



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Town Clerk: BRIAN HOGAN



27th June, 2013

Dear Councillor,

Town Council Meeting – Thursday 4th July, 2013

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council, to be held in the Town Hall, Congleton on **Thursday 4th July, 2013** commencing at **7.00pm**.

The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting. There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press.

Yours sincerely,

B. Hogan
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. 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).

2. Minutes (enclosed)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2013.

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.

4. Outstanding Actions

None.



Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

Tel: 01260 270350 Fax: 01260 280357

Email: info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

5. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive any questions from Members of the Public at the meeting and, notified in advance in writing.

6. Mayor's Announcements (enclosed)

To receive any announcements by the Town Mayor and to receive a list of the Mayor's Engagements.

7. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports

To suspend Standing Orders to allow Councillors from the principal authority to report on relevant issues and to receive questions from members.

8. Planning Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May and 13th June, 2013.

9. Community, Environment & Services Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 6th June 2013.

10. Town Hall Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 13th June 2013.

11. Finance & Policy Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th May 2013.

12. Accounts (enclosed)

(a) To approve payment of the accounts listed (enclosed).

(b) To approve payment of any expenditure agreed at this meeting.

13. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

14. Youth Committee (enclosed)

a) To receive the minutes of the Youth Committee Meetings held on 20th May and 17th June 2013.

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

15. Police Liaison Committee

To elect 1 member and reserve to the Police Liaison Committee, or similar body set up by Cheshire Police.

16. NALC Meeting with DCLG (enclosed)

To receive and consider correspondence from NALC concerning a meeting with a DCLG Minister.

17. Food & Drink Festival (enclosed)

To receive a short report from Jackie MacArthur, (Town Centre Manager) on Congleton Community Project's 5th successful Food & Drink Festival.

To: Members of the Town Council, Press 3, Burgesses (5), Mayor's Chaplain,
Members of the Youth Committee
MP, Cheshire East Councillors (4), Library, Congleton TIC.

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on Thursday,
30th May 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs D S Allen
 P Bates
 G. Baxendale
 L. Bours
 J S Crowther
 G R Edwards
 G Hayes (Town Mayor)
 Mrs A M Martin
 Mrs S A Holland
 D Murphy
 D A Parker
 J. D Parry
 N T Price
 E Wardlaw

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 L. D Barker, G Brittain, G S Williams and Miss R.K Williams.

2. MINUTES

CTC/09/1314 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th April 2013 and the Annual meeting held on 9th May 2013 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

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.

Councillor G.Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. CONGLETON ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

CTC/10/1314 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 2nd May 2013 be received and signed by the Mayor.

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

There were no questions raised from members of the Public at the meeting or notified in advance in writing.

6. **ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13**

CTC/11/1314 RESOLVED that the Annual Report 2012-13 be received and thanks noted to Town Hall Staff for producing an excellent document.

7. **ANNUAL RETURN, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2012-13**

The Annual Return, Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounts for 2012-13 were considered by the Council.

CTC/12/1314 RESOLVED that:-

- i. The Annual governance Statement for 2012-13 be approved.
- ii. The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 be approved.

8. **POWER OF COMPETENCE**

A report by the Town Clerk outlining the criteria needed to adopt the General Power of Competence was considered by the Council.

CTC/13/1314 RESOLVED that:-

- i. Council confirms that it meets the eligibility criteria of having a suitably qualified Clerk and has at least two thirds of Councillors elected.
- ii. Approved the adoption of the General Power of Competence Localism (Act 2011 s1(1))

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

2013

10 th May	Choir – Victoria Hall, Hanley
11 th May	Concert – Children of Romania
12 th May	Cheshire East Sunday Lunch – Tytherington Club
15 th May	Cheshire East Mayor Making Ceremony
16 th May	East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Meeting
16 th May	Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre – Daneside Theatre
17 th May	Havannah School
17 th May	Smallwood School
17 th May	Vale Juniors Presentation Evening
18 th May	Beartown Bikers Charity Event
18 th May	Astbury May Day
18 th May	Vale Juniors Presentation Evening
19 th May	Town Mayor's Civic Service and Parade
22 nd May	Siemens Roller Coster Challenge
22 nd May	Congleton Advanced Motorists A.G.M.
24 th May	Poster Launch
25 th May	Congleton Parish – St John's Buglawton
1 st June	Friends of Congleton Park Band Concert
10 th June	Citizens Advice Bureau – Office Launch
10 th June	Trinity Methodist Church Bible Week Event
12 th June	Rotary Young Chef/Designer Competition
14 th June	Mercian Regiment March

16 th June	Food Festival
20 th June	Teddy Bears Picnic
21 st June	Greengables Care Home
21 st June	Astbury Mere Care Home
21 st June	Book Launch Promotion
23 rd June	Staffordshire Moorlands Civic Service
24 th June	Launch of Grand Prize Draw
25 th June	Victoria Beds – Official Opening

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

13 th May	Knutsford Mayor Making Ceremony
20 th May	Middlewich Mayor Making Ceremony
21 st May	Paddling Pool Promotion
22 nd May	Crewe Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony
2 nd June	Sandbach Civic Service and Parade
8 th June	Bosley School Rose Queen Fair
16 th June	Middlewich Civic Event
23 rd June	Alsager Civic Service

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 23rd MAY 2013

PRESENT Councillor L. D. Barker (Chairman)
Mrs. D. Allen
P. Bates
G. Baxendale
R. I. Brightwell
D. T. Brown
J. S. Crowther
G. P. Hayes
Mrs. S. A. Holland
Mrs. A. M. Martin
D. Murphy
Mrs. J. D. Parry
N. T. Price
Mrs. E. Wardlaw

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ms. L. Bours, G. R. Edwards, D. A. Parker, G. S. Williams and Miss R. K. Williams.

