



Congleton Town Council

Historic market town

Town Clerk: **BRIAN HOGAN**



14th January 2016

Dear Councillor,

Town Council Meeting – Thursday 21st January, 2016

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council, to be held in the Town Hall, Congleton on **Thursday 21st January, 2016** 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.

****Please note**** There will be a 30 minute presentation starting at 6.30pm provided by Helen Rankin of Cheshire Connect prior to the meeting starting.

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 3rd December 2015.

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
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where friends are made

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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. Planning Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2015.

8. Finance and Policy Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2015.

9. Town Hall Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2015.

12. Urgent Items

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

13. 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.

14. Youth Committee (enclosed)

a) To receive the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 21st December 2015 and the meeting with Fiona Bruce M.P, also held on 21st December 2015.

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

c) To make a presentation to Joseph Hearson – Youth Committee Burgess

15. Documents and Procedures

To consider amending all documents and procedures used by the Town Council by substituting the job function of Town Clerk for that of Chief Officer.

16. Mayor's Ball

To consider whether the current the list of dignitaries and others should receive complimentary tickets for the Mayor's Ball.

17. Honorary Burgess

To confirm Mr Denis Murphy as a Honorary Burgess and to present him with a Certificate.

To: All Members of the Town Council,

CC: Press 2, Burgesses (5), Mayor's Chaplain,
Members of the Youth Committee
MP, Cheshire East Councillors (1), Library, Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
3rd December 2015 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D Allen
Mrs A L Armitt
L D Barker
P Bates
R Boston
C Booth
P Broom
D T Brown
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs A E Morrison
Mrs J D Parry
Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)
G S Williams

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 Councillor N Adams, J G Baggott, Mrs S A Holland and H Richards.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/41/1516 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th October 2015 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.

Cllrs P Bates, D T Brown, G P Hayes, Mrs E Wardlaw and G S Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

4. **PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor was presented with a special edition of the Gideon Bible to commemorate her year in office by South Cheshire Gideon's.

5. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

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

i.) **Question from Mr G Goodwin**

When the Personnel Committee met on 12 November 2015 they agreed to accept a version of the minutes of the meeting of 27 October which made no reference to the statement made at the meeting by Councillor Broom. The council had previously published a copy of the minutes on its website which correctly included the statement from Councillor Broom

In agreeing to accept the minutes of a meeting, councillors are accepting that the minutes are a complete and accurate record of events at the meeting but, in this case, councillors voted to accept a copy of the minutes in the full knowledge that the minutes were incorrect and were not a complete and accurate record of events

The minutes of the Personnel Meeting are tonight before the full council for acceptance but, since it is now beyond dispute that the Broom statement was made at the meeting on 27 October but is not recorded or mentioned in the minutes proposed for acceptance would it be illegal for the full council to vote to accept the minutes as a complete and accurate record, and by doing so, would individual councillors be putting themselves in danger of actions being taken against them?

Response by the Town Mayor

The minutes of any of our meetings are meant to be formal records of official acts and decisions, that is, the resolutions that are made by our Committees and Council, not reports or speeches made by councillors.

Minutes should therefore be short as is consistent with clarity and accuracy, thus the minutes approved by the Personnel Committee at its meeting held on 12th November 2015, accurately recorded that a statement was made by Cllr Broom and need do no more.

Mr Goodwin read out a prepared statement to the council following the response to his question by the Town Mayor.

ii.) **Question from Mr J.S. Crowther**

I write regarding the unfounded allegations made by Councillor Peter Broom against Councillor Dawn Allen at the Personnel Committee of Tuesday 27th October 2015.

I feel very strongly that both Councillor Broom and Congleton Town Council should make a full and public apology to Councillor Allen.

Councillor Broom for making unfounded allegations with not a shred of evidence in a public meeting and the Town Council for publishing the unfounded allegations on Congleton Town Council website.

Response by Town Mayor

Firstly the Town council has an obligation to report statements made in a public open meeting by a Town Councillor. This does not suggest that we condone or support any such statement or comments made, nor are we in a position to offer apologies on behalf of what another has said.

The Town Council is concerned that when Councillors make speeches or statements then they should operate within existing policies, guidelines and relevant legislation and ensure that the Council's reputation is upheld and improved, and not adversely affected, this applies to all speeches and statements made by any councillor.

