

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2010

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs L Daniels
 Mrs S A Holland
 D Martin
 D Murphy
 Mrs J Whitehurst
 Mrs M M Williamson (Appointed Member)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor G Baxendale, D. Brown (Mayor), N. Bayley and D. Parker.

2. **MINUTES**

CAE/01/1011 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March 2010 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no outstanding actions.

5. **MARKET TOWN AWARD**

The committee complimented the Bear Brand team for their success in winning the Market Town Award in the Business and Economy category for the 'My Bear Town' website.

CAE/02/1011 RESOLVED:- That the Town Clerk write to the Bear Team to congratulate them on their award.

6. **ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION CASUALTIES**

A Road Traffic Collision Casualties 2008 Profile Report produced by Cheshire East Council was presented to the committee. The committee noted that the casualty target reduction of 40% was on target to be met, but, that certain key groups such as children, car occupants and motor cyclists need to be focussed on to bring accident and casualty rates down further.

CAE/03/1011 RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

7. IMPROVEMENTS AT RADNOR PARK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT EXHIBITION

Two reports were considered by the committee, the first related to proposed improvement to the Radnor Park Industrial Estate which included installing new signage and making the estate more attractive and welcome.

The second report related to producing a directory of business opportunities and holding an Exhibition in the Town Hall to encourage developers and entrepreneurs to invest in the town.

It is anticipated that Cheshire East Council via their Economic Recovery Fund will partly fund both projects.

CAE/04/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. The reports be received.
2. Local CEBC Councillors to be requested to support the grant applications.

8. FARMERS MARKET

A report on a proposed Local Produce and Craft Market was discussed by the committee put forward by City Markets and Congleton Business Associations for a market to be held in the Town Centre on one or two Sundays a month.

It was noted that the police have stated that there would need to be a change in the Bye Law to accommodate loading and unloading in the pedestrian area to accommodate the Sunday Market.

CAE/05/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. The Council supports in principle the idea of holding a Craft and Local produce market.
2. Supports the notion of applying to CEBC Recovery Fund for assistance with marketing and promoting the market.

9. NORTH WEST IN BLOOM

The Judging for the North West in Bloom competition takes place on Monday, 12th July. Councillors were requested to provide any assistance they can and to also assist in pointing out any areas that require remedial attention on the judges route.

CAE/06/1011 RESOLVED:- That the Town Clerk circulate the route the judges will take.

10. TOWN PARTNERSHIP PILOT

The committee noted that the Town Clerk and Congleton Partnership have been in discussion with Cheshire East Council concerning how partnership's at town level might develop. Cheshire East have invited Congleton to pilot this project. To facilitate how both parties work together the Partnership produced and submitted a protocol to Cheshire East Council.

CAE/07/1011 RESOLVED:- That the committee endorse the proposals as a basis for an agreement and to delegate to the Town Clerk the authority to negotiate the final wording of the protocol with Cheshire East Council.

11. REGENERATION PRIORITIES AND FUNDING

A report setting out the Regeneration Priorities and Funding was presented to the members which included new bids for funding for the Radnor Park project and the Business Expo. Other projects itemised for funding included the Enterprise Service, the Gateway Service and training for residents in the Town who are out of work or made redundant.

CAE/08/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. To allocate £1000 to the Gateway service of the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce's Enterprise Centre.
2. To allocate £2000 to continue the training scheme for those out of work through Chamber Learning.
3. To allocate the £2000 in the EMR for start up counselling or mentoring of SMEs within their first 3 years.
4. To allocate £5000 to the Business Expo.
5. To authorise the £3000 in the budget to be used to continue the support the training of the Town's workforce and to extend the initiative to include the industrial and service sectors.

12. SUMMER BALL

A discussion paper concerning the notion of holding another Summer Ball was considered by the committee.

Councillor Whitehurst commented that she would'nt mind helping to organise the event, but, the whole of the Council would need to be involved in helping out as well.

It was suggested that the 17th September 2010, could be a possible date to hold the Ball depending upon the availability of the band.

CAE/09/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. Proposed that the Ball be held on 17th September 201 subject to the availability of the band.
2. All councillors to assist, particularly in selling tickets.

13. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

CAE/10/1011 RESOLVED:- That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, public and press be excluded from the meeting for the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

14. CHESHIRE POLICE

Sgt Line of Cheshire Police provided a comprehensive report on police activities in Congleton and made the following points:-

1. The local police team which includes Congleton, Middlewich and Sandbach has had an increase in the number of Sargents from 4 to 6.
2. PCSO's hold surgeries every Saturday in the library.
3. Extra police have been on duty during the World Cup, but there have been no problems in Congleton so far.
4. The 4 PCSO's will be working during the Carnival weekend supported by other police resources.
5. The two main local priorities are anti-social behaviour and dangerous bikers.
6. Police continue to work with the Youth of the town via the schools, Connections and Visyon.
7. The police are actively supporting the youth clubs.

CAE/11/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. To receive the verbal report from Sgt Line.
2. To write to the local police to request that Congleton Police Stations is manned on the same basis as Crewe and Macclesfield.

15. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

A report on the Town Centre Public Realm Brief was considered by the committee which when finalised will be sent out to suitable consultants for tender.

CAE/12/1011 RESOLVED:- That:-

1. To approve the Public Realm Brief as a basis for inviting proposals from consultants and to authorise the Town Clerk to make final changes after consultation with Cheshire East.
2. To approve a contribution of £5000 towards the cost of the strategy from the Council's Regeneration Budget.
3. To invite the Chairman and Vice Chairman in conjunction with the Town Clerk and P. Cooper to review the tenders and make a recommendation to the Amenities and Services Committee.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Recommended that a letter be sent to the Divisional Police Commander to thank the local Police teams for their support during the Food Festival and Civic Parade.

Mrs S A Holland
Chairman