2. **MINUTES**

PLN/1/1314 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4th April 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare both "non pecuniary" and "pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillor G. Baxendale declared a "non pecuniary" interest due to his membership of Cheshire East Council

Councillor D. T. Brown declared a "non pecuniary" interest due to his membership of Cheshire East Council and also due to his membership of the Strategic Planning Committee. Councillor Brown did not vote on any items.

4. **OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

There were none

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLN/2/1314 RECOMMENDED: That the following comments be made to East Cheshire Borough Council:

Week ended 3rd and 10th May 2013

13/1725C	Land Adj to Park View House, Willow Street Congleton	NO OBJECTION
13/4430C	13 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN	NO OBJECTION
13/1328C	13A Townsend Road, Congleton, CW12 3DL	NO OBJECTION
13/1827C	10 Eastcott Close, Congleton, CW12 4QL	NO OBJECTION
13/1839T	15 Minton Close, Congleton, CW12 3TD	NO OBJECTION

Subject to usual conditions

Additional List

13/1414C	Land Off Forge Lane, Congleton, CW12 4HF	NO OBJECTION
13/1041C	Bank House, Market Street, Congleton, CW12	NO OBJECTION
13/1675C	21 Grosvenor Road, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
13/1177C	42 Parson Street, Congleton, CW12	NO OBJECTION
Councillor G. P. Hayes declared a "non pecuniary" interest in application 13/1177C		
13/1246C	Former Danebridge Mill, Mill Street, Congleton, CW12	NO OBJECTION
NOTE – request Section 106 monies to be used for River Dane Walkway enhancements to the bridge.		
13/1580C	The Willows, Windsor Place, Congleton, CW12 3ET	NO OBJECTION
Councillors G. P. Hayes, P. Bates, D. Allen and J. Parry declared "non pecuniary" interests in application 13/1580C		
13/1337C	Millers Cottage, Castle Inn Road, Congleton	NO OBJECTION

Week ended 17th May 2013 and Additional Item

13/1470C	Lamberts Lane Farm, Lamberts Lane, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
13/1965C	106 Buxton Road, Congleton, CW12 2DY	NO OBJECTION
13/1876D	Land adj to The Sheiling, 20 Lamberts Lane, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
13/1080C	Sunnyview, Canal Street, Congleton, CW12 3AE	NO OBJECTION

6. PLANNING APPEALS

The following appeals lodged with Cheshire East Borough Council were noted.

12/3025C - Land Off Goldfinch & Kestral Close Congleton

12/3028C - Land Off The Moorings, Congleton

The informal hearing scheduled for 28th May 2013 has been cancelled. The applications will be determined by Public Inquiry and details will be forward in due course.

APP/RO660/A/13/2192123 – Land East of Meadow Avenue, Congleton

To note that there will be a site visit at 11 a.m. on 29th May 2013 in respect of the above.

7. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None to report.

8. **HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

The following public footpath diversion was noted
- Footpath No. 10 – Parish of Congleton (Newcastle Road area)

Proposed waiting restrictions – Cross Lane/Biddulph Road, Congleton – Correspondence received from Cheshire East Highways dated 13th May 2013 was received.

9. **PARISH FOOTPATH REPORT**

The Congleton Ramblers Footpath Survey Report dated 29th March 2013 was received. The Town Clerk was requested to contact Cheshire East to action the recommendations in the report in respect of –

- CON10 - Astbury Mere
- CON 43 - Reades Lane

The Town Clerk was also requested to write to the Ramblers thanking them for their work in producing the report.

10. **LOCAL PLAN ALTERNATIVE SITES CONSULTATION**

Town Council's response to the consultation was discussed and it was noted that there were no sites in Congleton identified.

11. **CONGLTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES**

PLN/3/1314 RESOLVED - The Town Clerk's Report dated 23rd May 2013 in respect of the above was discussed and accepted and a working party will be set up to examine the feasibility of taking over the building.

12. **VISION FOR CONGLTON**

PLN/4/1314 RESOLVED - The Town Clerk's Report dated 23rd May 2013 in respect of the above was discussed and accepted.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Concerns were noted in respect of the junction with Moss Lane and Peel Lane by the Railway Bridge. The bridge appears to be in a poor state of repair and there is the potential for accidents. It was agreed to contact Cheshire East to request that an inspection be made and improvements carried out.

It was reported that a Public Exhibition was scheduled for Thursday 30th May 2013 between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at New Life Church to view proposals for a residential development at Forge Lane, Congleton.

It was also reported that there would be a Public Exhibition on 4th June 2013 between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Congleton Town Hall to view proposals for the development at Padgbury Lane.

L. D. Barker (Chairman)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th JUNE 2013**

PRESENT Councillor L. D. Barker (Chairman)
Mrs. D. Allen
P. Bates
G. Baxendale
R. I. Brightwell
J. S. Crowther
G. R. Edwards
G. P. Hayes
Mrs. A. M. Martin
D. Murphy
D. A. Parker
Mrs. J. D. Parry
Mrs. E. Wardlaw

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ms. L. Bours, D. T. Brown, N. Price, G. S. Williams and Miss R. K. Williams.