The Town Council does not condone any comment from any councillor which shows disrespect to others, whether that is made to another councillor, a council officer or indeed a member of the public.

iii.) **Question from Mr N Price**

1) – Regarding the Personnel committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 2015 in a none agenda item, there was a statement read out by Cllr. Broom and the minutes were published with the complete statement published in the minutes. Who wrote and published the official minutes

2) – A few days later another set of edited minutes were published with the statement removed. Only the Personnel committee can make changes to the minutes so who made the decision to edit the statement from the official minutes.

3)- On the third set of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October there was no mention of the statement made by Cllr. Broom at all, **“Who made this decision to change them for the second time”**? Only a committee can change minutes, these where voted for at the Personnel meeting held on 12th November 2015 proposed and seconded by Cllr’s Edwards and Martyn even though the chairman said he had asked the Cllr. responsible for the statement whether he wanted to read it in part 1 or 2.

My overall question is as these minutes can only be changed by the next Personnel committee who are the staff/councillors who gave permission to make the changes to the Personnel committee minutes.

Response by Town Mayor

Minutes of any meeting of the Town Council are placed on the website prior to approval and are draft minutes only.

The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate. In other words it is for the Committee to determine what it regards as the appropriate record of the meeting which in the case of the minutes dated 27th October it did, having considered two versions, both of which were factually correct.

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee originally placed on the website were amended at the request of Cllr Allen who asked for the statement in question to be removed, this request came via the Town Mayor.

The Personnel Committee then considered which of two versions of the statement should be included in the approved version of the minutes. Once again Cllr Allen was asked which version she preferred and indicated that her preference was for the abridged version which was duly voted upon and the minutes approved.

It is only when minutes have been approved and duly signed by the Chairman of the Committee that they cannot be subsequently altered.

7. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

8. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/42/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 15th October 2015 and 5th November 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

CTC/43/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/44/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **TOWN HALL COMMITTEE**

CTC/45/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

12. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

CTC/46/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent matters raised.

14. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillor D T Brown reported that the government has announced that there will be considerable investment in the North West. There is to be an extra £1.5 million for Alderly Park and an extra £4 million of funding for a research centre located there.

There is to be a further allocation of funding for schools with Cheshire East expected to have another £4 million.

In the near future principal councils will be able to control and retain their own business rates.

Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Halton have bid for a growth fund of £1.2 billion and the HS2 project going through Crewe will result in a £5 billion project.

15. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

There were no members of the Youth Committee present.

16. **CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

A report outlining the Christmas and New Year office opening and closing times was considered.

CTC/47/1516 RESOLVED that the report was received and noted.

17. **BUDGET & PRECEPT 2016-17**

The budget report for 2016-17 was considered. It was pointed out that the increase in the precept would amount to £11 annually on a band D property or 21p per week.

18. **BUDGET EXPENDITURE POWERS 2016-17**

Expenditure	Power	£
Police Community Support Officers	P.O.C.	47,200
Other Grants and Donations	P.O.C.	21,483
Citizens Advice Bureau	P.O.C.	15,000
Christmas Lights	P.O.C.	9,000
Congleton Community Projects	P.O.C.	16,000
Town Hall 150 th Anniversary	P.O.C.	5,000
Museum Grant	P.O.C.	4,500

As the Town Council has adopted the Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss 1-8 any agreed expenditure in the budget, identified above can be approved via this power.

CTC/48/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. That the revenue and capital budget for 2016-17 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Budget report, be approved.
2. That the budget expenditure powers be approved.
3. A precept of £784,342 be approved for 2016-17.

19. **HONORARY BURGESS**

A proposal to invite a distinguished former member of the Town Council, Mr. Denis Murphy to become an Honorary Burgess was considered.

CTC/49/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. The council approve the title of Honorary Burgess of Mr. D. Murphy
2. To invite Mr. D. Murphy to become a member of Community, Environment and Services Committee as a lay member, which confers no voting rights.

20. **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

A new Social Media Policy was presented to the members for consideration.

CTC/50/1516 RESOLVED that the policy be approved and adopted into the constitution.

21. **PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY**

The concept design for Swan Bank, Festival Square and the Pedestrian Area was considered.

CTC/51/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. The concept design be approved in principle.
2. The internal Public Realm support group consisting of Councillor Mrs. D S Allen, P Bates, G R Edwards, Mrs. A M Martin, Mrs. J D Parry and J MacArthur, D McGifford and S. Foster of the Partnership, meet to consider the selection of appropriate street furniture and lighting.

