

# Congleton Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 21st September 2017 at Town Hall Congleton.

### **PRESENT:** Councillors

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

### **2. MINUTES**

To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**CTC/19/1718 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 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 J G Baggott, Mrs E Wardlaw and GS Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Outstanding actions reported as below

**CTC/66/1617 Resolved to** implement any recommendations from the internal audit report:

- Review the Risk Assessment
- Update of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

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/20/1718 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**CTC/21/1718 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/22/1718 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

11. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Verbal updates were received from Cllrs G S Williams and Mrs E Wardlaw – details below in CEC Reports

12. **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

To receive and approve the External Auditors' report for 2016-17 and to note and action any recommendations arising out of the report.

**CTC/23/1718 RESOLVED** to receive and approve the External Auditors report for 2016-17

13. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

- a) **CTC/24/1718 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be received.
- b) To deal with Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the Youth Committee.

**C H Booth  
Town Mayor**

## **CEC Reports**

### **CONGLETON LINK ROAD - PROGRESS UPDATE - Cllr G S Williams**

#### **Progress December 2016 to August 2017**

Following the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Roads Order (SRO) in October 2016, 23 objections were received during the objection period; a Public Inquiry was subsequently held at Congleton Town Hall in May 2017. Of the six remaining objections at the end of the inquiry, there was one substantive objection for consideration by the Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector has submitted his recommendations to the Department for Transport who are currently considering it.

A minor non-material amendment to the approved planning application was submitted and approved in April 2017. This concerned an increase in the length of bund near Chelford Road and a minor change in the alignment of Back Lane.

Our designer, Jacobs, has prepared drawings and tender documents necessary for a contractor to be able to design and construct the scheme. A Contract Notice inviting expressions of interest in designing and building the scheme was published in Official Journal of the European Union in July 2017. Submissions were received in August 2017 and the Council is currently considering these. Environmental surveys have continued. These are necessary in order to obtain the necessary information to obtain European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) and have included extensive surveys of Great Crested Newts, Bats and Ancient Woodland.

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

Work has continued on developing the business case for the scheme which has now been submitted in outline form to the Department for Transport (DfT) which is the main funder of the scheme.

We have held discussions with stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and utility companies concerning the building of the scheme.

#### **Planned work for September 2017 to March 2018**

We will continue to meet landowners who are affected by the link road with a view to address their particular requirements and to reach agreement for purchasing land by agreement.

Work will continue to hold discussions with the Department for Transport regarding the business case.

Following changes agreed at the Public Inquiry it will be necessary to submit a revised planning application for a minor material amendment to the scheme; additionally, a separate application will be submitted in connection with Eaton Hall Quarry.

Environmental work will continue and European Protected Species Licences will be prepared.

A further ground investigation is planned for Autumn 2017. The purpose of this is to be able to provide tenderers with more information about the groundwater in the vicinity of Chelford Road.

Following the Inspector's recommendation, we expect the CPO and SRO to be confirmed by the DfT in Autumn 2017.

Tenders for the design and construction of the link road will be issued to prospective design and build contractors in September 2017 and should be returned in December 2017. These will be evaluated after which the final business case will be submitted around March 2018.

## **Dog fouling and control - a consistent approach across Cheshire East**

We are considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) across the Cheshire East borough to help us tackle dog fouling and dog control more effectively. We know that most dog owners are responsible and we thank them for their continued support in helping to keep our public areas clean.

We are asking for your views on the proposed PSPO for dog fouling and control across Cheshire East.

- Dog fouling and control PSPO survey.

This consultation will run for four weeks from 12 noon on Tuesday 12 September to 12 noon on Tuesday 10 October 2017.

Dog controls the PSPO would introduce

The PSPO would introduce two main requirements:

- to ban dog fouling in all public places; and
- to allow authorised officers to tell a dog owner/walker to put and keep their dog on a lead if necessary, For example, if their dog was showing aggressive behaviour.

## **Why we want to introduce a new PSPO for dog fouling and control**

Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to keep land clear of litter and refuse (including dog fouling) and a duty of care for dealing with waste. We have a duty to take action against irresponsible individuals who fail to clear up after their dogs on land which is open to the public. Dog mess is highly unpleasant and a hazard to health - particularly to children.

The introduction of a PSPO for the Cheshire East borough will replace and extend existing dog controls and byelaws. This will allow us to have a consistent approach to dog fouling as well as other dog control requirements to encourage responsible dog ownership and for everyone to enjoy our open and public spaces safely.

We are required to review PSPOs every three years - or sooner if necessary - if, for example, the community wanted us to give increased protection for dedicated areas such as enclosed children's play areas, cemeteries and repeat problem areas.

A newly introduced PSPO would link into our campaigns such as 'Dog Watch' and 'Keep Cheshire East Clean - No Rubbish Excuses' which seek to change

## **Health and Wellbeing - Cllr Mrs E Wardlaw advised:**

- The Live Well website now launched which gives access to every available aspect with regards to health – examples include Cookery Courses – Mental Health
- Flu season has now started so plan for injections
- The One You National Project aimed at improving health and wellbeing is being delivered by ESAR (Everybody Sport And Recreation) across Cheshire East