2. MINUTES

PLN/5/1314 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd May 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded to declare both "non pecuniary" and "pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillor G. Baxendale declared a "non pecuniary" interest due to his membership of Cheshire East Council

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

There were none

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLN/6/1314 RECOMMENDED: That the following comments be made to East Cheshire Borough Council:

Week ended 24th and 31st May 2013

13/2089C 10 Beech Close, Congleton
13/2123D 29 Bollin Drive, Congleton, CW12 3RR

NO OBJECTION
NO OBJECTION

Week ended 7th June 2013

13/1840C	Holmcroft, Middle Lane, Congleton, CW12 3PU	NO OBJECTION
13/2197C	2 Highfield Road, Congleton, CW12 3AQ	NO OBJECTION
13/2206C	6 Boundary Lane, Congleton, CW12 3HZ	NO COMMENT
13/2209C	15 Southlands Road, Congleton, CW12 3JY	NO OBJECTION
13/2221C	29 West Street, Congleton, CW12 1JP	NO OBJECTION
13/2222C	St Peter's Parish Church, Chapel Street, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
13/2278C	21 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BH	NO OBJECTION
13/1923D	Land Rear of 74 Lawton Street, Congleton, CW12 1RS	NO OBJECTION

Additional List

13/2318C	19 Bosley View, Congleton, Congleton, CW12 3TU	NO OBJECTION
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6. PLANNING APPEALS

The following appeals lodged with Cheshire East Borough Council were noted.

12/3025C - Land Off Goldfinch & Kestral Close Congleton

12/3028C - Land Off The Moorings, Congleton

It was noted that these applications will be determined by Public Inquiry and the deadline date has been extended to 3rd July 2013.

7. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None to report.

8. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

None to report.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that there will be a public consultation to view information on a development at Waggs Road, Congleton. The event is at Trinity Methodist Church on 19th June 2013 between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Information was given on a Council in the South of the Country who has objected to planning and licensing applications for betting and gaming shops. The outcome will be monitored with a view to possible incorporation into the Town Council's policies.

Concerns were expressed regarding conditions on the Tesco Express application being approved by Cheshire East Council despite objections by the Town Council.

A discussion took place regarding the serious traffic congestion around the Town due to all of the road works.

L. D. Barker (Chairman)

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2013

PRESENT: Councillors G S Williams (Chairman in the Chair)
 Mrs D S Allen
 P Bates
 G Baxendale
 J S Crowther
 G R Edwards
 Mrs A M Martin
 D Murphy
 Mrs J D Parry
 N T Price

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms. L Bours, G.P Hayes (Town Mayor) and Miss R.K Williams.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

CES/01/1314 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2013 to 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.

Cllr G. Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

CAE/02/1112

The Town Council to pursue all options available in order to resolve the problem of the Boat, including S215 enforcement via CEBC, in addition, the Town Clerk to contact McCarthy and Stone to elicit their assistance in the matter.

CES/24/1213

The Town Clerk to write to all Congleton Cheshire East Councillors asking for their support to lobby Cheshire East to take whatever measures are necessary to have the boat removed.

CES/33/1213

1. The Town Clerk to contact Cheshire East to expedite the improvement work on the boat.
2. Cllr D.Brown will provide an update at the next committee meeting on Cheshire East's work in the area.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS continued..

CES/34/1213

The Committee support the "Responsible Dog Scheme" pilot being introduced at Bromley Farm and will evaluate its success in 6 months with a view to rolling out the scheme throughout the town.

5. FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORKING GROUP

CES/02/1314 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Floral Arrangement Working Group meetings dated 4th April and 2nd May 2013 be received and signed by the Chairman.

6. BOAT ON THE RIVER DANE

It was noted that Cheshire East Enforcement Officers are currently working on a report to the Authority to take action via an S215 notice. The report has to go to Legal then requires an authorising signature before processing the notice.

CES/03/1314 RESOLVED that the action being taken by Cheshire East Borough Council be approved and endorsed.

7. PROPAGATION UNIT

The Committee considered a report on leasing the Propagation Unit from Cheshire East Borough Council on a peppercorn lease. It was noted that there were some matters still to resolve on the issue with the Borough Council.

CES/04/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be received.
2. The amended Lease Agreement to be received at the next meeting.

8. CCTV

A report on the future of CCTV provision in the Town was considered, and concern was expressed at the short sighted view being taken by Cheshire East Borough Council concerning the provision of CCTV.

CES/05/1314 RESOLVED that:-

3. The report be received.
4. That the proposed arrangement on CCTV provision to be reviewed at the next meeting.

9. EATON BANK ACADEMY

A group of letters addressed to the Town Mayor produced by students of Eaton Bank Academy on Global Warming were considered.

CES/06/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. A letter of thanks to be sent to the Academy.
2. The students to be invited to discuss the issues and concerns they raised on Global Warming with a select number of Town and Youth Councillors.

10. MERCIAN MARCH & LINK WITH QUIEVRAIN

A summary of the arrangements for the Mercian March which takes place on the 14th June 2013, together with a request for the Town Council to consider linking with Quievrain to honour the bravery of the Cheshire Regiment in 1914 were discussed

CES/07/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The Town Council to provide suitable refreshments to the Mercian Regiment after the March on 14th June 2013.
2. To forge a link with Quievrain via Mayor TE Pickering (Ret'd).

11. HILARY AVENUE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

The Hilary Avenue Allotment Society provided notice of a change of Secretary.

CES/08/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The notice of change of Secretary be received.
2. A letter of thanks to be sent to the retiring Secretary for all her sterling work.

12. PCSO PARTNER LEVEL SERVICE AGREEMENT

A PCSO Partner Level Service Agreement for the provision of 4 PCSOs in the Town for a further 3 years was considered.

