



## CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

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Mayor: Cllr Martin Carnell Town Clerk: Paul Russell

## AMENITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities & Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Town Hall, The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Baker (Chair), Cllr Brown (7:09pm to 8:12pm), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Richter and Cllr Watson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Russell, Town Clerk, Adrian Turner, Operations Officer and Tim Bickman, Events Officer.

### Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public present. No issues were raised.

### 2022/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brown (family), Cllr Carnell (Holiday), Cllr Grief-Page (work) and Cllr Jones (work).

### 2022/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Baker (personal) – SSDC Member
- Cllr Bulmer (personal) – Jocelyn Park Lease and SSDC Member;
- Cllr Watson (personal) – Culturally Chard.

### 2022/03 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Eggins                      Seconded: Cllr Richter  
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** that as certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information the Committee resolved "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to under Agenda Item 2022/10, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

### 2022/04 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Committee **AGREED** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Amenities & Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## **2022/05 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS TO VARIOUS TASK & FINISH GROUPS**

Committee **AGREED** to appoint the following Task & Finish Groups:

- Amenities and Events Budget and Strategic Development Group – Cllr Baker, Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Eggins.
- Cemetery Working Group – Cllr Baker, Cllr Brown and Cllr Richter.
- Guildhall Marketing & Event Development Group – Cllr Baker, Cllr Eggins and Cllr Richter.
- Play Area Refurbishment Group – Cllr Baker, Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Watson.
- Culturally Chard Steering Group – Cllr Eggins was appointed Chard Town Council representative.

## **2022/06 MANAGER REPORTS**

**(a) Operations – Committee RECEIVED** the Operations Manager’s Report and noted the following actions:

- Due to illness a Seasonal Operative would be recruited either directly or via an agency under the Town Clerk’s delegated authority. This matter would be reported to the HR & Personnel Committee;
- The LCWIPS scheme to develop walking and cycling routes in Chard is progressing and an initial review of routes has been submitted;
- Committee was informed that a number of broken window panes were being replaced in the Guildhall.

**(b) Events – Committee RECEIVED** the Event Officer’s Report and noted the following actions:

- The seven trees to commemorate the Jubilee had been planted at Jocelyn Park;
- It was agreed to try to secure the Banners of Chard created from the banners project to ensure that they remained on display in the Guildhall;
- The Jubilee events were noted;
- The Guildhall would be taking part in the Heritage Open Day initiative on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

## **2022/07 CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

## **2022/08 OPEN SPACES**

**(a) Strategic Objectives Work Plan –** Committee noted the report on the previous strategic objectives that were under this Committee’s responsibilities. The following matters were raised:

- EV charging points were being installed at the Leisure Centre and Sainsbury’s car park by SSDC;
- It was agreed to review the provision of bike racks in Fore Street and Holyrood Street if they were not being provided by the public realm improvement scheme;

- The future of the Local Information Centre (LIC) hosted in the Guildhall would be clarified. Currently SSDC provided a £500 grant and the Town Council had engaged recently regarding this service. With unitary authority implementation on the horizon the future of LICs was uncertain. It was hoped that this would be covered by the LCNs.

**(b) Cemetery Extension Update** – Committee noted that additional burial plots were currently being created in the Cemetery following the removal of the hedge facing the car park. In addition, additional land had been purchased from SSDC to help create further burial space.

Green burials were currently being considered by a third party. It was agreed to organise a Task & Finish Group meeting as soon as possible to begin to develop alternative options and identify other land.

**(c) Upper Henson Park** – Committee noted that four tenders had been received to upgrade Upper Henson Park. The tenders had been assessed and three companies, Sutcliffe Play, Kompan and Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had been invited to interview to provide background information on their proposals. Details of the three proposals were presented to Committee for consideration.

Proposed: Cllr Baker                      Seconded: Cllr Bulmer  
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** that a recommendation be submitted to the Full Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to appoint Wicksteed Leisure Ltd to undertake the contract to upgrade Upper Henson Play Area and to carry out public consultation.

**(d) Allotment Liaison Meeting** – Committee considered the reintroduction of regular meetings with allotment holders.

Proposed: Cllr Eggins                      Seconded: Cllr Bulmer  
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** to reintroducing regular meetings with allotment holders and to delegate the organisation of the meetings to Officers.

**2022/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Amenities & Events Committee would be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

**2022/10 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2022/03 that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure

of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

- (a) **Lease, New Changing Facility, Jocelyn Park** – Committee noted that a draft lease had been provided by the Council’s solicitor to lease the new changing facility to Chard United Football Club.

Proposed: Cllr Watson                      Seconded: Cllr Bulmer  
Unanimous

**RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Baker and Cllr Eggins to review the draft lease, amend it as required and submit it directly to Full Council for consideration and adoption.

- (b) **Jocelyn Park Matters** – Committee noted the update provided by the Clerk regarding land ownership in this area. It was agreed to give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to confirm land ownership of the road behind the properties in Bradfield Way.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:45pm

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**CHAIR:**

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**DATE:**