

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
3rd June 2010 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors E Clarke (Town Mayor)

N J Bayley
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs L Daniels
G R Edwards
P Mason
C Nield
D Martin
D Murphy
D Parker
M Carey
R Boston

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G. Baxendale, Mrs. L. Bossons, D. Brown, A. Thwaite and Mrs. J. Whitehurst.

2 MINUTES

CTC/12/1011 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2010, and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13th May 2010 be approved as a correct record 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 P. Mason declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East.

4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that the Mayor had fulfilled since the last Council meeting.

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 P Mason pointed out that there have been a number of changes in Cheshire East Council. Councillor G Baxendale is the new Mayor of Cheshire East and Councillor Domleo is Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Mason now has Human Resources added to his portfolio and is also Chairman of the Joint Waste Board of Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

He also pointed out that Cheshire East are funding a new footbridge at Havannah Street/Jackson Road and providing funding to complete the 'Safe Route to School' along the River Dane.

8. PLANNING COMMITTEE

CTC/13/1011 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. ACCOUNTS

CTC/14/1011 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.

10. URGENT MATTERS – MEMBERS ITEMS

There were no urgent matters raised by the members.

11. YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL

CTC/15/1011 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meetings held on 20th April 2010 and 18th May 2010 be received.

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

The Youth Council sought clarification of when they can speak during the Council meeting as set out in the Constitution.

A new member of the Youth Council Hannah Booth was welcomed to the meeting.

12. INTERNAL AUDIT – FINAL REPORT

CTC/16/1011 RESOLVED- That the report from Auditing Solutions Ltd and the recommended response to the Action Plan be approved and that the Officers be thanked for achieving another excellent audit report.

13. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2009-10

The final Accounts for 2009-10 were presented to the Council for consideration.

CTC/17/1011 RESOLVED- That the Accounts submitted by the Councils Accountants be approved and adopted.

14. ANNUAL RETURN TO AUDIT COMMISSION-ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

CTC/18/1011 RESOLVED- That Annual Governance statement for the year ended 31st March 2010 be approved and adopted.

15. UP DATING THE CONSTITUTION

An updated version of the constitution incorporating all the latest amendments proposed by members was considered by the Council.

CTC/20/1011 RESOLVED- That

- a) Council agrees to the proposed amendments Summary & Explanation Section of the Constitution.
- b) Council adopts the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders.
- c) Council adopts the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders for Contracts.
- d) Council adopts the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations.
- e) Council agrees the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for Council, Finance & Policy Committee, the Town Hall Committee and Personnel Committee.
- f) Council agrees the amendment to the Community and Social Policy.
- g) That delegated functions be appropriately updated and amended.
- h) That a facilitated discussion be arranged for a future Strategy Working Group to determine whether any fundamental changes are required to the Council's Constitution.

16. CONSULTATION ON THE CHESHIRE EAST DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

CTC/20/1011 RESOLVED- That the Cheshire East Draft Sustainable Community Strategy be received and members pass on any observations to the Town Clerk who will co-ordinate a suitable response to Cheshire East.

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

CTC/21/1011 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.

18. DEVOLVED SERVICES

A report on the latest status of discussions on the Devolution of Services with Cheshire East was discussed. It was noted that a distinction is being made between those Services which are classified as Transfer of Services where finance would not necessarily be available, and Services where Cheshire East have a statutory duty to provide where finance would follow function.

CTC/22/1011 RESOLVED-

1. To continue negotiations with Cheshire East and to respond to their current consultations in accordance with the adopted protocol.
2. To give the Strategy Working Group the opportunity to consider the current position in more detail and report back to the Council.

DAVID BROWN
MAYOR