

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
8th December, 2011 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors D S Martin (Town Mayor)
Mrs D S Allen
G Baxendale
R I Brightwell
D T Brown
J S Crowther
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs S A Holland
M J Hutton
Mrs A M Martin
D A Parker
Mrs J D Parry
N T Price
Mrs E Wardlaw
G S Williams

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: L D Barker, M Carey, D Fletcher, Miss R K Williams and Father Kilkenny.

2. MINUTES

CTC/43/1112 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November, 2011, be approved and signed by the Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded to declare both “personal” and “personal and prejudicial” Interests as early in the meeting as they become aware of it.

Councillor D. Brown and G Baxendale declared a personal interest in any items related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that he and the Deputy Mayor had fulfilled since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor also thanked the Mayoress and Deputy Mayor for fulfilling a number of engagements on his behalf.

5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received from members of the public.

7. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Baxendale reported that connexions will no longer provide Youth Services from 1st April 2012. But, Cheshire East will take over this responsibility, but, want to consult with the Youth first to identify their needs.

Councillor Brown pointed out that 3 Neighbourhood Planning Workshops had been held in the Town Hall hosted by Cheshire East and the conclusions and recommendations from the workshops will be put before the Town Council for consideration and approval on the 12th January, 2012.

Councillor Baxendale pointed out that Visyon will be looking for volunteers to cook the meals for the Luncheon Club from April 2012.

8. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CTC/44/1112 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

CTC/45/1112 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted..

CTC/46/1112 RESOLVED- That the Public Realm Strategy be further considered at a Strategy Working Group meeting then put to full Council for approval.

10. PLANNING COMMITTEE

CTC/47/1112 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November and 1st December, 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

CTC/48/1112 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November, 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

12. FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

CTC/49/1112 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December, 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

13. ACCOUNTS

CTC/50/1112 RESOLVED-

- (a) That the Council approve the payment of the accounts listed.
- (b) That the Council approve payment of any expenditure agreed at the meeting.

14. URGENT ITEMS

It was reported that the Mercian Regiment is due to deploy in Afghanistan in 2012 and it was felt appropriate to invite them to parade and march through the Town prior to them leaving the country.

CTC/51/1112 RECOMMENDED:- That the Clerk write to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment inviting the Mercian's to march through the Town prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.

15. YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL

CTC/52/1112 RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on the 8th November, 2011 be received.

16. LOCALISM ACT

A policy briefing paper on the Localism Act provided by NALC was considered by the Council.

CTC/53/1112 RESOLVED – To receive the briefing paper on the Localism Act.

17. TECHNICAL REFORMS OF THE COUNCIL TAX

A policy consultation report produced by NALC on the Technical Reforms to the Council Tax was considered by the council.

CTC/54/1112 RESOLVED- That the report be received and proposed changes to the Council Tax noted particularly the removal of exemptions to classes A, C and L in reference to dwellings.

18. OFFICIAL TOWN SLOGAN

A proposal by Councillor Barker to adopt the phrase 'The little Town with a big heart' as the official town slogan was considered. However, it was pointed out that 'Beartown' where friends are made has already been adopted and trademarked.

CTC/55/1112 RESOLVED- That the matter of official town slogan to be considered by a Strategy Working Group meeting.

19. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Town Clerk presented the proposed change to the wording of the constitution to accommodate a decision previously taken by the council to co-opt non members of the Finance and Policy Committee onto a particular meeting to make its quorate if insufficient members were in attendance.

CTC/56/1112 RESOLVED – That the changes to the constitution be approved.

20. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2012-13

The Town Clerk presented the budget report and budget proposals for 2012-13.

CTC/57/1112 RESOLVED That:-

1. That the revenue and capital budget for 2012-13 be approved.
2. That a precept level of £681,629 be approved which represents an increase in a Band D property of 7.2p per week.

21. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS (IF NECESSARY)

There was no resolution to exclude the press and public.

D S MARTIN
MAYOR