CES/09/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. Clarification be sought for the need for a clause on TUPE.
2. Document to be updated to include Congleton Town Council where appropriate.

13. EASEMENTS OVER COMMON LAND AND VILLAGE GREENS

Documents produced by NALC on Easements Over Common Land and Village Greens, as well as a paper on Village Greens produced by Friends of Coombe Wood were considered.

CES/09/1314 RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to Cheshire East Borough Council to seek assurances that Hankinson's Field will remain a green open public space.

14. HS2

A report on HS2 produced by Paul Nuttall MEP was noted.

15. WAR MEMORIAL

A report on the refurbishment programme for the War Memorial was discussed.

CES/10/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be received.
2. That the Town Council registers the land on which the War Memorial is located and the surrounding land.

16. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There was no resolution to exclude the Public and press.

17. CHESHIRE POLICE

Sgt. Russel Thomas outlined the key points contained within the PCSO Partner Level Service Agreement and pointed out the vital role that PCSOs play in policing the Town.

It was also pointed out that comparatively speaking, Congleton's anti-social behaviour problems are far less than many other nearby Towns and certainly there are far less night time economy problems.

It was also noted that Cllr P. Bates had spent 2 nights on patrol with a PCSO and that other Councillors intended to take the opportunity to go on patrol with the Police.

Concern was expressed at the parking issue around Marfields School and other schools in the area. It was noted that zig zag lines near schools were ineffective and that the Borough Council ought to replace them with double yellow lines.

CES/11/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The report from the Police be received.
2. Cllr Baxendale to raise the issue of installing double yellow lines instead of zig zag lines at all schools with Strategic Highways.

G Williams
Chairman (In the Chair)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE, 2013**

PRESENT: Councillors D A Parker (Chairman in the Chair)
Mrs D S Allen
L D Barker
P Bates
G Baxendale
J S Crowther
G R Edwards
G. P Hayes (Town Mayor)
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry
Mrs E Wardlaw

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N.T Price.
Apologies were also received from Councillor G.S Williams who is not a member of the committee.

2. MINUTES

THC/01/1314/RESOLVED- That the minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr G.Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest into any matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. ACCESS TO THE REAR OF THE TOWN HALL

The Town Clerk provided an update on the slow progress being experienced to conclude a license access agreement with properties at the rear of the Town Hall.

THC/02/1314 RESOLVED that the owner of the property at the rear of the Town Hall to be issued with an invoice for the license, if this is not paid then access could become problematic.

6. TOWN HALL ROOF

The Committee considered the report on the recent repairs carried out to the Town Hall roof caused by storm damage and also considered repairs and upgrading to other parts of the roof which are being programmed in.

THC/03/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. That the report be received.
2. Tender documents to be produced to repair the smaller roof in the Town Hall and the main roof.

7. TOWN HALL OFFICES TO RENT

It was noted that as yet there has been no interest from any parties interested in renting the office accommodation at the rear of the Town Hall.

THC/04/1314 RESOLVED that the Town Clerk contact the Estate Agent to discuss whether the proposed rent is competitive and if incentives would help to rent the accommodation.

8. AGREEMENT WITH POSH NOSH PARTIES

The agreement to provide catering with Posh Nosh Parties was considered.

THC/05/1314 RESOLVED that a Task and Finish Group be formed to examine this issue. Interested members of the Committee to put their names forward to the Chairman and the Town Clerk.

9. TOWN HALL AND CHARGES AND LETTING POLICY

The Town Hall and Letting Policy was discussed by the members.

THC/06/1314 RESOLVED that the Town Clerk produce a survey of charges levied by other organisations and Town Halls for comparative purposes.

10. TOWN HALL TRADING ACCOUNT

The Town Hall Trading Account was presented to members for consideration.

THC/07/1314 RESOLVED that the Town Hall Trading Account be received.

**D A PARKER
(CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2013

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs D S Allen
 P Bates
 G Baxendale
 Ms. L Bours
 G Brittain
 Mr G R Edwards (Chairman)
 G P Hayes (Town Mayor)
 Mrs S A Holland
 Mrs J D Parry (Vice Chairman)
 Mrs A M Martin
 D A Parker
 D Murphy
 N T Price
 Mrs E Wardlaw

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Brightwell and G.S Williams.

2. MINUTES

FAP/01/1314 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28th March 2013 were agreed 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 P.Bates and G R Edwards declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 (v) and left the room when the item was discussed and voted upon.

Cllrs D. Murphy and G Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (v).

Cllr G. Hayes declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 6 (i), 6 (ii) and 6 (v) and left the room for items 6 (i) and 6(ii).

Cllr Mrs S Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (iii).

Cllr D. Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (iv) and left the room when this item was considered.

Cllr G. Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS 2013-2014

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the committee and it was noted that £14,350 is available for grants in 2013-14.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/02/1314 RESOLVED that:-

- i. **GR.1/1314 Eaton Bank Academy**
A grant of £1000 be approved towards consultancy or managerial project costs.
- ii. **GR.2/1314 The Ice Rink Committee**
The application for a grant in the form presented be refused.
- iii. **GR.3/1314 Congleton Musical Theatre**
A grant of £250 be approved.
- iv. **GR.4/1314 Vale Juniors (Congleton) FC**
A grant of £360 be approved.
- v. **GR.5/1314 Congleton partnership – Park Live**
The application for a grant be refused, but, it was agreed that any loss incurred by the Park Live Event would be underwritten to a maximum value of £3000.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

There are no new Grant Activities Monitoring forms to consider.

