

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd  
November 2009 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

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

The Mayor's Chaplain led prayers.

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs L Bossons and Mrs L Daniels.

## **2 MINUTES**

**CTC/62/0910 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th September 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 D Parker and G Baxendale declared “personal and prejudicial” interests in Item Nos. 14(b),(c)and (d)

Councillors Mrs J Whitehurst and D Murphy declared “personal and prejudicial” interests in Item Nos. 14(a),(b) and(d)

Councillor D Brown declared a “personal” interest in all Cheshire East Council matters as a member of the principal Authority.

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

The Town Mayor drew attention to various engagements he and the Mayoress had fulfilled since the last Council Meeting. A list of all engagements undertaken by the Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor was also circulated.

## **5. PRESENTATION**

It was noted that, prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor and other Members had presented a cheque to representatives of the East Cheshire Hospice raised from the proceeds of the Summer Ball.

## **6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWN CLERK**

The Town Mayor formally welcomed and introduced Mr B Hogan to the Council, who was attending the meeting as an observer prior to taking up his appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

## **7. CASUAL VACANCY-SOUTH WARD**

Council considered a recommendation from the Members Panel following a meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and it was-

**CTC/63/0910 RESOLVED-**That Mr M Carey, 9 Mill Street, Buglawton, Congleton be appointed to fill the casual vacancy of Councillor for the South Ward until the date of the next ordinary elections for the Town Council in 2011.

## **8. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no items to report.

## **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions had been submitted.

## **10. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

No reports were made.

## **11. VOLUNTEER POLICY**

**CTC/64/0910 RESOLVED-** That the draft policy now submitted by the Change Management Consultant be approved and adopted.

## **12. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**CTC/65/0910 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

## **13. AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**CTC/66/09 10 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Services Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

#### **14. FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/67/0910 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 be approved and the recommendations contained therein be adopted, subject to the addition of the following decisions made at this meeting as the Committee was not quorate:-

1. The Mayor's Charity and Uganda Learn4life-Town Hall hire concession, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009-£250.00
2. Congleton Community Projects-Town Hall hire concession, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009-£437.50
3. Churches In Congleton/Children of Romania (Cong)/Congleton British Legion-Town Hall hire concession, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009-Full charge.
4. Congleton Community Projects- Town Hall hire concession, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009-Full charge
5. Rotary Club of Congleton- That the Council give a guarantee to the Rotary Club of Congleton that any loss up to £5000 in respect of the Town bonfire event on 7th November 2008 ,sustained as a result of serious inclement weather, may be reclaimed under the Grants procedure.

(All grants approved under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972)

#### **15. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**CTC/68/0910 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted

#### **16. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/69/0910 RESOLVED –** That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 be received.

#### **17. ACCOUNTS**

**CTC/70/0910 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.

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

1 .Councillor Mrs S A Holland introduced a brief discussion on the subject of Business Rates and it was agreed that a full report on the issues highlighted at the meeting be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee.

2. Councillor D Murphy advised Council of a Drug Awareness presentation to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 5.30pm and invited all Members to attend.

## **19. YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

**CTC/71/0910 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received.

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

## **20. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL ISSUES**

**CTC/72/0910 RESOLVED:** a) That the decision on LAP representation contained in the letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be noted and that representations be made for Youth Committee involvement with the LAP.

b) That the report by the Town Mayor and the Leader of the Council on their attendance at the Town and Parish Councils' Conference held at Congleton Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received and noted.

c) That the report by Councillor G Baxendale on his attendance at the Assembly of the Local Strategic Partnership held at Tatton Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 be received and noted.

d) That the report by the Council's delegates on the meeting with the Leader of Cheshire East Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 be received and noted.

e) That the arrangements for "Not in My Neighbourhood week" as contained in the press release dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 be received and noted.

## **21. FIRST INTERIM AUDIT REPORT 2009/10**

**CTC/73/0910 RESOLVED-** That the letter and report from Auditing Solutions dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be received and noted and that the Town Clerk and staff be congratulated on a further excellent report.

## **22. CONGLETON TOWN TRUST**

**CTC/74/0910 RESOLVED-** That Mrs L Beard be reappointed as Trustee for a further 4 year term from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009.

( Councillors G Baxendale and Mrs J Whitehurst declared a "personal" interest in this Item )

## **23. RENEWAL OF FAIR TRADE STATUS**

**CTC/75/0910 RESOLVED-** That approval be given to supporting the application for renewal of the Town's Fair Trade Status in the following terms:-

" Congleton Town Council resolves to extend our commitment to Fair Trade. We welcome the progress made in developing Congleton's status as a Fair trade town. We are pleased to have recently installed Fair Trade town boundary signs and are delighted that the new tapas bar shortly to be opened in the Town Hall will be offering fair trade products, as well as De Laceys Events and Catering, who will be catering for weddings and other functions in the Town Hall. We urge local businesses, restaurants, stores, schools and other organisations to join the growing number who are already using or offering Fair Trade products and we urge local residents to look for the Fair Trade mark when shopping. "

## **24. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT(AMENDMENT) BILL**

In response to the Town Council's request, Council noted that confirmation had now been received from Lady Ann Winterton MP that she had signed the Early Day Motion No1545 in support of the Sustainable Community Act (Amendment) Bill which will ensure that Town and Parish Councils have direct involvement in the devolution of powers to local level.

## **25. URGENCY PROCEDURE**

**CTC/76/0910 RESOLVED-** That the action taken by the Town Mayor and the Leader of the Council under the approved procedure in authorising the Town Clerk to obtain Counsel's Opinion on the interpretation of certain provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 be noted.

## **26. RETIREMENT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Town Mayor referred to the imminent retirement of Mr Ian Fynn as Town Clerk on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and reported that this would be his last Full Council Meeting. He then formally thanked Mr Fynn for his service with the Town Council and made a presentation to mark the occasion.

Other members of the Council supported the Town Mayor's remarks and in conclusion Mr Fynn responded suitably, thanked the Council for their gifts and wished the Council well for the future.

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

**CTC/77/0910 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.

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

### **28. STAFFING MATTERS**

Arising from consideration of a confidential report submitted by the Town Clerk and the Change Management Consultant it was-

**CTC/78/0910 RESOLVED-** That the recommendations contained in the report be approved and adopted.

### **29. TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES-CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS**

**CTC/79/0910 RESOLVED-** That, bearing in mind the incidence of the public holidays during the forthcoming Christmas/New year period, the offices be closed at 12 noon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

ERNEST CLARKE

MAYOR