

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Held on 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

PRESENT Councillors

C R Anstice
N Bayley
R Boston
E Clarke
G R Edwards
D Murphy
D A Parker
Mrs J Whitehurst

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr G Baxendale, Mrs L Bossons, Mrs S A Holland and D Martin.

2. MINUTES

FAP/16/1011 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th June, 2010 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare both "personal" and "Personal and prejudicial" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillor E Clarke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6 ii and 12.

Councillor D Murphy declared a personal interest in item 6 iii, xi, xiv, 12 and 20.

Councillor D Parker declared a personal interest in item 6 v, vii and 12.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There were no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS & COMMITMENTS 2010/11

A summary of grant approvals and commitments for 2010/11 was considered by the committee and it was noted that £20, 343 had been approved to date under S137.

FAP/17/1011 RESOLVED: That the statement showing the current position be noted.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/18/1011 RESOLVED: That the following actions be approved.

- i) **Friends for Leisure:** That a grant of £706 be approved.
- ii) **Support for 1st Mercian Regiment Parade:** That a grant of £500 be approved.
- iii) **Congleton Now:** That a grant of £387.91 be approved.

- iv) **Garden Festival:** That a grant of £1500 be approved.
- v) **New Life Church – Drop in room:** That a grant of £500 be approved.
- vi) **Macclesfield & Congleton District Scout Fellowship:** That a grant of £85 be approved.
- vii) **Congleton Lions Club:** That a request for a grant be deferred to the next meeting and more information sought.
- viii) **Daneside Theatre Trust:** That a grant of £250 be approved.
- ix) **Congleton Amateur Operatic Society:** That the Congleton Amateur Operatic Society be requested to submit accounts for the function and if losses occur the Council will fund such losses up to a maximum of £500.
- x) **Cheshire Police Youth Fishing:** That a grant of £600 be approved.
- xi) **Congleton Pentecostal Holiday Club:** That a grant of £250 be approved.
- xii) **Congleton ‘Retail Revolution’:** That the grant request be referred to the Regeneration Fund.
- xiii) **Congleton KISS Group for Careers Fayre:** That a grant of £700 be approved.

That the Clerk be requested to produce a new set of guidelines for applications for financial assistance to be presented to the next meeting of F & P.

7. LETTERS OF THANKS

It was noted that letters of thanks for grant support were received from Dane Valley Scouts and Astbury Mere Trust.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

FAP/19/1011 RESOLVED: That the recommendation from the Community and Environment Committee be approved.

- i. To authorise the contributions from the Regeneration Fund to the following projects detailed below:-
 - a. To allocate £1000 to the Gateway service of the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce’s Enterprise Centre.
 - b. To allocate £2000 to continue the training scheme for those out of work through Chamber Learning.
 - c. To allocate the £2000 in the EMR for start up counselling or mentoring of SMEs within their first 3 years.
 - d. To allocate £2500 to Radnor Park improvements.
 - e. To allocate £5000 to the Business Expo.
 - f. To authorise the £3000 in the budget to be used to continue the support the training of the Town’s workforce and to extend the initiative to include the industrial and service sectors.
- ii. To authorise a contribution of £5000 towards the cost of the Public Realm Strategy from the Council’s Regeneration Budget.

9. ANNUAL AUDIT

The External Auditor's Report and Certificate was presented to the Committee and it was noted that the Council had once again received a clear report.

FAP/20/1011 RESOLVED: That the Audit Report be received.

10. ACOUSTIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN HALL

Acoustic improvements are required in the Bridestones Suite and the Grand Hall which were expected to cost about £K17. It was noted that CEBC had provided a grant of £K5 towards the cost of the improvements.

FAP/21/1011 RESOLVED: That the balance of the cost of the funding to be provided from the councils Capital Contingency Fund.

11. CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A report on the requirement for Christmas illuminations in the Town Centre was considered.

FAP/22/1011 RESOLVED: That £9000 be approved to use as funds for 2010 Christmas Illuminations.

12. ROTARY CLUB BONFIRE EVENT

The Council considered a request to underwrite any losses incurred as a consequence of the Rotary Club organising the Bonfire Event for 2010.

FAP/23/1011 RESOLVED: That a maximum of £5000 be earmarked to underwrite any potential losses incurred by the organisers of the event.

13. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL 2010

The Town Clerk presented the Management Accounts Report for July 2010.

FAP/24/1011 RESOLVED: That the Management Accounts Report be received.

14. MERCIAN REGIMENT

It was noted that there will be a parade of the Mercian Regiment taking place in the Town on 10th November 2010 organised by the Town Council and CEBC.

The Town Council in conjunction with the Congleton Welfare Group is also hosting an evening event for soldiers of the regiment.

FAP/25/1011 RESOLVED: That a budget of £5000 be provided to cover the cost of hosting the evening event for the Mercian Regiment.

15. INTEGRATED QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

It was noted that the Town Council has been successfully accredited under the newly launched quality system by East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

FAP/26/1011 RESOLVED: That the accreditation of the Chamber Assure Management System be received.

16. BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING REPORT

The six monthly up date on progress being made on the Business Plan for 2010-11 was considered by the committee.

FAP/27/1011 RESOLVED: That the report be received.

17. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

A report on the finances available to fund the Public Realm Strategy was provided and it was noted that there is a shortfall in funding of about £K3 from a total project cost of £K17.

FAP/28/1011 RESOLVED: That the funding shortfall will be funded by the Town Council.

18. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

FAP/29/1011 RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, public and press be excluded from the meeting for the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

19. MINUTES OF STRATEGY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

FAP/30/1011 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 29th July and 12th August 2010 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

20. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community Projects provided a summary of the activities that have been organised by the team so far in 2010 and outlined what events they plan to hold in 2011/12. Community Projects also presented a request for funding for the next financial year 2011/12.

FAP/31/1011 RESOLVED: That the report be received and it was noted that the request for funding has been included in the budget for 2011/12.

21. BUDGET 2011-12

The budget for Finance and Policy was presented and it was noted that no changes had been made as yet to the document presented to the Strategy Working Group.

FAP/32/1011 RESOLVED: That the budget submission be received.

22. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

N J BAYLEY
CHAIRMAN