

# Congleton Town Council

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

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Brown (Town Mayor)  
N J Bayley  
G Baxendale  
R Boston  
E Clarke  
G R Edwards  
Mrs S A Holland  
D Martin  
P H Mason  
C Nield  
D A Parker  
A R Thwaite

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs L Bossons, Mrs L J Daniels, D Murphy, Mrs J Whitehurst, Miss R K Williams and M Carey. Apologies were also received from Rev. Philip Berry – Mayor’s Chaplain.

## **2. MINUTES**

**CTC/64/1011 RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 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), P H Mason and A Thwaite declared a personal interest in any items related to Cheshire East.

## **4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Mayor particularly noted the fantastic turnout the Town provided to the Mercian Regiment on the 10<sup>th</sup> November and thanked the officers for organising the event.

## **5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

There were no outstanding actions.

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

The following question was put to the Town Mayor by Mr. John Saville Crowther *As Congleton is lacking many social facilities for young people living in this town, It has been confirmed that many youth's are resorting to sitting in pubs consuming alcohol or obtaining it from retail outlets , because there is nowhere for them to go in the town.*

*Councillor's Domleo, Topping and Baxendale have heard this comment first hand themselves from a teenager. I have heard similar stories myself from other young people.*

*Would the Town Council at least please consider the prospects of having a group of consensus from the youth arena and the community to consider items such as cinema complex and similar places of entertainment. On conclusion of the consensus then appropriate approach to the entertainment's company (if that's what is required) could be considered.*

The Mayor thanked Mr. Crowther for his question and stated that he would try and respond with a comprehensive answer as follows:-

1. We have a very active Youth Council which is an integral part of this meeting and a facility which we greatly value. The Youth Council representatives are a good cross section of the young in Congleton and range from 15 years old to 19 years. As we have found out on a number of occasions they are not slow in coming forward and making their views known, therefore we already have a proactive voice from the youth in Congleton being heard on a regular basis which we very much value
2. Insofar as a cinema complex is concerned, our Youth Council have raised this item on a number of occasions
  - a. At a meeting which the Youth Council held with a regeneration consultant on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 the Youth Council stated that Congleton had insufficient leisure activities in Congleton and would like to see a cinema, bowling or ice rink built in the area
  - b. In January 2009 at a meeting which took place in Westfield's the Youth Council again expressed a need for cinema in Congleton
  - c. At a meeting which took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 they suggested that a non alcoholic pub be created and with the help of some of our Councillors applied for a grant to set up such an establishment, however, the grant application was unsuccessful
  - d. On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the Youth Council again raised the issue of a cinema and other facilities they would like to see in Congleton
3. The youth of Congleton have been very clear about some of the aspirations that they have for the area which we very much support, but, then we have

to take into account the commercial realities. There is no money to publicly fund such schemes there has to be a commercial imperative for a developer to come into the area to build such a complex. Areas such as Macclesfield have been unable to attract such a facility and they have a population of about 65,000 against Congleton's 28,000.

4. About 12 months before the demise of Congleton Borough Council discussions were held with a cinema operator with a view to having a cinema in Congleton. Despite their best efforts the operator decided that it would not be financially viable. We have a document called strategies for sustainable local cinema development which sets out in detail the fundamental requirement to locate a successful cinema, and on a number of criteria we fail to meet these requirements. Therefore, as you can see attempts have been made to satisfy this need, but, in the final analysis it has to be commercially viable for it to happen
5. Similarly Cheshire East Shadow Scrutiny Committee have reviewed facilities for young people in January 2009 and received a presentation on the findings of a group of young entrepreneurs who made a presentation to Congleton Borough Council in September 2008 on a number of subjects which included the need for more leisure facilities. As a consequence the Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up 3 panels one of which included Leisure. But insofar as a cinema is concerned it all comes back to the size of the potential catchment area which in Congleton is too small and commercial realities
6. There is though a mobile cinema available at Daneside Theater once a month, which is attended by about 100 people on a regular basis

The last showing attendances are:-

Alice in Wonderland – 75  
Tamara Drew - 66  
Sherlock Holmes – 133  
Harry Potter – 53  
Slumdog Millionaire (2 shows) – 426  
Australia – 152

7. There is an event entitled Congleton Now which will be held in April which is used to publicise local clubs, organizations and charities. We are going to propose that we have a Youth Event as part of this exhibition and also produce a directory of things to do in Congleton for our youth

The Youth Council also thanked the questioner for raising the subject and pointed out that the Youth Council have been actively engaged in trying to do something about leisure facilities in Congleton for sometime

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

Councillor Thwaite pointed out that the review of Parking arrangements in Congleton and its subsequent amendments had been approved by the Portfolio Holder but the changes to on and off street parking regulations would probably not come into force until after Christmas.

Councillor Mason mentioned that the Cheshire Pension Fund had won a number of national awards.

It was also noted that Fellowship House will be transferred to Visyon who will manage the facilities. The Luncheon Club will continue to operate from the premises, but, the provision of catering is still to be resolved.

## **8. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/65/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

**CTC/66/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted. It was noted that a grant of £3,800 was approved for Congleton Community Projects.

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

**CTC/67/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

**CTC/68/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **12. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**CTC/69/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **13. ACCOUNTS**

**CTC/70/1011 RESOLVED-**

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

## **14. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items raised.

**15. YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

**CTC/71/1011 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 be received.

The Youth Council formally welcomed a new member the Mayor's Cadet, Jack Schofield.

**16. BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

**CTC/72/1011 RESOLVED-** That the correspondence from the Boundary Commission and Fiona Bruce MP setting out the new electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Borough Council be received.

**17. LEP's**

**CTC/73/1011 RESOLVED-** That the correspondence from Chalc, Alan Lawson and the Commission for Rural Communities, outlining the status of the Local Enterprise Partnership be received.

**18. CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

**CTC/74/1011 RESOLVED-** That it be noted that the Borough Solicitor Chris Chapman has resigned and his interim replacement is Caroline Elwood.

**19. CASUAL VACANCIES ON THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Correspondence from Chalc pointing out that if a casual vacancy occurs on the Town Council within 6 months of the election to be held in May 2011, the vacancy will not be filled by way of an election.

**CTC/75/1011 RESOLVED-** That the correspondence be received.

**20. MERCIAN REGIMENT MARCH**

The Town Mayor drew attention to letters of thanks received from Major (retired) T E Pickering and Mrs Wareing thanking the Town for the very warm welcome it gave to the soldiers.

**CTC/76/1011 RESOLVED-** That the correspondence be received.

**21. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2011-12**

The members considered the budget and precept level for 2011-12.

**CTC/77/1011 RESOLVED That:-**

1. To accept and approve the revenue and capital budget for 2011-12.
2. To set a precept level of £635,908 for 2011-12 which results in a zero increase.

**22. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The medium Term Financial Strategy was presented to members which provides a forecast of any major changes to expenditure or income up to 2014-15.

**CTC/78/1011 RESOLVED-** That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.

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

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

DAVID BROWN  
MAYOR