



CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

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

01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk

Mayor: Cllr Martin Carnell Town Clerk: Paul Russell

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee held on Tuesday 19th December 2022 commencing at 7.00pm in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP.

PRESENT: Cllr J Kenton (Chair), Cllr Baker, Cllr Brown, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Richter

OFFICERS PRESENT: Democratic Services Officer (DSO), Beverley Newman, Grants Officer Gail Chadwick

Public Participation Time:

No members of the public were present.

2022/32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from: Cllr Carnell, Cllr Hassan (sick), Cllr Hawkes (work) Cllr A Kenton.

2022/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made:

2022/34 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no Confidential Items to consider.

2022/35 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of 25th October meeting by Cllr Bates who was the only member present at this previous Finance and Audit meeting. Remaining committee present at tonight's meeting agreed to sign off on 25th October minutes based on Cllr Bates endorsement. Minutes from the 26th July meeting are still to be agreed.

Acceptance of minutes for the 26th July meeting will be added to the next Finance & Audit agenda 31st January 2023

2022/27 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) **Consideration of the budget** Committee noted the revised budget figures supplied by Grants Officer which considered the confirmed tax base. After discussion the following suggestions was considered:

- Total precept figure be adjusted to £775,000, this is an 8.94% increase on last year's precept. This produces a £14.19p annual increase in Band D.

- Increase Chard Town Council Run Events, both expenditure and income to £5,000. This was previously reduced to £1,500 at the first budget planning meeting from a suggested £8,000 based on 2022/23 events
- The remainder of monies to be set aside as a reserve for possible increase in energy bills (c.£14,000).

RESOLVED to agree the suggested adjustments as outlined above for consideration at the next Full Council 24th January

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

Seconded Cllr Bates

During discussion the chair asked committee to consider Standing Orders to be suspended to allow Cllr Eggins to contribute.

RESOLVED That standing orders be suspended to provide Cllr Eggins the opportunity to contribute to the budget discussion.

Proposed: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

Seconded Cllr Bates

(b) Recommendation to Full council for request to Somerset County Council for the specified amount of precept

RESOLVED to agree to recommend to Full Council to request the specified amount of precept from Somerset County Council

Proposed: Cllr Brown
Unanimous

Seconded Cllr Richter

2022/37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee agreed to change the date of the next Finance & Audit meeting. The next Finance & Audit meeting will be held on **Monday 31st January 2023** in the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

ACTION POINTS:

- DSO to communicate to the Finance & Audit committee the change of date of the next Finance & Audit committee meeting before the Christmas break
- DSO to e-mail the minutes of this meeting with brief explanation of the revisions made to all Council members, before the Christmas break to provide sufficient time for councillors to consider the changes made and rationale for changes.

2022/38 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

There were no confidential items to consider.

There being no other business the Chair thanked committee members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.45.

CHAIR:

DATE:

DRAFT