remain as it is; disputes regarding allotment boundaries would be looked at on a case by case basis and would be Member led with the Administrator also being asked to attend site visits.

**25. To consider request from Allotment Holders Association to set up a Diamond Jubilee plot**

**RESOLVED** – that the Allotments Sub Committee would consider this request further and find out more details about the scheme.

**26. To receive an update on work at Ashcroft Play Area**

The Acting Clerk appraised Members that works had been completed at the site and the District Council had carried out the Post Installation Inspection to its satisfaction. Members confirmed approval that the cheque to the Contractors should be issued.

**27. To receive an update regarding planting in and around town and consider sponsorship opportunities**

The Amenities Supervisor updated Members of the work that had been done this year with the help of Chard Garden Centre under the partnership agreement. There was consensus that the planting scheme was an improvement on previous years and offered a good display of colour. It was recognised that there is still work to be done at some of the gateways into Chard but that restrictions imposed by Highways would make this difficult in some cases, however work would continue to find opportunities to improve sites where possible.

**28. To consider request for artwork at Lower Henson skate park**

Members expressed some initial concern regarding whether or not the paint might react with the fabric of the ramps and also what measures could be put in place to deal with the effects of vandalism, if it should occur. It was agreed that after further investigations have been undertaken regarding these two issues, and with reassurances of positive outcomes, this project should be given approval.

**29. To authorise expenditure of £1700.00 to remove soil bank and clear vegetation and trees at Upper Henson Park.**

**RESOLVED** – to approve expenditure of £1700.00 to remove soil bank and clear vegetation and trees at Upper Henson Park.

**30. Notice of Motion received from Cllr D Bulmer on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 that "With the urgent need to complete the new play area at Jocelyn Park and to facilitate an official opening , Chard Town Council's amenities committee debates the outstanding matters ( including attaching the new slide) required for completion, as per design specifications. With a view to instructing the architect and contractors to complete the project".**

Members were informed that the park has now had the final piece of equipment installed, it was agreed that further planting work was necessary and would be carried out by the Amenities Team in the autumn. Members were in agreement that Councillors Bulmer and Shortland should make arrangements for an official opening for both Jocelyn Park and Ashcroft Park in due course.

Proposed: Councillor Bulmer

Seconded: Councillor Mrs. Aherne

### **31 Correspondence –**

- i) Members to consider a petition from residents living at Laurel Gardens, Chard asking for a Grit Bin to be provided at their road.

#### **RESOLVED – to purchase a grit bin for Laurel Gardens for installation with approval from the Highways Authority**

- ii) Members to consider a request for occasional use of Jocelyn Park football pitches on Sunday for youth team

Concern was expressed that further requests for use of the pitches could compromise the agreement we have with the clubs that are currently using the facilities. Councillors Shortland and Bulmer agreed to arrange a meeting with the clubs to talk about how to progress this matter and confirm exactly what the current arrangements are.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm