

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors

Mrs D S Allen
Mrs S Akers Smith (Deputy Town Mayor)
Mrs A L Armitt
P Bates
C H Booth (Town Mayor and Vice Chair)
R Boston
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs S A Holland (Chairman)
Mrs A Martin
Mrs J D Parry
G S Williams

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from non-Committee member Cllr D T Brown.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

CES/18/1718 Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

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

Cllrs G S Williams, P Bates and GP Hayes all declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council and agenda item 9 and Cllr P Bates to agenda item 12.

4. **Outstanding Actions**

There were no outstanding actions.

5. **Cheshire Police**

To receive and consider a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police.

Report attached below

6. Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14

The report advising the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan to Regulation 14 was noted by the committee.

7. 700th year of Mayoralty, Go Congleton , Closed Cycling and Triathlon events

To receive a verbal update on the feasibility of the following projects:-

- **700th Year of Mayoralty** - The working group had met to discuss the feasibility of this project and are looking to progress with its development through a range of several initiatives including challenges around 700, a display in the Town Hall, and linking the 700 years to other projects and initiatives.
- **Go Congleton** – Whilst this project working group has not met due to the current commitments of the proposer it is being investigated to see if it could be integrated into the Closed Cycling and Triathlon Event.
- **Closed Cycling and Triathlon Event** –
An initial meeting has taken place and it is envisaged that the event would take place during April 2017. It will be a similar but larger event than the inaugural event in 2016. The key component being investigated is the road closure element of the project, it is thought the cost of this would be covered by entry fees.

CES/19/1718 Resolved to receive the verbal update on the above events.

8. Public Realm Update

To receive an update /presentation from Cheshire East Council (CEC) on the Progress of the Public Realm Scheme.

CES/20/1718 Resolved to receive the verbal update outlining the progress being made with major concerns being raised about the lack of information being communicated with regards to the full programme of the scheme. Recognition was given to the fact that weekly updates were being provided.

9. Consultation feedback on proposed car parking charges

To review and comment on proposals from Cheshire East Council to increase car parking charges.

Councillors were advised that Cheshire East Council had decided to defer the planned debate on this matter at Cabinet.

CES/21/1718 Resolved that Congleton Town Council communicate the following:

- An overall objection to Cheshire East Council for any proposed increases in car parking charges.
- Due to the impact the gas works and public realm works is having on town centre trading that a 2 hour free parking period is introduced in the run up to Christmas.

10. Christmas lights switch on event

To receive a progress report from the Town Centre and Marketing Manager on the Christmas lights switch on event.

CES/22/1718 Resolved to note the progress report provided by the Town Centre and Marketing Manager.

11. Defibrillators

To receive a proposal from the Town Centre and Marketing Manager for a review of the provision, condition and accessibility of defibrillators in the town centre.

CES/23/1718 Resolved to approve the following:

1. That as an urgent action Congleton Town Council should work with North West Ambulance Service to obtain an up to date list of all current working defibrillators.
2. An on-going programme created to alert owners of defibrillators not managed through the North West Ambulance Service of when batteries and pads need replacing.
3. A mapping exercise carried out to identify if there are areas of Congleton without a working defibrillator and then seek solutions.
4. Seek external resource to support the programme.
5. Establish a training and education programme.
6. A demonstration is arranged for all councillors.

12. Treo Statue

To receive an update from the Town Centre and Marketing Manager with regards to the planned installation of the Treo memorial in the Community Gardens.

CES/24/1718 Resolved to note the report.

**Cllr Mrs S A Holland
(Chairman)**

Cheshire Police Report

Four charged for drug supply offences in Congleton

Four people have been charged with drug offences following an investigation into the supply of Class A drugs in Congleton.

On the evening of 21 September officers arrested three men and a woman in Merseyside in possession of Class A drugs, and a quantity of cash. Later that evening they carried out warrants at addresses in the Congleton and Merseyside areas - and recovered Class A drugs and ammunition.

All four were subsequently charged with Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs.

- Ben Forster, 30, of St Johns Road, Congleton, was charged with Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs.
- Stephen Growcott, 37, of Woburn Drive, Congleton, was charged with Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs.
- Joseph Cooper, 25, of Hicks Road, Liverpool, was charged with Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs and Possession of Class B drug.
- Jessika Cuffe, 24, of Sefton Road, Liverpool, was charged with Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs.

All appeared before North Cheshire Magistrates on 23 September. Forster, Growcott and Cooper were all remanded into custody and Cuffe was released on bail.

The case has been sent to Chester Crown Court for trial on 23 October 2017.

Theft

There has been an increase in the theft of tools from garages in Congleton, it is thought that Congleton was targeted by organized crime groups from outside of the area.