Mrs E Wardlaw
TOWN MAYOR

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

2015

4 th December	Astbury Mere Care Home – Lights Switch On
4 th December	Buglawton Christmas Fair
5 th December	Rotary Young Artist Competition
5 th December	New Life Church
6 th December	St. John Ambulance Service
13 th December	Nursery Nativity Service – New Life Church

2016

13 th January	Congleton Pantomime
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DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

2015

12 th December	Rotary Concert
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CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 19th NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A M Martin
Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D S Allen
J G Baggott
R Boston
C Booth
P Broom
G R Edwards
Mrs A E Morrison
Mrs J D Parry
Mrs E Wardlaw

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Mrs A. L. Armitt, L. D. Barker, P. Bates, D. T. Brown, G. P. Hayes, H. Richards, G. S. Williams.

2. MINUTES

PLN/15/1516 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5th November 2015 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.

Councillors Baggott and Wardlaw declared a "non pecuniary" interest due to their membership of Cheshire East Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

There were none.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLN/16/1516 RECOMMENDED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Week ended 6th November 2015

15/4848C	Land Off Congleton Edge Road, Congleton, CW12 3NA	NO OBJECTION
15/4893C	West Heath Shopping Centre, Holmes Chapel Road, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
Subject to	a request to provide a public toilet in one of the retail units	
15/4984C	Quinta Primary School, Ullswater Road, Congleton	NO OBJECTION

15/4993C	4 Mill Street, Congleton, CW12 1AB	NO OBJECTION
Subject to	alterations complying with listed building regulations	
15/4994C	4 Mill Street, Congleton, CW12 1AB	NO OBJECTION
Subject to	alterations complying with listed building regulations	
15/5056C	Land Off Newcastle Road, Congleton	NO OBJECTION

Week ended 13th November 2015

15/5010C	Black Firs Primary School, Congleton, CW12 4QJ	NO OBJECTION
15/5013C	30 Parker Way, Congleton, CW12 4WL	NO OBJECTION

Additional Item

15/5090C	Land North Of Milk Street, Congleton	NO OBJECTION
Subject to	due diligence to highway issues	

6. **PLANNING APPEALS**

None to report.

7. **CONGLETON LINK ROAD**

A letter from Gladman Developments Ltd dated 6th November 2015 was considered and Town Clerk was requested to write to Gladman Developments thanking them for their correspondence.

8. **NEW STREET NAMING PROPOSAL**

Correspondence from Cheshire East Council dated 11th November 2015 was considered and it was agreed to request Cheshire East to name the development The Moss.

Councillor Mrs. A. E. Morrison reported that the Tall Ash Farm Planning Application was approved at the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board but since then there have been several complaints about possible procedural issues.

Mrs A. M. Martin – Vice Chairman

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 26th November 2015

PRESENT

Councillors

Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D S Allen
Mrs A L Armitt
J G Baggott
R Boston
C Booth
D T Brown
G R Edwards (Chair)
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry (Vice)
Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Bates.

Apologies were also received from Cllrs, H Richards and G S Williams who are not a member of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES

FAP/29/1516 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd October 2015 be 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 J G Baggott, D T Brown and Mrs E Wardlaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

Cllr G R Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (ii) and did not take part in any discussions on this issue.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS 2015-16

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the Committee and it was noted that £7,274 is available for grants in 2015-16.

FAP/30/1516 RESOLVED that the grant summary be received.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/31/1516 RESOLVED that:-

i. GR 13/1516 – Cheshire Border County Girlguiding

It was determined that this application did not meet the criteria to receive a grant, but, the applicant was to be encouraged to contact other organisations in the Town such as the Town trust to seek funding.

ii. GR 14/1516 – Congleton Pantomime

A grant of £400 be approved towards other production costs.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

There were no new Grant Activities monitoring forms.

8. MANAGEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2015

FAP/32/1516 RESOLVED that the Managements Accounts for October 2015 be received.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION

FAP/33/1516 RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation for 31st October 2015 be received.

10. LIST OF PAYMENTS

FAP/34/1516 RESOLVED that the Payments List between 1st October 2015 and 31st October 2015 be received.

11. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT

A letter from Cheshire East Council was considered which confirmed that the remaining Council Tax Support Grant of £49,890 provided to the Town Council, would be removed entirely with effect from 1st April 2016. It was noted that the Government no longer provide this grant to Cheshire East Council.

FAP/35/1516 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and its effect on the Town Council precept noted.