8. LETTER OF THANKS

A letter of thanks was received from Congleton Rotary Club for the grant provided.

9. ANNUAL RETURN, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2012-13

The Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement 2012-13 and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 were presented to the committee for consideration.

FAP/03/1314 RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounts 2012-13 be approved.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2012-13

The Internal Audit Report 2012-13 produced by Auditing Solutions Ltd was presented to the Committee for consideration.

FAP/04/1314 RESOLVED that the Internal Audit report 2012-13 be approved and recommendation R4 be noted for action.

11. INSURANCE REVIEW AND SCHEDULE 2013-14

The Insurance Review and Schedule for 2013-14 was considered.

FAP/05/1314 RESOLVED that the Insurance Review be approved with a renewal premium of £13,917.69.

12. FIXED ASSET REGISTER AND INVENTORY

The Fixed Asset Register and Inventory Register was presented to the Committee.

FAP/06/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. The Fixed Asset and Inventory Register be approved.
2. The following items to be revalued:
 - i. Mace.
 - ii. Sword donated by Princess Irene Brigade.
 - iii. Mayoral Chain.
 - iv. Any unrecorded valuable held in the safe to be registered and valued.

G.R Edwards
Chairman

Congleton Town Council

RBS Current/I Access Acct

List of Payments made between 01/04/2013 and 31/05/2013

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/04/2013	Nerd Studios Ltd	005924	75.00	00007-V1/3771/Artwork - easter
02/04/2013	Cheshire East Council	005901	18,175.00	41042491/3739/loan repayment
02/04/2013	Heads (Congleton) Limited	005902	77.28	78382/3740/Easter Advert
02/04/2013	Congleton Office Supplies Ltd	005903	163.90	SINV00078230/3741/Screen
02/04/2013	Threadfast Engineers Ltd	005904	15.60	SIN071834/3742/Stamp
02/04/2013	Posh Nosh Parties Ltd	005905	2,088.11	recharges £1582.60; Civic £450.78; partnership £34.68; Youth £20.10
02/04/2013	Style Seating	005906	14,454.00	23945/3758/TownHall chairs
02/04/2013	Plumbing Trade Supplies	005907	2.50	4043217414/3360/Plumbing Trade
02/04/2013	Public Works Loan	DD	10,888.84	Public Works Loan repayment
02/04/2013	Shell UK Ltd	DD	90.82	S04058139/3731/Van fuel
02/04/2013	United Utilities	DD	348.66	010413/3705/Town Hall water
02/04/2013	Cheshire East Council	DD	2,163.00	CEast Business rates town hall
02/04/2013	petty cash	005900	133.96	petty cash
05/04/2013	Posh Nosh Parties Ltd	005910	1,200.40	85/3759/Mayor's Ball
05/04/2013	Rotary of Congleton	005909	200.00	Grant - Rotary of Congleton
08/04/2013	T Mobile	DD	21.30	V00895484731/3743/TCM Mobile
09/04/2013	Grant Community Projects	005911	16,000.00	Grant Community Projects
10/04/2013	Congleton Learning P/ship	005912	1,000.00	Grant Congleton Learning Pship
10/04/2013	BH Garden Bargains.com	005913	220.00	22 sets hanging baskets
11/04/2013	Nerd Studios Ltd	005914	265.50	12Q1/3822/p/ship banners
15/04/2013	Angel Springs	005915	161.12	1798881/3766/Angel Springs
15/04/2013	Broken Cross Paint & Wallpaper	005916	22.38	872/3764/Dust sheet
15/04/2013	Congleton Learning Partnership	005917	378.00	902/3765/P/ship grant unemployed
15/04/2013	Harry Hancock Ltd	005918	168.76	32270/3768/water jugs
15/04/2013	LAC Autoparts	005919	48.00	4779931/3767/bulb for van
15/04/2013	MAC Tool & Plant Hire Ltd	005920	1,044.00	4700/3769/hire of heaters
15/04/2013	North Rode Timber Co. Ltd	005921	38.40	136597/3763/Timber River dane walkway
15/04/2013	The Stationery Cupboard	005922	84.12	103/3762/ Stationery
15/04/2013	T & S Electrical Limited	005923	1,150.22	8295/3761/TS repairs kitchen
15/04/2013	Wirehouse Employer Services	DD	102.00	Health&Safety advice monthly
16/04/2013	Electric Picture house	005925	37.49	P/ship - Electric PH
19/04/2013	Wirehouse Employer Services	DD	153.60	HR advice monthly
22/04/2013	Shell UK Ltd	DD	1.80	S04074371/3789/card membership
22/04/2013	RBS Autopay	AUTOPAY	23,825.66	Payroll April
23/04/2013	Petty cash	005926	182.16	Petty cash
25/04/2013	Prism Bus Developments	DD	535.92	IT Support monthly
29/04/2013	Plus Dane	DD	36.08	Allpay - Allotment garage
29/04/2013	SOL Theatre School	005927	1,000.00	Grant SOL Theatre school
29/04/2013	Citizens Advice Bureau	005928	15,000.00	Grant -Citizens Advice Bureau
30/04/2013	Amberol Ltd	005929	1,074.00	10911/3772/matting 4 h baskets
30/04/2013	Broken Cross Paint & Wallpaper	005930	23.23	1465/3773/paint for office
30/04/2013	Canda Copying Ltd	005931	966.51	312522/3774/photocopying rental & copies
30/04/2013	Cannon	005932	82.69	CN18372826/3776/waste
30/04/2013	Cheshire Association of Local	005933	1,524.89	010413/3778/Subscription fee
30/04/2013	Cheshire Community Action	005934	100.00	010413/3779/membership fee
30/04/2013	Cheshire East Council	005935	70.00	41043116/3780/Town Centre licence
30/04/2013	Chubb Fire	005936	223.56	3954021/3781/Service
30/04/2013	Heads (Congleton) Limited	005937	129.12	78878/3802/seed swap advert
30/04/2013	Congleton Learning Partnership	005938	100.80	906/3783/food hygiene certs
30/04/2013	Thomas Fattorini Ltd	005939	1,841.00	I174148/3784/Pendants civic
30/04/2013	Four Oaks Nurseries Ltd	005940	16.80	50649/3785/compost G Williams
30/04/2013	LAC Autoparts	005941	2.80	481811/3786/disc holder
30/04/2013	Otis Ltd	005942	456.03	01065868/3787/lift service
30/04/2013	Phonographic Performance Ltd	005943	864.30	2075763/3788/Town Hall PPL Licence
30/04/2013	Society of Local Council Clerk	005944	300.00	010413/3791/Subscription

