

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
7th March 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

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

a) **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 Councillor L D Barker.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/71/1213 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January 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.

Councillors G.Baxendale and D.Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council. Both Councillors abstained from voting on item 15.

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**

Mr G. Goodwin raised the following verbal question:

In August last year the Community, Environment and Services Committee passed resolution CES/08/1213 which was verified at the Full Council meeting of 29th September 2012. This concerned the boat on the River Dane.

The 3 parts of that resolution were:

- Cllr. Price be given more time to resolve the issue.
- That Cllr. Brown formally take up the issue with Cheshire East Borough Council.
- All Cheshire East Councillors to be contacted lobbying their support.

In February of this year I had not heard nor read anything about any progress from Cheshire East Borough Councillors so I tabled a question for the Committee meeting on 7th February, my question being:

“Since it is now over 5 months since the resolution was passed, can the Chairman or Town Clerk advise what actions the Congleton Cheshire East Borough Council Councillors have taken in pursuance of the resolution, what success have they had and when/if the residents of Congleton will finally see this eyesore removed.

Could I ask you to note that my question made no reference to the discussions Cllr. Price was having.

In the agenda for tonight’s meeting you will see that my question, as noted in the minutes of the sub-committee, has been edited to omit any reference to the actions of the Cheshire East Borough Councillors and simply reads:

“Mr Goodwin also raised the question asking when residents would finally see the eyesore removed”.

The only response to my question at the Committee was for the Chairman to ask for an update from Cllr. Price. I pointed out that my question only related to the actions of the Cheshire East Borough Council Councillors, but no attempt was made to address my points.

In subsequent correspondence the Clerk maintains that my question was answered, but there is no answer given in the minutes. I feel sure that if he is adamant that an answer was provided, he will forgive my stupidity and will be able to reconfirm the answer to the Full Council here tonight.

At the same sub Committee meeting, the Committee agreed the resolution proposed by the Chairman and as noted in the minutes of that meeting which are part of your agenda. I contend that since the resolution is identical in its content to the resolution passed in August last year, it is totally unnecessary and, by approving it tonight I believe that you may be acting contrary to your own Standing Order 37.

Graham Goodwin 07/03/2013

The Town Clerk stated that a written response would be provided to Mr Goodwin.

7. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr G.Baxendale stated that Cheshire East were reviewing the future of Mountview Community Support Centre and mentioned that a consultation pack would be available from Friday 8th March 2013.

Cllr. Brown informed the Council that over 10,000 responses had been received by Cheshire East on the Local Plan consultation, over 1000 had been received from Congleton alone, the vast majority of which was in support of the Link Road.

Cllr. Brown mentioned the difficulties of dealing with the issue of the Boat on the River Dane as the rights to the boat and its future are retained by its legal owner, to pursue other options to have it removed would be expensive and possibly result in a court case.

8. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/75/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd, 24th January and 14th February 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

CTC/76/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/77/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 3RD January and 14th February be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

CTC/78/1213 RESOLVED-

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

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent matters raised.

13. **YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

CTC/79/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January and 5th February 2013 be received.

14. **OUTDOOR DIGITAL DISPLAY UNIT**

A report on the Digital Display Unit was considered by the Council and some concern was expressed at the increase in cost of the project.

CTC/80/1213 RESOLVED-

1. The report be received.
2. The increased purchase cost of the unit be approved.

15. **TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRE CCTV**

Correspondence from Peter Hartwell, Head of Community Services at Cheshire East, concerning the operational cost of CCTV in the town and seeking financial assistance from the Town Council for ongoing monitoring of the CCTV system was considered.

CTC/81/1213 RESOLVED that the Council does not make a financial contribution to Cheshire East regarding CCTV in Congleton and requests that this service continues to be financed by Cheshire East Council.

16. **QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME**

Correspondence from Chalc concerning the proposed changes to the Quality Parish Council Scheme was presented. It was noted that individual members can provide responses to the scheme via an on line survey.

17. **LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX**

The Council considered a proposed letter to be sent to Fiona Bruce MP expressing concern at the effects of the new regulations in the localisation of Council Tax. The letter is aimed at seeking support to lobby the government to change their position on involving Town and Parish Councils in this scheme.

CTC/82/1213 RESOLVED that the contents of the letter be approved and sent to Fiona Bruce MP.

18. **CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN AND BUSINESS RISK ASSESSMENT 2013-14**

The Corporate Business Plan and Risk Assessment was considered. It was noted that there were some minor amendments to some statistics on page 3 and wording in the first paragraph on page 5.

CTC/83/1213 RESOLVED that the Business Plan and Risk Assessment 2013-14 be approved.

19. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

CTC/84/1213 RESOLVED that the amendments to the following documents be approved.

- Contents of Constitution
- Standing Orders
- Investment Policy
- I.C.T Policy
- Mayor's Allowance
- Town Hall Letting Policy
- Marketing and Communication Policy

Mrs S A Holland

TOWN MAYOR