12. BUDGET 2016-17

The Town Clerk presented the draft budget report for 2016-17 and pointed out that the Council Tax Support Grant had now been removed entirely which has significant impact on the Town Council budget.

FAP/36/1516 RESOLVED that the budget be recommended for approval at the Town Council meeting which will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2015.

13. PRESSURE WASHER

A justification to purchase a pressure washer was considered by the members.

FAP/37/1516 RESOLVED that the purchase of a pressure washer be approved with following caveat:

1. Determine whether a secondhand or new pressure washer has the capability of removing chewing gum.
2. If, both have the capability, purchase a secondhand unit at a cost of circa £2,500.
3. If the new unit can provide this capability, but not a secondhand unit, purchase a new unit at a cost of circa £6,500.
4. Liaise with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee before making a purchase.

14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Treasury Management Policy for 2016-17 was considered.

FAP/38/1516 RESOLVED that the policy and recommendation be approved but, the Town Clerk will investigate the rates provided by Carter Allen with the assistance of Cllr Baggott

15. INTERNET BANKING

A report produced by the Support Manager on Internet banking was discussed. It was noted that the Autopay system provided by RBS is being withdrawn, which is used to pay salaries and is being replaced with internet banking.

FAP/39/1516 RESOLVED that the application to apply for RBS Bankline be approved along with the proposed safeguards.

16. MEMORIAL TO TREO

A request to consider providing a memorial to Treo, a dog used by the Army who received an animal V.C, was considered.

FAP/40/1516 RESOLVED that the request be supported in principle, but should be incorporated in some way into the work being carried out by the Cenotaph Restoration Group.

17. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

CES/22/1516 RESOLVED that the Town Council employ and Assistant Cook to complement the staff at the Luncheon Club at a cost of about £4,000 per annum.

THC/16/1516 RESOLVED that the additional expenditure of £1,800 for the fire alarm system be approved.

A considerable debate took place concerning the value that was derived from supporting the Luncheon Club at Fellowship House, and in particular how to encourage more elderly members of the community to attend to derive greater value.

FAP/41/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. Expenditure from both committees be approved.
2. The Assistant Cook to be offered a 12 month contract.
3. In 12 months' time the value derived from the Luncheon Club to be reviewed.

G R Edwards
Chairman

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S Akers Smith
 Mrs D S Allen
 L D Barker
 R Boston
 G P Hayes (Chairman)
 Mrs S A Holland
 Mrs A M Martin
 Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)

 Lay Member Mr D A Parker

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs A E Morrison.

Apologies were also received from Councillors C Booth, who is not a member of this particular Committee and Cllrs, D T Brown and G R Edwards who ex-officio members.

2. MINUTES

THC/12/1516 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2015 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.

Cllrs G P Hayes and Mrs E Wardlaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions

5. TOWN HALL TRADING ACCOUNT

THC/13/1516 RESOLVED that the Town Hall Trading Account for September 2015 be received.

6. CATERING CONTRACT

It was noted that 4 organisations have applied to become the Catering Partner in the Town Hall. The sub-committee will be meeting shortly to select the most appropriate applications.

THC/14/1516 RESOLVED that the report on the progress to select a Commercial Partner be received.

7. CONGLETON TOWN HALL'S 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A report on proposed activities to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Town Hall was received.

It was considered essential that the schools are involved in the celebrations.

THC/15/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be received.
2. Regular reports on items and progress be presented to the Committee.

8. FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

An update on the problems associated with installing a new fire alarm panel were considered, it was pointed out that when the system was last updated in 1997 the installation was less than perfect which gave rise to the contactor having to replace a significant amount of wiring to rectify problems that were occurring, resulting in additional expenditure of £1800.

THC/16/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. The verbal report be received.
2. The additional expenditure of £1,800 be approved and noted.

G P Hayes
(Chairman)

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on Monday 21st December 2015 in the Town Hall, Congleton

PRESENT Youth Councillor Matthew Jones (Chairman)
Jamie Bernardi
Sophie Hammond
Bella Statham
Arabella Holland
Tom Heyes
Thomas Minshull
Michael Howell
Zak Roberts

Councillor Glen Williams
Linda Minshull

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Larry Barker, George Hayes, Sally Holland and Liz Wardlaw.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd November 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. MEMBERSHIP

A discussion took place regarding membership and recruitment and it was again noted that there is a shortage of members from Eaton Bank but otherwise membership was strong. It was noted that this would be the last meeting as a formal member for Tom Heyes as he was soon to reach the upper age limit. It was –

RESOLVED – to co-opt Michael Howell as a member of the Committee. Michael submitted his signed form to Linda.

