

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Town Hall Congleton.

**PRESENT:** Councillors:

Mrs S Akers Smith  
Mrs D S Allen  
Mrs A L Armitt  
J G Baggott  
L D Barker  
P Bates  
R Boston  
C H Booth (Deputy Town Mayor)  
P Broom  
G R Edwards  
G P Hayes  
Mrs A M 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 D T Brown, Mrs S A Holland and Mrs E Wardlaw.

## 2. **MINUTES**

To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

**CTC/42/1617 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 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 J G Baggott, P Bates, G P Hayes, and GS Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

There were no outstanding actions.

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/43/1617 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/44/1617 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**CTC/45/1617 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

11 **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cheshire East Council reports were received from Cllrs P Bates, G Baggott, G Hayes G Williams – full details in appendix 1.

12. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

- a) **CTC/46/1617 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be received.
- b) To approve amendments to the Youth Committee Constitution.
- c) To deal with Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the Youth Committee.

**13. HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE PROVISION-CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

To agree on the Council's response to the Household Waste Recycling Provision.

**CTC/47/1617 RESOLVED** to respond to the Household Waste Recycling as below

1. **Proposed closure of Arclid site** - Strongly support
2. **why do you not support the closure of Arclid** - No comments as we support closure
3. **Proposed charging for disposal of rubble** – Strongly object
4. **Why do you not support the proposed charging of rubble** - Increase in fly tipping, excessive charges, concerns about costs in collection of payments
5. **Reduced opening hours** – Strongly object
6. **Why do you not support the reduction in the proposed hours** - closure too early in summer, needs to be later in winter – may lead to more fly tipping
7. **How strongly do you support or object to opening sites to trade waste** Strongly support
8. **Why do you not support 7** No comments as we support
9. **Any groups or sectors you feel will be affected by being charged for the disposal of rubble (4)** No comments as we disagree on charging
10. **Is there anything else you would like to add on this consultation** Would like to commend, encourage and support the recycling programme. Suggest current performance of CEC and Congleton recycling is promoted more which will hopefully provide positive message on what is being achieved through residents and council efforts

**14. COMPLAINT RAISED AGAINST COUNCILLOR LARRY BARKER CEC/15-16/M031**

To receive the findings of the Cheshire East Council Monitoring Officer regarding the complaint against Councillor Larry D Barker.

**CTC/48/1617 RESOLVED** to receive the findings of the Cheshire East Council Monitoring Officer and the written apology to the council and the residents of Congleton from Councillor Barker

**C H Booth  
(Deputy Town Mayor)**

## Appendix 1

### Cheshire East Councillors Reports

#### **CEC Cllr J G Baggott**

- Ansa Environmental Services Ltd has saved the council £3M gross since its formation in 2014 while continuing to maintain the high standards of service agreed in the contract. A report commissioned prior to Ansa's set up suggested that this was the most an external company could have saved and the time period for doing so would have been much longer.
- Further savings are targeted over the budget period. Many of these are linked to the creation of a new depot which is due to be completed in the next financial year.
- This year turnover is expected to reach £33M which includes £5M of external work.
- Prior to the formation of Ansa, Cheshire East Council agreed with Congleton Town Council that it would devolve some of the services – together with the budget – to the Town Council to manage. This includes the majority of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing in the area. This has meant that the majority of funding for these services sits with the Town Council and Ansa's role in the town is smaller.
- We have established very strong relationships with the Town Council and mutually support each other and have developed a very different relationship to what the town had with CEC previously. An example would be when we helped out with a last minute problem with Christmas Trees on buildings before Christmas. Another example would be that Ansa's employee recognition event is being held at Congleton Town Hall.
- Ansa continues to offer the following services to the Town and surrounding area:
  - Waste collection and disposal
  - Parks management
  - Support with events
  - Play area inspection
  - Play area installation (expansion to Congleton Park play area extension 2014)
  - Project delivery (Antrobus Gardens 2015)
  - Planning responses in relation to Green Spaces (S106 agreements)
  - Specialists arboricultural work (Tree cutting)
  - Large scale grounds maintenance activities i.e. tractor operations
  - Parks Management function including green flag including MMP, friends liaison and event coordination
  - In addition to Antrobus Street and Congleton park there are two other projects Improvements and installation of additional play equipment at St. Johns play area in the Buglawton area, Refurbishment of Quinta Park

## **CEC Councillor G P Hayes**

I would urge colleagues to follow the lead of our constituency MP Fiona Bruce in actively being a part of the National Government consultation on fairer funding for schools, which in its current form doesn't support schools across Cheshire East as they deserve, despite the mass of good and outstanding education provision across our Borough. Cheshire East Council are indeed already taking a proactive role and have already met with a relevant minister in Parliament to discuss our concerns.

