

The Charter Trustees for Taunton – Decisions taken by the Taunton Charter Trustees on Thursday, 2 July 2020

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A1	Apologies	Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Booth, Hazel Prior-Sankey and Danny Wedderkopp.																																																																	
A2	Declarations of Interest	<p>Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Minute No.</th> <th>Description of Interest</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Action Taken</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cllr L Baker</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>Cheddon Fitzpaine & SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr S Coles</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SCC & SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr C Ellis</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr D Fothergill</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SCC</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr G Fraschini</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SCC</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Marcia Hill</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr J Hunt</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SCC & SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr R Lees</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr S Lees</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr L Lisgo</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr M Peters</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SWT</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke and Voted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr M Rigby</td> <td>All Items</td> <td>SCC, SWT & Bishops Lydeard</td> <td>Personal</td> <td>Spoke</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken	Cllr L Baker	All Items	Cheddon Fitzpaine & SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr C Ellis	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr D Fothergill	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke	Cllr G Fraschini	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke	Cllr Marcia Hill	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr J Hunt	All Items	SCC & SWT	Personal	Spoke	Cllr R Lees	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr S Lees	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr M Peters	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted	Cllr M Rigby	All Items	SCC, SWT & Bishops Lydeard	Personal	Spoke
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A3	Public Participation	<p>Four members of the public submitted statements and questions which were read out on their behalf and will be included in full in the minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mr David Orr 2) Mr Chris Mann 3) Ms Catherine Herbert 4) Mr Roger House 																									
A4	Unitary Proposal and its proposed impact on the Unparished Area of Taunton	<p>Firstly, Councillor David Fothergill (Leader of Somerset County Council) attended and presented an update and overview of the One Somerset Programme.</p> <p>Councillor Mike Rigby (Executive member for Somerset West and Taunton Council) followed and provided an overview of the District Councils views.</p>																									
A5	Response to One Somerset Survey	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> that The Charter Trustees for Taunton at their meeting on 2nd July 2020 were to submit the following collectively agreed comments to the One Somerset Survey being conducted by Somerset County Council and sent to all Towns and Parish Councils;</p>																									

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now was the completely wrong time to initiate this discussion and to be looking at the issue of a complete re-organisation of public services in Somerset, due to the effects and upheaval of the current Coronavirus pandemic crisis being dealt with at the current time. The economic effects of the crisis are not yet fully known and this issue should only be looked at when this situation had further stabilised. • There were mixed views on the issue, but without sight of the Business Case, the Charter Trustees were not convinced of the evidence of benefit at this time. Without having had sight of the Business Case, the Charter Trustees have not been in full possession of the supporting evidence on which to comment, and were therefore not in a position to consult residents on an informed basis. • The consultation was felt to be flawed, with elected representatives being given no time or opportunity to talk formally with their unparished area local residents to seek their views and feed this into the process. The process so far seemed confused, apparently involving two stages (pre-and post- publication of the Business Case?) with different questions asked of parish and town councils from those asked of the public in this first round. • The Charter Trustees for Taunton were sent this survey 11 days after other towns and parishes were sent it, and the request for an extension to the 3rd July deadline was refused despite this oversight and this was disappointing.
A1		
A2		