

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
6th December 2012 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors D S Allen
 P Bates
 J S Crowther
 D T Brown
 G Hayes
 Mrs A M Martin
 Mrs S A Holland (Town Mayor)
 D Murphy
 D A Parker
 J. D Parry
 E Wardlaw
 G S Williams
 E. Clarke (Appointed Member)

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, G. Baxendale, G.R Edwards, N T Price, R. I Brightwell, and R.K Williams.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/57/1213 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st November, 2012 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.

Councillor Mrs S. Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18.

4. **MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

5. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

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

There were no questions raised or received from members of the public.

7. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr D. Brown informed the Council that the Cheshire East Draft Development Strategy was approved at the Strategic Planning Board and will be open to Public Consultation from the 8th January 2013. Cllr Brown also offered to provide a presentation to members of the Council on the strategy details at a Council Committee meeting.

8. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/58/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th and 29th November 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

CTC/59/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/60/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

CTC/61/1213 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.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items raised.

13. **YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

CTC/62/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meetings held on the 20th November 2012, be received.

The Youth Council invited Councillors to participate in the Youth Council Xmas Quiz which is taking place on the 21st December 2012.

It was also noted that they are working on a new website in collaboration with other youth organisations and schools in Congleton.

14. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

It was noted that Councillor M. Hutton had resigned as a Town Councillor.

CTC/63/1213 RESOLVED that:-

- i. The resignation of M. Hutton be accepted.
- ii. That a casual vacancy be declared and advertised.

15. **CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

The times that the Town Hall office is to be open and closed during the Christmas period was noted.

16. **QUALITY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL ACCREDITATION**

The chairman of ChALC Randal Hibbert presented the Town Council with the certificate of Accreditation for the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme.

CTC/64/1213 RESOLVED that the accreditation certificate presented by Randal Hibbert be received.

17. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to clause 73a and b were presented to the Council for consideration which provided for a 10 minute public question session at ordinary meetings of the Town Council.

CTC/65/1213 RESOLVED that the amendment to clause 73a and b be approved and amended in the constitution.

18. **MAYOR'S BALL**

The Town Council considered the list of dignitaries normally invited to the Mayor's Ball who are offered complimentary tickets.

CTC/66/1213 RESOLVED that the current list of invited dignitaries being offered complimentary tickets to attend the Mayor's ball to be continued.

19. **IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND CONSOLATION**

A report on improving Local Government Transparency was presented to the Council for consideration.

CTC/67/1213 RESOLVED that the proposed response from the Town Council be approved and sent to DCLG.

20. **DISPENSATIONS AND BUDGET SETTING**

Correspondence from Cheshire East Borough Council on Dispensations and setting the precept was considered which would allow members to vote on the precept.

CTC/68/1213 RESOLVED under Section 33 LGA, the Town Council grants all councillors dispensation to vote on the precept where he/she has a "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" until the next ordinary election of the Council in May 2015.

21. **PRECEPT UPDATE**

Correspondence from NALC suggested that Councils should not formally approve the precept for 2013-14 until the tax base has been issued by the Principal Authority.

CTC/69/1213 RESOLVED that:-

1. The correspondence be received.
2. The precept to be approved in principle until the tax base is communicated by Cheshire East Borough Council.

22. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2013-2014**

The budget report and budget for 2013-14 was considered by the Council.

CTC/70/1213 RESOLVED that:-

1. To agree a revenue and capital budget for 2013-2014 as set out in Appendix 1 in principle until the tax base has been set by Cheshire East Borough Council and its affects known.
2. To recommend a level of precept for 2013-14 of £693,826 which is an increase of 1.79% which represents a 2p per week increase on a Band D property (£1.20p per annum).
3. To approve the budget expenditure powers as detailed below:-

Budget Expenditure Powers 2013-14

Expenditure	Power	£
Police Community Support Officers	S31	47,200
Other grants and donation	S137	18,350
Citizens Advice Bureau	S142	15,000
Christmas Lights	S144	9,000
Carnival Committee	S144	3,750
Congleton Community Projects	S145	16,000
Church clock maintenance	S2	3,000

Mrs S A Holland

TOWN MAYOR