

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22nd September 2022

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 22nd September 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)

Cllr Dawn Allen

Cllr Robert Hemsley

Cllr Sally Ann Holland

Cllr Amanda Martin

Cllr Denis Murphy

Cllr Jean Parry

Ex Officio Members: Cllr Margaret Gartside (Mayor) and Cllr Rob Moreton (Deputy Mayor)

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford - Chief Officer
- Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer
- One member of the public
- One member of the press

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Member: Cllr Suzy Firkin

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/25/2223 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 28th July 2022 as a correct record](#).

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Rob Moreton, Sally Ann Holland and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters relating to Cheshire East Council. Councillors Kay Wesley and Margaret Gartside declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 16 and 17 as Host families of Ukrainians.

4. Outstanding Actions

See Agenda item 8 for any outstanding actions for the Community and Environment Committee.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

[Questions were raised by Lisa Miller and Olga Whitmore](#), neither attended the meeting.

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

7. Cheshire Police

Sgt John Roberts from Cheshire Police gave a verbal update on Policing matters affecting Congleton, please see Appendix 1. Questions were raised about inconsiderate parking at schools and cyclists in the pedestrian area.

8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

CE/26/2223 Resolved to receive the updates into items on the Skate Park, Food and Friendship in the Town Hall, Congleton in Bloom, Moody Hall and 750 actions from the Community and Environment Committee held on 28th July 2022.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/27/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 8th September 2022](#)

10. Community Safety Charter Pledge

CE/28/2223 Resolved to agree with the recommendation from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group for Congleton Town Council to take a pledge and pledge to support the Community Safety Charter. Actions from the pledge will be led by the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group. The pledge is to:

1. promote a culture that does not tolerate anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others.
2. enable others to identify and take an active stance against anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility.
3. actively encourage and support those who experience or witness anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility to report it to the relevant authorities.
4. support those affected by anti-social behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them.

ACTION: To make contact with all the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators for Congleton.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

The committee received a verbal update from the Congleton in Bloom Working Group on this year's National competition and learnt that the results of both the regional and national competition would be announced in October. There will be a thank you event for volunteers in November.

12. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/29/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 4th August 2022](#). The Chair mentioned the Town Hall decarbonisation plan, Biodiversity plans for 30 sites, issues with fast fashion and the Green Fayre.

13. Congleton Green Fayre and Big Green Week Activities

CE/30/2223 Resolved to receive the report from the Congleton Partnership Officer about the Green Fayre and activities planned for the Big Green Week 2022, and supported the Green Fayre becoming an annual calendar event with an appropriate green activities budget recommended for 2022/23.

14. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/31/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 4th August and 1st September 2022](#).

15. Cost of Living Crisis

CE/32/2223 Resolved to note the results of the Congleton Cost of Living Crisis Impact Survey. Recognised that the Town Council had a role to play to support residents, as we did during COVID.

ACTION: Officers and Councillors to continue networking. Develop a plan which can be taken to the Finance and Policy Committee if finance is required.

16. Support for Ukrainian Hosts in Congleton

CE/33/2223 Resolved to delegate responsibility to officers to work with the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN) to arrange an evening in the Town Hall for Ukrainian Hosts to meet, receive some training and support. Maximum budget £800.
4 in favour, 3 abstained, 1 against.

17. Support for Ukrainian Christmas Event in Congleton

CE/34/2223 Resolved to delegate powers to officers to work with the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN) and members of the Ukrainian voice to enable the 154 Ukrainians in the Congleton Area to come together and celebrate their Christmas in early January in the Town Hall. Note days incorrect in the report – should be Thursday 5th or Friday 6th January. 6 in favour, 2 abstained.

18. Christmas in Congleton 2022

CE/35/2223 Resolved to receive a report from the Town Centre and Events Officer on the activities planned for Christmas 2022

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

Sgt John Roberts

Total number of crimes reported from June to August 2022 increased slightly from the same period last year. The number rose from 1189 to 1272

Anti-Social Behaviour was down from 94 incidents in June – August 2021 to 83 in the same time period for 2022. The sergeant urged Councillors to encourage people to keep reporting as even if the calls are logged as a Grade 4 (not actioned) it helps to build the picture.

Domestic Violence - number of crimes reported has decreased from 133 to 117, whilst arrests have increased from 16 to 37.

There were 100 stop and searches in Congleton from June to August resulting in 42 arrests.

Questions were asked about parking at schools, parking in the bus station, cycling in the pedestrian area.