30/04/2013	T & S Electrical Limited	005945	3,414.41	8337/3792/repair faulty lighting
30/04/2013	Vibrant Graphics Ltd	005946	658.00	025562/3800/Print Bear Necessities
30/04/2013	Zurich Municiple	005947	14,861.11	12092511/3801/CTC Insurance
30/04/2013	Sita UK Ltd	DD	202.14	28653767/3760/Refuse disposal
01/05/2013	MS Partnership refreshments	005948	82.13	MS Partnership refreshments
01/05/2013	Nisbetts Catering	005949	143.92	Napkins Fellowship House
01/05/2013	Shell UK Ltd	DD	101.11	S04092407/3790/Fuel for van
01/05/2013	West Mercia Energy	DD	1,810.64	1059049/3737/Town Hall Gas
01/05/2013	Cheshire East BC	DD	2,167.00	Business rates Town Hall
07/05/2013	Congleton Office Supplies Ltd	005951	78.58	SINV00079396/3804/Lanyards
07/05/2013	Gartec Limited	005952	348.00	79813/3805/Lift Service
07/05/2013	Hulme Scaffolding Ltd	005953	4,742.40	0100/3806/Scaffolding for roof
07/05/2013	North Rode Timber Co. Ltd	005954	7.86	137136/3808/lock for P/Pool
07/05/2013	Posh Nosh Parties Ltd	005955	1,107.74	Recharges £798.86;Marketing £208.20; Civic £45.90 Partnership £34.68; Youth £20.10
07/05/2013	Prism Business Developments Li	005956	1,563.92	133509/3820/Desktop PCs x 2
07/05/2013	Threadfast Engineers Ltd	005957	47.08	SIN072328/3821/fixings
09/05/2013	T Mobile	DD	21.00	V00900960824/3890/TCM mobile
10/05/2013	Purchase Power	DD	213.00	BA543659/3803/Postage
13/05/2013	Cheshire Electrical Supplies L	005958	13.26	C1657838/3823/Electrical Tape
13/05/2013	Cut Keys Direct Ltd	005959	37.20	24035/3824/Paddling pool keys
13/05/2013	Global Hygiene LLP	005960	1,724.43	1344347/3826/T Hall cleaning materials
14/05/2013	Congleton Millennium Committee	005962	250.00	140513/3831/Floral Plaque
14/05/2013	EPH Artist	005961	250.00	140513/3891/Mill Street Mural
14/05/2013	Wirehouse Employer Services	DD	102.00	Health & Safety Support
15/05/2013	Pitney Bowes Finance PLC	DD	264.98	Franking Machine Rental
17/05/2013	Accounting Solutions from DCK	005965	1,380.60	TPC5229/382/Yr end accounts
17/05/2013	Posh Nosh Parties Ltd	005967	47.35	98/3828/Rotary youth orchestra recharge
17/05/2013	TMC Creative Ltd	005968	3,000.00	1852/3829/TMC P/ship Marketing
17/05/2013	G Hayes	005963	3,000.00	Town Mayor's allowance
17/05/2013	Nisbett Catering	005964	52.72	Napkin dispenser Fellowship Hs
20/05/2013	Four Oaks Nurseries	005966	180.00	Compost for Buglawton
20/05/2013	Information Commissioner's Off	DD	35.00	Data Protection Registration
20/05/2013	West Mercia Energy	DD	426.59	1065922/3797/Town Hall Gas
20/05/2013	Wirehouse Employer Services	DD	153.60	HR Support
20/05/2013	Four Oaks	005966	603.84	Plants for Buglawton
21/05/2013	EPH Artist	005950	218.49	100/3835/paint/materials
21/05/2013	Amberol Ltd	005969	2,937.04	11012/3832/planters
21/05/2013	Angel Springs	005970	4.27	1830504/3833/charges
21/05/2013	Auditing Solutions Ltd	005971	480.00	A3160/3834/Internal Audit final
21/05/2013	Cheshire Electrical Supplies L	005972	28.14	C1658284/3836/Bulbs TIC
21/05/2013	Cheshire East Council	005973	13,255.16	43000603/3838/footpath lighting
21/05/2013	Heads (Congleton) Limited	005974	33.12	79425/3839/new mayor advert
21/05/2013	Davenport of Congleton	005975	18.95	070513/3840/white gloves
21/05/2013	E Cheshire Chamber of Comm & E	005976	540.00	4713/3842/ad in chamber mag
21/05/2013	Eaton Bank Academy	005977	54.00	5100035/3843/Fresher's Fair
21/05/2013	Four Oaks Nurseries Ltd	005978	16.32	51797/3844/compost
21/05/2013	Gaffey Technical Services Ltd	005979	619.74	48794/3845/chemicals for pool
21/05/2013	Global Filmmakers Ltd	005980	432.00	GFM1/1848/3846/Town Hall Film
21/05/2013	Intergage Ltd	005981	252.00	19327/3857/P/ship web hosting
21/05/2013	Maximeyes Security Ltd	005982	42.00	20439/3847/Alarm call out
21/05/2013	P&V Newton & Sons Ltd	005983	35.99	05804/3848/j whitehurst award
21/05/2013	Prism Business Developments Li	005984	354.20	14271/3849/office printer
21/05/2013	The Stationery Cupboard	005985	109.11	104/3852/stationery items
21/05/2013	Talke Chemical Company Limited	005986	49.24	62655/3853/paint for benches
21/05/2013	Visyon Ltd	005987	69.50	13016/3854/50%cost water meter
22/05/2013	Shell UK Ltd	DD	90.17	S04108463/3850/fuel 4 van
22/05/2013	West Mercia Energy	DD	2,152.31	1062000/3799/Town Hall electric
22/05/2013	RBS Autopay	AUTOPAY	23,559.16	salaries monthly
28/05/2013	Prism Bus Developments	DD	535.92	IT Support Monthly
28/05/2013	Allpay Ltd (Plus Dane)	DD	36.08	Allotment Garage rental
31/05/2013	Sita UK Ltd	DD	207.02	28699511/3830/Waste disposal