4. WEBSITE

Nathan was unable to attend the meeting but had provided two detailed reports, Site Development Plan 2015-16 and Project Reboot Action Plan.

A long discussion took place regarding the use of the site and the problems encountered with encouraging organisations to use the facility. It was acknowledged that the Website concept remains an excellent idea to provide information but it was agreed that this project would not be the focus for the Committee at the present time. It was

RESOLVED – To use facebook to provide information and promote opportunities at the current time. Not to renew the current subscription of £50 in January but to keep the option open to renew in the future. Matthew would contact Nathan to discuss the information with him.

5. YOUTH COMMITTEE PROJECT - EMPLOYMENT

An update was given to members not at the earlier meeting with Fiona Bruce M.P. on employment opportunities in Congleton. It was

RESOLVED – to accept the actions agreed at the meeting with Fiona.

It was also agreed to use the Neighbourhood Plan consultation to give our views and to use facebook to promote information on our projects.

6. YOUTH FORUM

Glen gave an update on the Youth Forum Meeting. He reported that two portable basketball hoops had been purchased for a cost of £500. This would enable youth groups in the town to borrow the items from time to time. The hoops will be available for Detached Youth Workers to use for events. There is approximately £700 left for basketball equipment to be purchased and sited around the town. Glen will work with Matthew to identify specific sites. Glen confirmed that he will contact Linda when the £150 is required from the Youth account.

A discussion took place with Glen regarding Anti Social Behaviour and related health problems. It was agreed that the Youth Committee would support the Youth Forum in their projects.

There was a discussion regarding the future Youth Festival and members will work with the Carnival Committee on the event.

7. YOUTH COMMITTEE HONORARY BURGESS

At the last meeting it was agreed to award Joseph Hearson a Youth Committee Honorary Burgess. A discussion took place regarding the presentation and it was agreed to purchase an engraved pen. There will also be a certificate and formal letter. It was agreed for Linda to contact Joe to arrange the presentation to be at our next Youth Committee Meeting or Town Council Meeting.

It was acknowledged that Tom Heyes was now at the upper age limit and would be leaving as a formal member. It was acknowledged that Tom has been a committed member of the Committee and also a Mayor's Cadet and it was

RESOLVED – to nominate Tom Heyes as a Youth Committee Burgess. Linda will write to Tom informing him of the decision. It was also agreed that the presentation to Tom would be made at a separate meeting to the presentation to Joe.

8. YOUTH COMMITTEE BANK ACCOUNT

It was reported that the balance is £638.92

9. **YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ITEMS**

There were no other items.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 18th January 2016 – 7 p.m. – Congleton Town Hall.

Matthew Jones (Chairman)

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting with Fiona Bruce M.P. and the Youth Committee held on Monday 21st December 2015 in the Town Hall, Congleton

PRESENT Youth Councillor Matthew Jones (Chairman)
Jamie Bernardi
Thomas Minshull
Bella Statham
Arabella Holland
Michael Howell
Councillor Sally Holland
Linda Minshull
Fiona Bruce M.P.

YOUTH COMMITTEE PROJECT - EMPLOYMENT

A long discussion took place with Fiona Bruce M.P. and members of the Committee regarding employment opportunities in Congleton. It was agreed that there was a lack of good quality jobs in the Town and therefore many young people found it necessary to move away from the area to further their career.

It was acknowledged that there are good schools in Congleton but often students have insufficient information on career options. It was agreed to contact the schools to discuss working with them to organise a careers event.

The meeting discussed volunteering opportunities for young people. Fiona talked about the programmes offered by the National Citizen Service. It was noted that they do not have a base in Congleton.

Fiona stated that she had a meeting in the New Year with the Prime Minister to discuss Planning Policy in respect of the allocation of land for employment.

The following actions were agreed –

The Youth Committee would formally write to Fiona with their views on employment opportunities in Congleton.

Fiona would make arrangements for the letter to be presented to Government.

To work together with Fiona and the schools to organise a Careers event.

To contact David Watson and members of the Chamber of Commerce for support with a careers event, to include information on apprenticeship opportunities.

To contact the National Citizen Service to explore whether it would be possible for a local base to be provided.

To work with Councillor George Hayes to recruit new members from Eaton Bank Academy.

Matthew Jones (Chairman)