

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
21st January 2016 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D Allen
L D Barker
R Boston
C Booth
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs A E Morrison
Mrs J D Parry
H Richards
Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)
G S Williams

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence. (Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non-attendance).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A L Armitt, J G Baggott, P Bates, D T Brown, and Mrs S A Holland.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/52/1516 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2015 be approved and signed by the Mayor which included an amendment to item 21.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Members are requested to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become aware of it.

Cllrs G P Hayes, Mrs E Wardlaw and G S Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

i.) **Question from M Holland**

How will the Council ensure that they meet their duty to pedestrians, including visually impaired pedestrians, both in the consultation process and the considerations for the new Public Realm Strategy design?

Response by the Town Mayor Cllr Mrs E Wardlaw

To answer the question on the Public Realm Strategy in regard to duty of care for pedestrians, including visually impaired pedestrians, the scheme will be subject to independent Safety Audit checking at a number of stages in the design and implementation process. The concept, which will inform the final design, includes using high colour contrast kerbing materials, kerbing where essential, and the retention of the pedestrian crossing on Market Street.

CEC are working closely with the Public Realm Sub Committee of Congleton Town Council and we will also consult with Guide Dogs for the Blind and a local disability group in the consultation phase of the scheme. There will also be a Public Consultation phase for the scheme where residents, businesses and visitors in Congleton will be able to give their feedback.

Feedback from the consultation phase and safety auditing informs and shapes the scheme ahead of detailed design and construction.

I hope this response answers the questions adequately at this stage, but please be aware that the Town Council is not project managing this scheme, nor are we experts in the needs of the visually impaired, this role is being undertaken by the Highways Authority which is Cheshire East Council.

Marilyn Holland enquired whether the pedestrian crossing would be maintained in Market Street and commented that visually impaired can't get about without having kerbs as a reference point.

ii.) **Question from Bill Keeling**

What action is being taken against Councillor P Broom for the comments he made at the Personnel Committee meeting in October 2015 against Councillor Mrs D S Allen?

Response by the Town Mayor Cllr Mrs E Wardlaw

Thank you for the question, the matter you have raised is being dealt with through the Councils' Complaints Procedure, its finding will be forwarded to the relevant individuals and will be subject to the Data Protection Act of 1998.

Mr Keeling apologised to the Town Council for his outburst at the Council meeting held on 3rd December 2015. He added that he knows that Councillors work hard for the residents of Congleton and welcomes the new Chief Officer.

6. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

7. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/53/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 19th November 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/54/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **TOWN HALL COMMITTEE**

CTC/55/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent matters raised.

11. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillor G P Hayes commented that he welcomed the imminent election of the new leader of Cheshire East Council, Cllr Rachel Bailey and looks forward to the conclusion of the budget for 2016-17 and the start of the work to refurbish the Leisure Centre.

12. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

CTC/56/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 21st December 2015 and the meeting with Fiona Bruce MP, also held on 21st December 2015 be received.

The Youth Committee made a presentation to Joseph Hearson and agreed to make him a Youth Committee Burgess.

13. **DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

The Council considered a request to amend all documents and procedures held by the Council as a consequence of the change in job function from Town Clerk to Chief Officer.

CTC/57/1516 RESOLVED that on the next revision of any Town Council policies and procedures, the title of Town Clerk will be replaced by the title Chief Officer. Operationally the roles and responsibilities will remain unchanged.

14. **MAYOR'S BALL**

The notion of who should receive complimentary tickets for the Mayor's Ball was considered.

CTC/58/1516 RESOLVED that members of the Youth Council will receive complimentary tickets for the Mayor's Ball, all other dignitaries and guests will be expected to pay full price.

15. **HONORARY BURGESS**

The Town Mayor presented Mr Denis Murphy with a certificate confirming his election as an Honorary Burgess.

Mrs E Wardlaw
TOWN MAYOR