

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th April 2017 at
Town Hall Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors

D T Brown (Town Mayor)
Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D S Allen
Mrs A L Armitt
P Bates
R Boston
C H Booth (Deputy Town Mayor)
G Hayes
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A Martin
Mrs A E Morrison
Mrs J D Parry
G S Williams

1. APOLOGIES

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Adams, J G Baggott, L D Barker, P Broom, G R Edwards H Richards and Mrs E Wardlaw.

2. MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd March 2017.

CTC/58/1617 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2017 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSIBLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

Cllrs D T Brown P Bates G Hayes and GS Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Sound System Update

THC/21/1617 Resolved to receive a proposal from the Chief Officer within this agenda – item 16

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

6 **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

7. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/59/1617 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th February and 9th March 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/60/1617 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

CTC/61/1617 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2017 should note the attendance of R Boston and be received with the recommendations therein being adopted.

10. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

CTC/62/1617 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

12. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (attached)**

Cheshire East Council reports were received from:

Cllr P Bates
Cllr G P Hayes

13. YOUTH COMMITTEE

To deal with Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the Youth Committee.

14. PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

To receive the proposed calendar of Committee meeting dates for 2017/18.

CTC/63/1617 RESOLVED to receive the proposed calendar of Committee meeting dates for 2017/18.

15. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE QUORUM

To receive the proposal from the Chief Officer.

CTC/64/1617 RESOLVED to change the committee quorum from 3 to 4 for Committees of 10

16. WIRELESS CONFERENCE/SOUND SYSTEM

To receive a proposal from the Chief Officer for a replacement conference/sound system.

CTC/65/1617 Resolved to approve expenditure of £15,193 + Vat for the supply of a Bosch Decentis from Pure AV based in Preston subject to the Chief Officer investigating the costs from an alternative supplier (Commercial Audio Solutions New Mills). Should this supplier be able to supply the same system at a lower price and meet other eligible criteria the Chief Officer may place the order with this company

17. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

To receive the Internal Audit Report for 15th March 2017 and consider the recommendations therein.

CTC/66/1617 Resolved to receive the Internal Audit Report for 15th March 2017 and consider the recommendations therein.

**D T Brown
(Town Mayor)**

Cheshire East Councillor Reports

Cllr G P Hayes - Welcomed Department for Education Funding for additional special school provision in Cheshire East to enable more children with additional needs to be educated within the Borough

Also welcomed Department for Education additional funding for nurseries including one located in Congleton East which has gained over £250k to ensure sufficient places for 2 and 3 year old children to access nursery and pre-school provision.

Cllr P Bates - 'There are NO RUBBISH excuses' was officially launched in Crewe this week as part of the council's efforts to tackle fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.

The campaign sends a firm message to those who commit environmental crimes that the council is stepping up its fight against them.

It also encourages more people to come forward with information about fly-tippers and to report incidents through the council's official channels, as well as supporting and educating residents in how to dispose of waste responsibly.

"Fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling is disgusting and a crime and will not be tolerated in Crewe or anywhere else in Cheshire East.

"It is everyone's responsibility to dispose of waste correctly and we are grateful to the vast majority of our residents, and to the various community groups, who do play their part in helping to keep the borough clean and tidy.

"We want to engage with residents to identify their issues around waste disposal and educate and support them in implementing solutions.

"However, we are an enforcing council and clear in our position that we will take action against those who continue to drop litter, dump rubbish and fail to pick up after their dogs. There are no excuses for their behaviour."

Playing pitch strategy was approved at full cabinet on Tuesday giving Cheshire East its starting point to achieving a workable future proofed strategy it is a comprehensive 461 page document covering most if not all sports.

Connecting Communities 2nd phase was launched with its Community Volunteers and Faith document and was well received and passed by cabinet.

The next phase of our Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation program was implemented and we now have 5 families in Cheshire East fully housed and in the process of integration and 20 unaccompanied children.

The process for public space protection orders was changed. PSPOs as they are known are powers that have been delegated to the portfolio holder and head of service and can be used in conjunction with the police to protect certain areas of towns and villages across the CHESHIRE east footprint.

We held the great British spring clean with volunteers cleaning around Congleton and other towns in the borough.

Negotiations have been completed with the PCC and new powers for the PCSOs have been agreed and The Chief Officer will communicate those at a separate meeting.

As part of connecting communities we have launched www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk Scamming nationally is on the rise with more and more people falling victim to the unscrupulous criminals who commit these crimes. Although it's often targeted at people who are in the most vulnerable circumstances, anyone can become a victim of a scam and it affects the lives of millions of people across the UK.

Cheshire East is no different, the Community Protection Trading Standards team are working with scam victims across the Borough. It is understood that only 5% of scams are reported, this is for various reasons. The team are already aware of 550 potential vulnerable scam victims in Cheshire East, a number which is growing all the time. With the people we have spoken to, the average financial detriment is approximately £2,600, higher than the national average. The financial impact is only the start of the problem and with the average age of the scam victims we have met being 84, the mental, physical and health impact are further major concerns.

With Cheshire East's ageing population being above the national average also, this is a strategic threat we must meet.

Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming those victims. It aims to inspire action and highlight the scale of the problem by raising awareness at local, regional and national level through the Friends Against Scams campaign which is rolling out across the country.

Today as a further demonstration of connecting communities we launched the substance misuse service.

Cheshire Wirral Partnership (lead provider of the specialist SMS) who subcontract to Acorn Recovery and Intuitive Thinking Skills who deliver wider peer support, mutual aid and training.

There are some really positive outcomes currently delivered by Acorn Recovery in terms of Peer Mentor Training.

It outlines how to:-

- engage with communities to gather insight on the future of Cheshire East Substance Misuse Services
- Connect our Substance Misuse Service with our neighbourhoods and communities.
- Build on our local assets to develop our local recovery communities, and to build 'visible recovery' in our communities.
- Increase the knowledge of Service Users and people in recovery of what assets, activities and opportunities are available to them in their communities.
- Identify volunteering opportunities for people in recovery.