Furthermore, I was delighted to attend a breakfast meeting on Monday at Siemens in Congleton which saw the launch of the Manufacturing Support Programme. The event proved a valuable showcase to manufacturing successes at Siemens as well as other businesses in the local area. I hope that businesses will take advantage of the in kind and financial grant support on offer through this programme.

The Skills and Growth Company which I am honoured to lead in my role as Chairman has secured £900k funding towards improving careers information, advice and guidance across the Borough to ensure that our well qualified young people can continue into employment helping our economy to thrive.

Finally, I was proud to attend another of our major employers, Airbags International, alongside their senior colleagues and directors from across Europe in support of the opening of a significant extension to their existing site which helps to secure their continued future and success in the town and has been part funded by European Regional Development Funds thanks to the support of Cheshire East Council and the Skills and Growth Company

## **CEC Councillor P Bates** reported

- Over 2000 Fixed Penalty notices had been issued for fly tipping and dog fouling
- CEC to receive its first refugees at the end of January
- Sgt K Graham will be replacing Ross Hamilton for Congleton
- CEC Participatory budget event to take place at the Town Hall 25<sup>th</sup> January to award £20,000 of Health Money
- New signage in the park requesting residents to keep their dogs on a lead
- CEC have allocated circa £29,000 towards a cycling infrastructure project for Congleton

## **CEC Councillor G Williams** reported

### **Gritting Update**

I would like to advise that our gritting teams have been out during the last four weeks doing a sterling job to keep our roads safe. I am sure you will appreciate the difficult job they undertake and would like to thank them for their commitment.

## **Congleton Link Road Progress**

The Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order were made by Cheshire East Council on 14 October 2016.

Exhibitions displaying the published material were held at Black Firs Primary School on the evening of Friday 11 and the morning of Saturday 12 November. Approximately 160 people attended these.

A minor non-material amendment was made to address an error in the planning application decision notice. The amendment was approved on 25 October 2016.

We have continued to meet with landowners; in some cases this has included discussions on minor changes to the design and whether the Council could obtain land by agreement.

Work has continued on developing the business case for the scheme for which we have been in regular contact with the Department for Transport which is the main funder of the scheme.

Jacobs is continuing with economic assessments of the link road. This will take account of the new anticipated year of opening (2020).

On 7 November 2016, the Council's Cabinet approved the procurement strategy for appointing a contractor to build the road. This will be a Design and Build contract with tenders being invited in Spring 2017.

We have continued to look at initial proposals for traffic calming measures for Padgbury Lane and on the A536 in Eaton, these are conditioned to be delivered prior to the opening of the road. Public Consultation on potential measures will be undertaken in early 2018.

Work is continuing on the traffic and economic assessments and the preparation of the business case.

We will continue to meet landowners who are affected by the link road with a view to addressing their concerns and reaching agreement for purchasing land by agreement.

We do not expect to reach agreement with all landowners, so we will plan for a Public Inquiry which we anticipate will take place in June 2017.

## **Led Street Lighting Progress**

Further installations of LED lighting in Congleton started in October.

This has involved 1894 lights and the replacement of 332 columns over 360 streets in the town.

There are a further 23 columns and lanterns to do and the programme should be completed by the end of February.

## **School 20mph Zones**

A number have now been completed and have also included the replacement of zig zag lines in front of schools at the same time. Year two schemes will be completed by the end of March and year three schemes including Congleton High have been brought forward with assessment work being carried out now ready for implementation early in the new financial year.

## **Road Resurfacing Investment**

A range of resurfacing has taken place across the town with a number of roads benefitting including Back Lane, Lamberts Lane, Townsend Road and Barton Road.

## **Public Realm Progress**

Final design has been agreed with material choices for the surface and street furniture. Works will be completed following the gas supply replacement in the town centre.

## **Additional LED street lighting improvement information**

We're investing to improve the authority's street lighting, by upgrading it to light emitting diode (LED) technology.

LED street lighting emits a 'white light' and is a more energy efficient way to light roads and pavements that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

Approximately 24,000 street lights are being upgraded to LED and installation involves replacement of the light with an LED unit.

### **Benefits of LED**

The new LED street lighting will bring a number of benefits to residents, road users and the authority in Cheshire East. The lighting:

- Produces a 'white light' which improves visibility and colour recognition to help road users feel safer
- Minimises light pollution into homes and gardens by directing light onto the road and pavement
- Is more economical and produces less carbon than conventional street lighting, helping to reduce the Council's carbon footprint
- Has a longer life span (between 10 and 20 years) and a reduced likelihood of faults which means less disruption on the network associated with repair visits

### **Information for residents**

The three-year programme begins in September 2016 and involves the upgrade of the majority of street lighting located in residential areas. Congleton started October 2016.

### **Street lighting column replacements**

All street lighting columns that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council have been structurally inspected and some may need to be replaced.

These replacements will be planned in conjunction with the LED upgrades to ensure all works are completed at the same time, minimising disruption. This means that some street lighting columns will need to be replaced as well as the light in some cases.