Total Payments 208,550.85

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on Monday 20th May 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton

PRESENT Youth Councillor Maddy Summerfield (Chairman)
Nathan Davies
Matthew Jones
Tom Heyes

Councillor Larry Barker

Linda Minshull

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Matthew Procter, Catherine Hassall, Joseph Hearson, Jordan Goodwin, Thomas Minshull and Councillors George Hayes, Sally Ann Holland and Liz Wardlaw.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16th April 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. YOUTH COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERING WEBSITE

Nathan gave an update on progress of development of the Website. Informal meetings have taken place and discussions on promotions of the Website by way of posters and leaflets. Nathan and Maddy will attend the Partnership Meeting on 4th June to give a presentation on the Website.

4. YOUTH COMMITTEE BANK ACCOUNT

It was reported that the balance remains at £773.92.

Discussions took place regarding the funds and Larry stated that he felt it was not unreasonable to hold funds of around £1,000 as a reserve to progress Youth Initiatives in the Town.

5. DRUGS EDUCATION

The next meeting with Fiona Bruce M.P. is scheduled for 21st June at 3.30 p.m. at Riverside. Nathan gave an update on a meeting he had been to with members of staff at Eaton Bank Academy regarding this issue and the development of educational information.

6. **FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Linda reported that Jeanne confirms that her preferred date is 5th July.

Maddy informed the meeting that she had spoken to staff at The Pavillion regarding holding a celebration event.

7. **YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ITEMS**

Bromley Farm Youth Club

Nathen updated members on a meeting he had with Councillor Glen Williams regarding the Youth Club at Bromley Farm. It was agreed that the aim should be to expand similar services to other areas of the Town. It was also suggested that Police Officers and PCSO's be included in discussions regarding the Youth Clubs.

Police

It was reported that there may be an opportunity for Town Councillors to Shadow some work of the Police. Youth Committee members would welcome being included in a similar initiative. A meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner or their Youth Representative would also be welcomed if it was possible to organise.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 17th June 2013 at 7 p.m.

Maddy Summerfield (Chairman)

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on Monday 17th June 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton

PRESENT Youth Councillor Matthew Proctor (Vice Chairman)
Thomas Minshull

Councillor Sally Holland
Councillor Liz Wardlaw

Linda Minshull

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Maddy Summerfield, Hannah Booth, Nathan Davies, Matthew Jones, Beth Evans, and Councillors Larry Barker and George Hayes.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20th May 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. YOUTH COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERING WEBSITE

There was no update as Nathan was not at the meeting. Linda confirmed that Nathan was scheduled to do a presentation on the Website at the Youth Forum Meeting on Monday 24th June.

4. YOUTH COMMITTEE BANK ACCOUNT

It was reported that the balance remains at £773.92.

5. DRUGS EDUCATION

The next meeting with Fiona Bruce M.P. is scheduled for 21st June at 3.30 p.m.

Linda confirmed that she will e-mail all members to encourage them to attend the meeting. Linda also confirmed that she had contacted the person at Middlewich who is responsible for co-ordinating the Street Pastor Scheme and awaits a reply.

6. **FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Linda reported that Jeanne confirms that her preferred date is 5th July.

It was difficult to make any arrangements as so few members attended the meeting. However, it was agreed that contact be made with St. Mary's Club to see if the function room could be booked as this could be a less expensive option.

7. **YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ITEMS**

Linda advised that the next Junior Council is to be held on Monday 8th July – 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. and would welcome any help from Youth Committee members.

Linda suggested that the next meeting be in the daytime and to include discussions on future membership and strategy.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

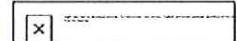
Tuesday 23rd July 2013 10 a.m.

