

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday,  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

**PRESENT:** Councillors E Clarke (Town Mayor)  
D Brown  
N J Bayley  
G Baxendale  
Mrs L Bossons  
Mrs L Daniels  
G R Edwards  
Mrs S A Holland  
D Martin  
P Mason  
D Murphy  
D Parker  
A Thwaite  
Miss R Williams  
M Carey  
C R Anstice

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: C Nield and Mrs J Whitehurst.

## **2 MINUTES**

**CTC/107/0910 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

## **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.

Councillor D. Brown declared a personal interest in item 4 by virtue of being a governor of Congleton High School.

Councillors D.T. Brown, G. Baxendale, P, Mason and A. Thwaite declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

## **4. CONGLETON’S CELEBRATIONS FOR THE OLYMPICS - PRESENTATION**

Barbara l’Anson of Triad, Chairman of ‘Team Congleton’, provided a presentation which outlined how Congleton can celebrate the Olympic Games in 2012. The objective of the Team is to build a 6 lane indoor running track to be located alongside the Sports Hall at Congleton High School. The cost of building the running track is anticipated to be about £K500. The Team are in contact with a variety of local companies, Cheshire East and national fund providers such as the lottery to raise the necessary funds. It was noted that raising funds from local residents should also be considered.

**CTC/108/0910 RESOLVED** – That the Town Council fully support the aims and objectives of ‘Team Congleton’.

#### **5. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that 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 circulated

The Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk who had gained the ‘Power of Well Being’ to add to his CILCA qualification.

#### **6. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no outstanding actions.

#### **7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC**

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

#### **8. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

Councillor A. Thwaite commented that contrary to various reports, Congleton Cheshire East Councillors had been working to improve how car parking charges were introduced in the Town and had secured a number of changes to the scheme, including making some car parks free. The Councillors had voted in favour of the moratorium proposed by the Town Council and had continued to make representations to Cheshire East Cabinet for further modifications. A door to door consultation of resident’s who live in the Town Centre was taking place and there would a review of car parking charges in the Summer.

#### **9. FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/109/0910 RESOLVED**-That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

#### **10. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/110/0910 RESOLVED**-That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

#### **11. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**CTC/111/0910 RESOLVED**- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

#### **12. AMENITIES AND SERVICES**

**CTC/112/0910 RESOLVED**- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

### **13. ACCOUNTS**

#### **CTC/113/0910 RESOLVED-**

- (a) That the Council approve the payment of the accounts listed in Appendix A.
- (b) That the Council approve payment of any expenditure agreed at the meeting.

### **14. URGENT MATTERS – MEMBERS ITEMS**

- i) The Town Clerk pointed out that Cheshire East were holding a retailer therapy session on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Ramada Encore, Crewe Business Park, which is free to attend.
- ii) The presentation provided by the Jameson Group was considered.

**CTC/114/0910 RECOMMENDED-** That the Jameson proposal is considered by the Planning Committee at the same time as the Modus Planning application at the meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **15. YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**CTC/115/0910 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 and the minutes of the Political Question Time held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 be received.

Questions from Members of the Youth Committee:

- Shouldn't parking permits be offered to residents who live in the Town Centre so that they can park in front of their homes.

Councillor Thwaite commented that Cheshire East are carrying out a door to door survey of Town Centre residents to determine their views on this issue.

- Can't the number of free parking spaces be increased for those attending the Doctor's Surgery.

Councillor Thwaite responded by stating that when the On Street Enforcement Officers are in place they will be able to determine whether there are sufficient 'On Street' Parking spaces or not.

- Trade in the Town seems to have decreased since car parking charges came into effect, which has had a detrimental effect, therefore shouldn't this policy be reviewed again.

Councillor Thwaite stated that shoppers have said that at least now they can find a car parking space, but, in so far as trade is concerned it is difficult to quantify at the moment because of the recession, many other Towns have experienced a dip in trade and at this stage it is difficult to ascertain whether Congleton is an exception.

- Would the Council consider arranging another bowling night out.

Councillor Brown stated that we would.

- Three months ago the footbridge at the bottom of Eaton Bank at Buglawton was reported that it was in a poor state of repair and this still hasn't been satisfactorily resolved.

It was suggested that issues such as this should be reported to Cheshire East via the One Stop Shop.

**16. BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Boundary Committee Report was considered by the Town Council and the comments made within the recommendations noted.

**CTC/116/0910 RESOLVED-** That the report be received.

**17. EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE OPEN DAY**

An invitation to attend an Open Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> March was presented to the council and duty noted.

**18. FELLOWSHIP HOUSE**

A report on the future of Fellowship House was considered by the council with a number of options being considered on how to retain the asset for the benefit of the community.

**CTC/117/0910 RESOLVED-** That the Town Council request Cheshire East to continue to keep open Fellowship House whilst a permanent solution for the building is determined.

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

**CTC/118/0910 RESOLVED-** 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 disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

**20. TOWN IDENTITY**

A report on registering a trade mark to provide a Town Identity was discussed by the Members. It was noted that registering the trademark 'Congleton Beartown' and 'Where Friends are Made' would cost about £5000.

**CTC/119/0910 RESOLVED-** That the trade marks for Congleton Town be registered.

ERNEST CLARKE  
MAYOR