

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2013

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

1. **APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs.S.A Holland (Town Mayor). Apologies were also received from Cllrs G.P Hayes and G.Brittain who are not members of this particular committee.

2. **MINUTES**

CES/22/1213 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th November 2012 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.

Cllrs D.Murphy and D.Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10.

Cllr G.Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5.

Cllr N.Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18.

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

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

CAE/40/1112

A report on the Boat on the River Dane noted that a group of local businessmen had offered to remove the boat at no cost.

CES/02/1213

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 Clerk to contact McCarthy and Stone to elicit their assistance in the matter.

5. CONGLETON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Sarah Bishop provided a presentation on the work being carried out by Congleton Children's Centre.

It was noted that the service which is part of Cheshire East; Family Service covers Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach.

There are facilities at Daven School and Bradshaw House with a staff of 9. It was also noted that the imminent change to the Welfare Benefit Scheme will have a further negative impact on deprivation in areas such as Bromley Farm, Buglawton and the Town Centre.

CES/23/1213 RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

6. BOAT ON THE RIVER DANE

Cllr Price provided an update on the latest situation with the Boat on the River Dane. It was noted that a business man may be interested in taking over the boat for an office, but, was seeking advice on change of use.

Mr G.Goodwin also raised a question asking when residents would finally see the eyesore removed.

CES/24/1213 RESOLVED that the Town Clerk 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.

7. SPEED SIGN ON MANCHESTER ROAD

Correspondence from Cheshire East Traffic and Road Safety Team confirmed that action was being taken to extend the 30mph section on Manchester Road and to also introduce a short 40mph limit leading into this section.

It was noted that the officer's decision report on this issue has been passed to Cheshire East Legal Department for checking in readiness for signing and advertising.

CES/25/1213 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

8. RESIDENTS STREET PARKING

Correspondence from a resident in Park View and Mr Howard from Cheshire East concerning the proposed change to parking regulations in Park Road and Park View was considered.

CES/26/1213 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and noted.

9. STREET LIGHTING CARBON REDUCTION SCHEME

Kevin Melling, Head of Highways and transport at Cheshire East, provided a report on the Borough's plans to reduce their carbon footprint by switching off or dimming street lighting on certain roads.

The roads affected are:

1. A534 Clayton By Pass and Newcastle Road.
2. Mountbatten Way, Buxton Road and Burton Road.
3. Park Lane
4. A536 Macclesfield Road junction with the A34.

CES/27/1213 RESOLVED that the Council support this initiative as it fits in with the Council's Transition Town Status. Any issues concerning this change to be reported to John Tickle at Cheshire East.

10. TOWN TRUST TRUSTEES

A request from Jo Money to consider recommending Robert Boston and James Morris as Trustees of the Town trust for a further 4 years was discussed.

CES/28/1213 RESOLVED that the nomination of R.Boston and J.Morris as Trustees of the Town Trust be confirmed.

11. FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

It was noted that Fellowship House had provided a letter of thanks to the Council for the provision of a Christmas tree.

12. CHESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Town Clerk provided a report on the work of the Cheshire Community Foundation which was supported by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. It was noted there is to be a presentation in the Town Hall on the 5th March concerning the Foundation and local business people and charitable organisations will be invited.

CES/29/1213 RESOLVED that the Council fully supports the aims and objectives and will provide financial support for the buffet.

13. FLEXIBLE TRANSPORT SERVICES

Correspondence from Cheshire East Council outlining a new flexible transport service operating in Congleton to registered members of Dial a Ride was noted.

14. MERCIAN MARCH

Correspondence from Cheshire East Corporate Management Team concerning the planned parade of the Mercian Regiment in Congleton on the morning of Friday 14th June was discussed. It was noted that Cheshire East only had a limited budget for the march taking place in 3 towns in Cheshire East and that the Town Council may need to supplement this budget.

CES/30/1213 RESOLVED to receive the correspondence and note the budget constraints of Cheshire East.

15. CHALC MEETING WITH CHESHIRE POLICE COMMISSIONER

Notes of a ChALC Executive Board meeting with John Dwyer, Police Commissioner were received.

16. FUNDING OF PCSOs

Correspondence from Cheshire Constabulary thanking the town Council for its continuing financial support for the PCSOs was considered. It was also noted that the cost of the service remains unchanged.

17. NATIONAL GRID GAS WORK – CANAL STREET

A report from the Town Clerk outlining the work to be carried out by National Grid to replace cast iron gas pipes in Canal Street was considered. It was noted that the work will start on 11th March 2013 and should be completed by 8th April 2013.

18. PARKING ON BUXTON OLD ROAD

Correspondence from a resident of Buxton Old Road concerned at the parking on this street during school start and finish times was considered.

CES/31/1213 RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Cheshire East to request an improvement to safety around the school including a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph. Cllr A Thwaite will also be contacted to seek his support.

19. LOVE LOCAL LIFE

Jackie MacArthur, Town Centre Manager, provided a report outlining the current status of the Love local Life scheme.

CES/32/1213 RESOLVED that the Council continue to ring fence £1,500 of funding and to consider the matter again at the next meeting of the Committee on 21st March 2013.

20. HIGHTOWN SHOPS

Cllr G. Williams pointed out some of the concerns with parking around the shops at Hightown which are still occurring despite the improvements to parking facilities at the train station. It was noted that Cheshire East have yet to complete some improvement work in this area.

CES/33/1213 RESOLVED that:-

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

21. DOG FOULING

Concern was expressed at the amount of dog fouling taking place in the town which was typically taking place in the evening. It was noted that Bromley Farm are introducing a scheme to deal with the issue.

CES/34/1213 RESOLVED that 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.

22. WAR MEMORIAL

The Town Clerk reported that a group of residents were setting out to refurbish the War memorial which would require extensive work; in particular the retaining wall at the rear of the War Memorial is cracked and in danger of collapsing. Funding is required to produce a feasibility scheme and plans to submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

CES/35/1213 RESOLVED that the committee supports the notion of refurbishing the War Memorial, but, suggested that some skills may be provided free to assist in the production of a Lottery submission.

23. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

CES/36/1213 RECOMMENDED: that in accordance with the Public bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, that Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve the likely discussions of private and confidential information or staff matters.

24. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED ISSUE

Concern was expressed at drug and alcohol related issues leading to anti-social behaviour.

CES/37/1213 RESOLVED that the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group examine this problem and to liaise with other agencies including the Police and Plus Dane.

25. CHESHIRE POLICE

There were no representatives of the Police present.

G Williams
Chairman (In the Chair)