Matthew Procter (Vice Chairman)

From: NALC <nalc=nalc.gov.uk@createsend4.com> on behalf of NALC <nalc@nalc.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 May 2013 18:10
To: Brian Hogan
Subject: NALC Chairman's update on meeting with DCLG Minister

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NALC Chairman's update on meeting with DCLG Minister

To all parish and town councils

Colleagues,

Following my recent emails to parish and town councils about localising council tax support, I wanted to update you on my meeting with the Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis MP last week, where among other issues I kept up the pressure on our call for statutory guidance and transparency over council tax support funding.

The key points of the meeting are below for your information and reference:

- I reminded the Minister of his promise to exert immediate pressure on those billing authorities withholding grants as I am still concerned about problems in Swindon and Bromsgrove. It is vital you contact your county association if you are also being refused the compensating grant.
- at my previous meeting with the Minister in April I continued to press for a share of business rates for parish and town councils and last week I followed this up by providing him with a range of **examples of parish and town councils who are actively leading and supporting local economic development** in their area. I urged the Minister to consider these examples and work with us on measures to incentivise and support further innovative activity.
- we discussed the Local Audit and Accountability Bill and I expressed concerns over auditor procurement, outlined our opposition to enshrining in law the publicity code and pressed him to use the Bill to reform the rules on parish polls to protect parish and town councils from vexatious use wasting tax-payers money.
- I welcomed recent progress on cheque payment reform as this will help our councils save time and money. I am confident this will be resolved in this Parliamentary session and by the Autumn you can start to give your chequebooks a rest!
- although not his direct responsibility, the Minister's Department is still considering how to change the rules to make it easier to set up parish and town councils, and what support people and communities might need. I urged the Minister for progress on this, in particular the introduction of a right of appeal and support package.

While it was a productive meeting, we will continue to keep up the pressure on Government on all the above areas through our political and parliamentary work.

There are a few other issues I want to update you on or draw your attention to:

- I'm following the NALC/All Party Local Democracy Group **What next for localism?** inquiry with real interest and a wealth of ideas have been submitted so far, on topics ranging from local government finance to councillor training to social media. I would encourage you to have

your say on what's good, bad or ugly about the Government's localism agenda through the [**inquiry website**](#).

- Still on the subject of social media we've expanded how we communicate and engage with our councils and beyond, so please 'like' our [**Facebook page**](#) and 'follow' [**@NALC on Twitter**](#)
- I'm really looking forward to attending and speaking at our three 'Putting Communities First' conferences this year, which kick-off in London next month. I hope to see you or there or in Sheffield or Bristol, for more information and how to book please visit the [**event page**](#) on our website.
- Hot on the heels of January's [**joint event with the Local Government Association**](#) on partnership working and devolution of services, we're holding another free event on 23 July, this time on the General power of competence. More details will be available shortly, so keep an eye on [**www.nalc.gov.uk**](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) and information from your county association.
- Finally I wanted to share with you my delight at the news Government has agreed to [**extend the Sustainable Communities Act to parish and town councils**](#). This is a real achievement and a direct result of lobbying by NALC, county associations and member councils. It's important not to overlook other lobbying successes in recent months – important benefits of your membership – so we've developed a [**short note setting out a few examples**](#) where NALC and county associations have worked on your behalf to advocate parish and town councils and bring about change. As Henry Ford once said: "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Regards,

Councillor Ken Browse
Chairman,
National Association of Local Councils

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Congleton Town Council

Thursday 4 July 2013

Item: Congleton Food and Drink Festival

Purpose of the Paper

The Town Council has received many compliments from residents, visitors, traders and publicans about the Food and Drink Festival and Tasty Town week. This paper has been written by the Town Centre and Marketing Manager to thank Congleton Community Projects and the dedicated team of Food and Drink volunteers for organising such a great event in Congleton on Sunday 16 June 2013.

Congleton Community Projects along with a dedicated team of 8 volunteers have organised a Food and Drink Festival in Congleton for the past five years. The 2013 festival was the largest yet with 97 stalls. For the first time Swan Bank and Mill Street were closed to traffic to allow more space for stalls. This proved very successful. The Food and Drink Festival was originally organised for a Sunday as it was the least inconvenient day for shops. Now many shops choose to open on Food and Drink Sunday as it is the busiest day in town – and request that stalls are not placed in front of their shops. This was the reason for the extra road closures

There is no doubt that the Food and Drink Festival is an incredible success and puts Congleton on the Map. It was named as one of the best open air festivals in Cheshire (Cheshire Life). It is hard to judge exact numbers but it would be safe to say visitor numbers were in the region of 10,000-15,000 – with the streets packed from 10.30am – 4.30pm.

The festival is a great success because of the passion of the volunteers and Jo Money from Congleton Community Projects. Stalls are chosen carefully and the emphasis is always on localism, quality and traceability. The average mileage for the stalls was just 22 miles and 30% of the stalls were from CW12. Most Food and Drink Festivals are commercial ventures. The Congleton one is respected because it is a Community Event with free access. Local trusts help cover marketing and entertainment and the Town Council gives support in kind.

Hundreds of volunteer hours are put into the festival. On the festival day there were around 30 stewards, marshalls and helpers (some representing the Town Council). Many started with clearing the streets at 6.30am and others not finishing until the final litter was picked at 7pm. We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated people in the town and it is important that the Town Council continues to support the Food and Drink Festival as well as other groups putting on great events for Congleton – such as Carnival, Jazz and Blues, Arts Festival, Christmas events.

Recommendation: That the Town Council writes a formal thank you to Jo Money at Congleton Community Projects and her team of volunteers for putting on such a successful, well organised and high standard event for Congleton.