



Chard Town Council

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

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Mayor: Cllr Jason Baker Locum Clerk: Paul Russell

COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Chard Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th April 2021, commencing at 19:00 hours via the Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Kenton (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Mrs Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams, Cllr Mrs Whittaker-Mather and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

ALSO PRESENT: Rev. Georgina Vye, Mayor's Chaplain, Paul Russell, Locum Town Clerk and Mr James Corrigan (Consultant)

The Mayor informed Members that voting would be by a named vote.

CHAPLAIN'S 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'

The Chaplain reflected on the life of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and prayers were observed.

A two minute silence was held in remembrance of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

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

2020/289 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Orchard (work) and Mrs Young (work).

2020/290 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

2020/291 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Bulmer

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Bates

Unanimous

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 in the items listed under agenda item 2020/275, 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.

2020/292 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This item was deferred until the confidential items had been considered.

2020/293 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information it was **RESOLVED** under Item 2020/291 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.

Members were reminded that all the paper copies of the confidential reports sent out needed to be returned to the Locum Town Clerk for destruction once a final decision on the Organisational Transition Review and Staffing Structure Review had been completed.

- (a) **Organisational Transition Review Report** – Council received a presentation and a summary of this report from Mr Corrigan, which addressed the main issues outlined in the Terms of Reference. Following the presentation, a number of comments and questions were raised and dealt with.
- (b) **Staffing Structure Review Report** – Council received a presentation and a summary of this report from Mr Corrigan, which addressed the main issues outlined in the Terms of Reference. Following the presentation, a number of comments and questions were raised and dealt with.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Bates

For: Cllr Baker (Mayor), Cllr Kenton (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Mrs Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Carnell, Cllr Mrs Kenton, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Mrs O'Brien, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs. Wootton.

Against: Cllr Whittaker-Mather

RESOLVED

- To note the two reports presented;
- To set up a Task & Finish Group to move the two reports forward. There would be no number limit on Councillors wishing to sit on this Group to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to take part;
- That a Task & Finish Group meeting be held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 6pm facilitated by Mr Corrigan to amend and finalise the recommendations contained in the two reports;
- To submit the Task & Finish Group recommendations to a Full Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 for consideration and adoption.

Cllr Whittaker-Mather left the meeting at approximately 8:35pm

- (c) **Head of Paid Service Recruitment** – Council considered the proposal to commence the recruitment of a new Head of Paid Service.

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Morrison

RESOLVED to delegate the recruitment of the Head of Paid Service to the HR and Personnel Committee and that Mr Corrigan be involved in the recruitment process to advise and guide the Committee.

- (d) **Delegated Authority** – This item was superseded by a previous resolution.
- (e) **Delegated Authority** – This item was superseded by a previous resolution.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council agreed that the next Full Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7pm. This would consider the date of the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Council meeting.

Council also agreed to move the Policy & Resources Committee meeting to 7pm on Monday 26th April 2021 commencing at 7pm.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:45pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: