

Taunton Charter Trustees - 19 July 2022

Present: Councillor Sue Lees (Chair)

Councillors Brenda Weston, Simon Coles, Tom Deakin, Marcia Hill, Libby Lisgo, Derek Perry, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Francesca Smith and Federica Smith-Roberts

Officers: Marcus Prouse, Jo Comer,

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm)

20. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Booth, Ellis, Peters, Baker, R Lees and D Wedderkopp.

21. Declarations of Interest

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:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Hill	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Prior-Sankey	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr B Weston	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted

22. Public Participation

No requests had been made to participate by the public.

23. **Petitions**

No petitions had been submitted for the Charter Trustees consideration.

24. **Motions to the Charter Trustees**

No motions had been submitted for the Charter Trustees consideration.

25. **Communications**

The Mayor provided an update on activities and events she had attended.

26. **To answer questions under Standing Order 8**

No Councillors present had requested to ask a question under Standing Order 8.

27. **Community Governance Review for Taunton - Stage 2 Consultation**

The Charter Trustees for Taunton had been notified by the District Council of the publication of the commencement of the second stage of consultation of the review. The Charter Trustees were able to submit a collective response or alternatively respond individually as Councillors.

At their meeting on 14th December 2021 the Charter Trustees had collectively agreed to respond to the Stage 1 Consultation as follows;

“We believe that a single Town Council should be set up to cover at least the whole of the currently unparished area of Taunton.”

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and asked questions which included:-

- Concerns were raised around the impact of a significant jump in the precept on residents.
- Discussion was held on the situation if there was divergent responses from across the locality.

RESOLVED that the Charter Trustees would re-state their response to the Stage 2 Consultation as had been submitted to the Stage 1 Consultation, namely that:

“We believe that a single Town Council for Taunton should be set up to cover whichever boundaries are established, taking into account the results of the consultation.”

28. **Annual Internal Audit Report 21/22**

The purpose of this item was to receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22.

RESOLVED to note the receipt of the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22.

29. **Assessment of Risk**

The Charter Trustees had resolved at their previous meeting;

- a) That a Draft Action Plan and Draft Risk Register is circulated to the Charter Trustees and then taken to a Special Meeting of the Charter Trustees in July 2022 to ensure compliance for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

The Charter Trustees were invited to consider and approve the attached register, assess the risk facing the authority and suggest any further steps necessary to manage such risks.

RESOLVED that the Charter Trustees:

1. Approved the Risk Register.
2. Assessed the risks facing the authority and suggested steps necessary to manage such risks.

30. **Appointment of Members of the Standing Cttee 22/23**

The clerk introduced this item which was to be decided on the appointment of Charter Trustees, from nominations received from each group, to serve on the Standing Committee for the year 2022/2023. The proposed 'Powers and Duties' of the Standing Committee were set out in an attached document. If the Committee allocated politically proportionally as per the Standing Orders there would be 6 Liberal Democrats and 1 Labour seat, though it was within the gift of the political groups as to whether they took up their full entitlement.

RESOLVED that the following Councillors were appointed to the Standing Committee of the Taunton Charter Trustees for 2022/2023;

- Cllr Simon Coles (Chair)
- Cllr Chris Booth
- Cllr Tom Deakin
- Cllr Sue Lees
- Cllr Martin Peters
- Cllr Derek Perry
- Cllr Libby Lisgo

31. **Past Mayor's Street Naming Convention**

The purpose of this item was a recent enquiry into the Civic Office that there had apparently been a very longstanding custom of naming a road after Taunton and Taunton Deane Mayors as they passed away.

SWT Council's street naming and numbering team had not recently received any applications to register development addresses that had the names of Taunton Deane Mayors who have passed away.

Name suggestions had mostly come from parishes but the team was always open to receiving street name suggestions for new developments with names of past Mayors who have passed away and would use them. Any request to name the street should be sent to the Council's Street Naming and Numbering Officer using the email addressmanagement@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

SWT Council's street naming and numbering guidance had been provided for more information on street and numbering.

This item was for discussion and for the Charter Trustees to note for future reference.

RESOLVED that the Charter Trustees discussed and noted the matter and requested officers to explore putting forward the following names for new roads coming forward:

- Cllr John Meikle - a major roadway to recognise the outstanding Contribution of John Meikle as Mayor and Freeman (with over 50 years service as a Councillor).
- Cllr Ted Softley - Ward Councillor for Castle and Wilton which would have been in the Unparished Area, which is currently represented by the Taunton Charter Trustees and would have perhaps looked similar to the old Manor and Wilton Ward (Killams Development).
- Cllr Jean Hole - As a Councillor who used to reside in Trull Parish it was suggested that a road on the Orchard Grove Development may be an appropriate suggestion.

32. **Any items which the Mayor consider to be urgent business**

No urgent business was required.

(The Meeting ended at 7.00 pm)