

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
5th December 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs D S Allen
P. Bates
G Baxendale
R I Brightwell
D T Brown
G R Edwards
G.P Hayes (Town Mayor)
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A M Martin
D Murphy
D A Parker
J. D Parry
Mrs E Wardlaw
G S Williams

E Clarke – Honorary Burgess

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence. (Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non-attendance).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L D Barker, Ms L Bours, J S Crowther, N T Price and Miss R K Williams.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/39/1314 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 31st October 2013 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Members are requested to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become aware of it.

Cllrs G Baxendale and D T Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. **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.

7. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/40/1314 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **ACCOUNTS**

CTC/41/1314 RESOLVED-

- a) To approve the payment of the accounts listed.
- b) To approve the payment of any expenditure agreed at this meeting.

9. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items raised.

10. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

CTC/42/1314 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2013 be received.

11. **STREETSCAPE REPORTING**

The members considered the most appropriate committee to assign the Streetscape function to.

CTC/43/1314 RESOLVED that the Streetscape function will report to the Community, Environment and Services Committee.

12. **CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

The times that the Town Hall office would be open and closed during the Christmas and New Year period were considered.

CTC/44/1314 RESOLVED that the Town Hall office will close at 12.30pm on the 24th December 2013 and will re-open at 9am on the 2nd January 2014.

13. **COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT BENEFIT**

Correspondence from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) concerning a meeting with the DCLG Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, to raise concerns at the unsatisfactory position Town and Parish Councils find themselves in as a consequence of Council Tax Support Benefit, was considered.

CTC/45/1314 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and noted.

14. **PRECEPT 2014-15**

The budget and precept for 2014-15 was considered by the Council. It was noted that the Town Council had to absorb increases in cost amounting to £41,329 arising from factors relating to Cheshire East Council for Council Tax Support Benefit, CCTV monitoring and the cost of operating the toilet in Market Street. Overall this represented a £2.63 per annum increase in the precept for a Band D property.

CTC/46/1314 RESOLVED that:-

1. A precept level of £656,714.
2. The budget which requires some minor alterations to be re-presented to the Town Council at its meeting of 16th January 2014.

G P Hayes

TOWN MAYOR