



## Chard Town Council

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

01460 239567 www.chard.gov.uk

Mayor: Cllr Garry Shortland Town Clerk: Gareth Hughes

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## All Council Meetings are open to the Public and Press

Date of Publication: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**TO:** Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Brown (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Crook, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Grief-Page, Cllr Hassan, Cllr Hussey, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Richter, Cllr Shortland (Mayor), Cllr Watson and Cllr Williams

You are hereby summoned to attend the Full Town Council Meeting of Chard Town Council that will be held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**, commencing at **19:00 hours** at The Town Hall, The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP. This meeting will be held in the Town Hall and it has a maximum capacity of 35 for members of the public attending.

Gareth Hughes Town Clerk

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Before the meeting there will be a public session to enable the people of Chard to ask questions of, and make comments to the Town Council in relation to the meeting agenda. Questions not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question, or may appear as an agenda item for the next meeting. Members of the Public are asked to restrict their comments, and/or questions to three minutes

### **19.00 Chaplain's 'Thought for the Day'**

#### **Public Participation Time**

Mayor's statement with regard to public participation – Please see attached document.

This section (at the Chairman's discretion may last up to 15 minutes) is not part of the formal meeting of the Council.

#### **Reports from County Councillors**

To receive Councillor reports.

#### **Police Report**

The police may attend, when available, to provide information on policing in Chard.



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**Verbal Update and presentation of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plate from Chard Helmstedt Society**

### AGENDA

#### **2023/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.

#### **2023/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

#### **2023/116 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

As certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council is, therefore, recommended to resolve "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 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".

#### **2023/117 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

To confirm the accuracy and sign the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (attached) and the Extraordinary Full Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (attached).

#### **2023/118 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) **Public Engagement Event** – an invitation to the public to:
- Provide an opportunity to give a better understanding of how a town Council works, (to include public participation).
  - Deliver an overview of Chard Town Council current projects,
  - Expressions of interest for involvement with the Chard Town Council next year 4-year strategy.



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**(b) Mayor invitations for upcoming events:**

- Chard Town Carnival 14<sup>th</sup> October
- Remembrance Day Parade and Service 12<sup>th</sup> November

**2023/119 TOWN CLERKS REPORT & UPDATES:**

- (a) Proposal to apply for the 35k SALC Health & Wellbeing Grant.** See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 & associated papers.
- (b) Unauthorised Encampment Policy** - See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 & associated papers
- (c) Out of Hours Call Out Policy for emergencies involving Council land / property** - See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 & associated papers
- (d) Watts Store Licence Agreement** - See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- (e) Cemetery works update** - See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- (f) Somerset Council – Planning Department – Crewkerne Rd** – See Town Clerks Report 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 & associated papers
- (g) Joint update from Somerset Council, Wessex Water and Somerset River Authority with regard to flood and water management in the Chard catchment**

**2023/120 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- (a)** To note the minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> July (see attached) and resolve to accept the Finance & Audit Committee's Guidance on Busking, agenda item 2023/36, namely:  
*Committee considered the Guidance on Busking and agreed that supporting busking/live music helps improve the street experience for the Town Centre and fits with the aims of Culturally Chard.*

**2023/121 INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Councillors are asked to consider the attached report compiled by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and supporting documentation and decide which option they wish to take as outlined in the RFO report.

**2023/122 COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT**

To note the External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23 - See attached.

**2023/123 FINANCE**



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To note the year to date Income and Expenditure Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

### **2023/124 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### **2023/125 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Full Chard Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP commencing at 7pm.

### **2023/126 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**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 these items (Item 2023/116 above refers)**

#### **(a) Cemetery valuation**

Councillors are asked to read and consider the report by the Town Clerk in relation to this item and agree a course of action.

#### **(b) Councillor request:** For a leave of absence beyond six-month period, for a further 6 months pursuant to Section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972