

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th  
March 2009 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Murphy (Town Mayor)  
C R Anstice  
N J Bayley  
G Baxendale  
Mrs L Beard  
R Boston  
D T Brown  
E R Clarke( Deputy Town Mayor)  
Mrs S A Holland  
D Martin  
P H Mason  
D A Parker  
A R Thwaite  
Mrs J Whitehurst  
Miss R K Williams

The Mayor's Chaplain led prayers.

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs L Daniels, GR Edwards, L Mc Garry and P C Smith.

The Town Clerk also submitted apologies from County Councillor W Woolstencroft .

## **2. MINUTES**

**CTC/109/089 RESOLVED** –That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 be approved.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare both “personal” and “personal and prejudicial” interests as early in the meeting as they become aware of it.

Councillors G Baxendale, D T Brown, P Mason and A R Thwaite declared a “personal” interest in the various items on the Agenda affecting the Principal Authorities.

## **4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor drew attention to various engagements he, the Deputy Mayor and their respective civic partners had fulfilled since the last Council Meeting.

## **5. NORTH WARD CASUAL VACANCY**

The Town Clerk reported on the latest position following the publication of the Public Notice agreed at the last meeting. Six expressions of interest had been received and

the Members Panel had agreed a selection procedure. A further report and recommendation would be submitted to the next meeting.

## **6. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no items to report.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions had been received from Members of the public.

## **8. BOROUGH, COUNTY AND CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Councillors D Brown, G Baxendale, P Mason and A R Thwaite reported on recent decisions and developments at the Principal Authorities, with particular reference to the approved Budget and Council Tax, Local Area Partnerships, Cheshire East HQ and the completion of the "Westfields" Office Project.

The Town Mayor referred to the imminent demise of Cheshire County Council and Congleton Borough Council and it was agreed that letters should be sent to both Authorities conveying the Town Council's thanks for the close relationships which had existed over many years.

## **9. AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**CTC/110/089 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Services Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

## **10. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**CTC/111/089 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted

## **11. FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/112/089 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 26th February 2009 be approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

## **12. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/113/089 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be received.

## **13. STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**

**CTC/114/089 RESOLVED-** That the notes of the meeting of the Strategy Working Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **14. ACCOUNTS**

##### **CTC/115/089 RESOLVED –**

1. The Council approve the payment of the accounts listed in Appendix A
2. The Council approve payment of any expenditure agreed at the Meeting.

#### **15. URGENT MATTERS-Members Items**

The Leader of the Council reported that the Conservative Group had appointed Councillor Mrs S A Holland to replace Councillor Mrs L Beard as Deputy Leader and that, accordingly, Councillor Mrs Holland would be the Deputy Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting in May. Members then conveyed their thanks to Councillor Mrs Beard for her work as Deputy Leader.

#### **16 YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

**CTC/116/089 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 be received.

Arising from Minute 11, Members congratulated Jon Foster on his election to the Cheshire East Youth Parliament.

Questions put to the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk by various Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting were dealt with.

#### **17. POWER OF WELL BEING**

**CTC/117/089 RESOLVED-** That, arising from the report now submitted by the Change Management Consultant, approval be given in principle to become eligible to use the power of well being and that the necessary arrangements for training Members and key staff be put in place.

#### **18. CHESHIRE EAST ISSUES**

**CTC/118/089 RESOLVED-** a) That the letter dated 10<sup>TH</sup> February 2009 re Local Area Partnerships be received and noted.

b) That the letter dated 19th February 2009 re Funding of Citizens Advice Bureaux be received and noted.

#### **19. UNITARY AUTHORITY REVIEW OF CHESHIRE EAST**

**CTC/119/089 RESOLVED-** That, arising from the letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 from the Boundary Committee for England and the electoral data supplied by Councillor Mason, the Town Clerk be authorised to make representations to the Boundary Committee recommending that the number of Congleton Town Ward Members serving the new Cheshire East Council should be six and that the total size of the Council should be retained at eighty one.

#### **20. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2008/9**

**CTC/120/089 RESOLVED-** a) That the Interim Update from Audit Solutions Ltd dated February 2009 be received and noted and that the proposed action plan to deal with the recommendations contained in the report be approved and adopted.

b) That the Town Clerk, Support Manager and staff be congratulated for once again receiving such an excellent report.

## **21. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**CTC/121/089 RESOLVED-** That the Town Mayor, Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk be authorised to agree a date for a Special meeting to be held in early April 2009 to deal with the urgent business now reported.

## **22. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**CTC/122/089 RESOLVED-**That the Council resolve to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, for the matters set out below on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

## **23. FUTURE CONSULTANCY ARRANGEMENTS**

Arising from a confidential report submitted by the Town Clerk, it was-

**CTC/ 123/089 RESOLVED-** That the recommendation in respect of the Change Management Consultant from the Strategy Working Group be approved and that the contract be extended as set out in the report now submitted.

## **24. PUBLICATION OF MEMBERS INFORMATION**

There was a discussion on the information published in “Bear Necessities” and it was

**CTC/124/089 RESOLVED-** That the Town Clerk investigate the implications of implementing a system whereby E Mails from constituents to individual Members of the Council can be sent via the Town Council’s E Mail address, similar to arrangements in place at CBC and Cheshire East.

DENIS MURPHY  
MAYOR

