

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT: Councillors G R Edwards (Vice Chairman, in the Chair)
T C Nield
Mrs J Whitehurst

N Bayley (Leader)
E Clarke (Mayor)

Also present C Anstice
D Murphy

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors: G Baxendale, Mts L Bossons
D Martin, D A Parker & Miss R K Williams.

2. **MINUTES**

AAS/16/0910 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held
on the 8th October 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct
record.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were requested to declare both "personal" and "personal & prejudicial"
interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
Cllrs. Mrs J Whitehurst & E Clarke declared a personal interest in Item 14

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The two outstanding items from the last meeting were noted and progress discussed.

5. **Play Areas and Playbuilder Scheme**

AAS/17/0910 RESOLVED: That a contribution of £1500 be made to the Lower
Heath Playbuilder Scheme and that Finance & Policy Committee agree to a virement
Of this amount from the Highways budget.

AAS/18/0910 RECOMMENDED: That a contribution of £1500 be made to the
Bromley Farm Playbuilder Scheme if approved by Cheshire East Council subject to
inclusion in the 2010/11 Budget.

AAS/19/0910 RECOMMENDED: That a contribution of £1500 be made to the
Astbury Lane Ends Playbuilder Scheme if approved by Cheshire East Council
subject to inclusion in the 2010/11 Budget.

AAS/20/0910 RESOLVED: That a play scheme feasibility study be undertaken for
Buglawton so that it is ready for future funding bids.

6. **LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSKS**

AAS/21/0910 RESOLVED: That BT be advised the Council will adopt the two Red Telephone boxes at Under Rainow Rd, Timbersbrook and Greenacres Road Congleton. The Community Group at Congleton will be given a licence to maintain the telephone box at Timbersbrook and to use it as a community facility.

AAS/22/0910 RESOLVED: That residents in the area of the Greenacres Road facility will be approached to see if they would wish to look after it.

7. **A BOARDS**

Committee were advised, in response to their question that Cheshire East Council had not yet adopted an enforcement policy over the use of A boards, other advertising and goods placed on the public highways.

Councillor Roland Domleo, a Cheshire East Ward Councillor was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and invited to present his views on this matter, as he was currently raising it within that Council.

AAS/23/0910 RESOLVED: That the approach of Councillor Domleo be supported in that the Council did not object to the use of A Boards or similar advertising per se, but did object to their anti social use. It would urge Cheshire East Council to adopt an enforcement policy which allowed officers discretion to allow A Boards to be placed on the highway without licence on condition that they were removeable, taken in at night, sited close to the premises to which they related, did not obstruct footways or cause visual distraction.

Councillor Domleo was thanked for his contribution.

8. **Works Progress**

Members considered a report from the Architectural Consultant, updated them on progress with works at the Allotments, Dropped kerb programme, maintenance and repair of War Memorial in Lawton Street and footpath through Congleton Park Wood.

AAS/24/0910 RESOLVED: That a request be made to both Dane Housing and Cheshire East Council to upgrade the existing street lighting columns in Hillary Avenue and Hutton Drive in the interests of community safety following the development of allotments.

AAS/25/0910 RESOLVED: That Cheshire East be advised of the disabled car parking place by Capital Walk which blocks off a disabled access kerb.

9. **MANAGEMENT OF THE ANCIENT RECORDS**

Members considered a report from the Change Management Consultant.

AAS/26/0910 RESOLVED: That the Initial Action Plan to improve the storage of Ancient Records and Charters and to improve access to them, be adopted

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11. **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

AAS/27/0910 RESOLVED: That the Council resolve to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, from the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

PART TWO –ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

12. HANDY PERSON SERVICE

Committee considered a report from the Change Management Consultant and the Facilities Manager,

AAS/28/0910 RESOLVED: That the operational changes made by management be endorsed and that tools and equipment be purchased from the capital reserve.

14. Congleton in Bloom

Members considered a letter from Congleton in Bloom advising that they were to discontinue and had been unable to find new volunteers to take over. A report from the Architectural Consultant setting out the potential costs to the Council if they took over these duties was also considered.

AAS/29/0910 RECOMMENDED: That in principle, the Council take over the Town's floral displays, subject to approval of a budget provision and practical procedures being developed.

AAS/30/0910 RESOLVED: That a sub-committee be established consisting of G R Edwards, C Nield, N Bayley, E Clarke & Mrs J Whitehurst to develop the necessary methodology for taking over the floral displays.

15. BUDGET 2010/11

AAS/31/089 RESOLVED: That the draft budget be supported and that Finance & Policy Committee be asked to consider funding for play areas.

D Martin
Chairman