

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday,  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Brown (Town Mayor)

C Anstice  
N J Bayley  
R Boston  
G R Edwards  
Mrs S A Holland  
D Martin  
D Murphy  
C Nield  
D A Parker  
Mrs J Whitehurst  
M Carey  
Mrs L Bossons

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G Baxendale, E Clarke, Mrs L J Daniels, P H Mason, P C Smith, A R Thwaite, Miss R K Williams and Rev. P Berry.

## **2 MINUTES**

**CTC/23/1011 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 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 (Mayor) declared a personal interest in item 26 and any other matters related to Cheshire East.

## **4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that they had fulfilled since the last Council meeting. The Mayor particularly thanked all the people who helped organise the Civic Service.

A list of all engagements undertaken by the Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor was circulated.

## **5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no outstanding actions.

## **6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

## **7. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor D Brown (Mayor) explained that Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Warrington had combined to make a joint submission to the government to form a Local Enterprise Partnership.

**CTC/24/1011 RESOLVED** – That a regular update on progress of the LEP be included on the Agenda.

## **8. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/25/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

**CTC/26/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **10. AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**CTC/27/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

**CTC/28/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **12. TOWN HALL COMMITTEE**

**CTC/29/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **13. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

It was noted that the Personnel Committee approved the following policies:-

- a. Volunteers Policy (new)
- b. Child and Vulnerable Adults Policy (new)
- c. Pension Discretions Policy (new)
- d. Health and Safety Action Plan (amended)

**CTC/30/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**14. ACCOUNTS**

**CTC/31/1011 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

**15. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items raised.

**16. YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

**CTC/32/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010 and 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 be received.

Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

The Youth Council on behalf of the Council passed on their condolences to the family of the young 17 year old Fire Station Cadet who recently lost her life.

They also passed on their thanks to Councillors Mrs J Whitehurst and D Murphy for hosting a very enjoyable visit to the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Youth Council stated that they will provide a presentation of their visit at the next meeting.

**17. CHAMBER ASSURED QMS ADVANCED LEVEL ACCREDITATION**

Mr D Watson, Managing Director of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce presented the Town Council and Mayor with the Advanced Level Accreditation for the Chamber Assured Quality Management System.

**CTC/33/1011 RESOLVED-** That the award be received.

**18. LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The Council considered the recent response sent to Cheshire East on the Local Transport Strategy and noted some concern from neighbouring parishes such as Somerford who felt that their views should be taken into account when discussing potential routes.

**CTC/34/1011 RESOLVED-** That neighbouring parishes will be consulted when appropriate, if and when the council discusses the route for a new By Pass.

**19. COUNTY PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

The correspondence from the CPFA requesting the Council to put forward a representative to sit on the Executive Committee of the Association was considered.

**CTC/35/1011 RESOLVED-** That the Council do not wish to put forward a representative to sit on the Executive Committee but, would like to remain on the mailing list for minutes and correspondence.

**20. CHALC QUALITY FORUM MEETING**

Councillor D Murphy presented the minutes from a meeting of Chalc that he attended on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

**CTC/36/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes be received.

**21. LETTER FROM FIONA BRUCE MP**

A letter from Fiona Bruce MP referring to a recent meeting that she had with Erika Wenzel and Wesley Fitzgerald of Cheshire East was considered.

**CTC/37/1011 RESOLVED-**

1. That the correspondence be received.
2. That the Clerk contact Caroline Simpson, Head of Regeneration CEBC and request a response to the issues raised by Fiona Bruce.

**22. DEVOLVED SERVICES**

It was noted that there is a briefing session on Devolved Services hosted by Cheshire East on 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Town Hall.

**CTC/38/1011 RESOLVED-** That Councillors should inform the Clerk as soon as possible if they intend to attend the meeting.

**23. LOCAL PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2011**

A letter from NALC concerning a possible changed of date of the Local Town Council Elections planned in May 2011 to facilitate a referendum on changing the voting system was considered.

**CTC/39/1011 RESOLVED-** That the Clerk draft a suitable response to the Cabinet Office confirming the Council's opposition to any change of date of the Local Council Elections.

**24. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

A report produced by the Boundary Commission was discussed by the Council and it was noted that there are no changes to the boundaries in Congleton. Although it was pointed out that Astbury is being moved into Odd Rode. However, it is anticipated that Parliamentary boundaries may be reviewed in the next 12 months.

**CTC/40/1011 RESOLVED-**

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Clerk write to the Local Government Boundary Commission suggesting that any changes to the Electoral Review of East Cheshire should be postponed until the outcome of the Parliamentary Boundary Review is complete.

**25. FELLOWSHIP HOUSE**

A report on the ongoing discussions concerning the future of Fellowship House was considered.

**CTC/41/1011 RESOLVED-** That the report be received.

**26. REPORT ON MAYOR'S EXPENSES**

A report was presented outlining proposed changes to the practice of offering complimentary tickets for Civic Functions.

**CTC/42/1011 RESOLVED-**

1. That the report be received.
2. That the matter be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee.

**27. TOWN TWINNING**

Correspondence from Cheshire East seeking the Council's view on the merits of Twinning was presented to the Council.

**CTC/43/1011 RESOLVED-** That Standing Orders be suspended to allow Members of the Youth Council to speak to the item.

The Youth Council pointed out that they have a variety of Twinning arrangements in existence via the schools and don't need the Council to necessarily duplicate this process.

**CTC/44/1011 RESOLVED-** That the issue of Twinning be referred to the Strategy Working Group.

**28. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

A report on Members Development was considered.

**CTC/45/1011 RESOLVED-**

1. That the report be received.
2. That those Councillors who have not received training on the Power of Well Being be requested to make an earnest effort to attend the next available course.

**29. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

It was noted that the Town Council will be hosting the reception after the Remembrance Day Parade in the Town Hall.

**CTC/46/1011 RESOLVED-** That a budget of £500 be approved to fund the cost of holding the reception.

**30. COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

The External Auditors Certificate and Opinion on the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 was considered and it was noted that the Council had received a clear audit once again.

**CTC/47/1011 RESOLVED-** To receive the External Audit Report.

**31. CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION**

A request from the Cheshire Community Action Council requesting a candidate to be nominated from the Council to stand for election as a Trustee was considered.

**CTC/48/1011 RESOLVED-** That the Clerk write a suitable letter to the Trustees confirming that the Council has no nominations to offer.

**32. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS (IF NECESSARY)**

There was no resolution required to exclude the press and public.

DAVID BROWN  
MAYOR