

# Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

**PRESENT:** Councillors      Mrs D.S Allen  
   L.D Barker  
   G Baxendale  
   R I Brightwell  
   D T Brown  
   J S Crowther  
   G R Edwards  
   G Hayes  
   Mrs S A Holland  
   Mrs A M Martin  
   D Murphy  
   D A Parker  
   J. D Parry  
   N T Price  
   G S Williams

## 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 P. Bates, Ms L. Bours, G. Brittain, Mrs E. Wardlaw and Miss R.K Williams.

## 2. **MINUTES**

**CTC/22/1314 RESOLVED-** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 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.

Cllr D T Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15 and abstained from voting on this matter.

## 4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

5. **CLLR MICHAEL JONES( LEADER OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL) AND CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.**

Cllr Michael Jones responded to a number of questions put to him by the Council.

Concern about slow response to issues raised at Cheshire East

Cllr Jones pointed out that in some cases the issues raised may take a while for a response to be formulated depending on the subject raised. But, he is doing a lot more work with staff to keep complaints down and response times up.

Bridestones 2 Development

Insofar as Cheshire East is concerned the scheme is on the table and Cllr Jones expects Scarborough to get on with it. Cheshire East Council is committed to develop the Town, but, if organisations such as the Partnership and CTC want to get involved and believe they can help move things forward, then he would be happy for them to be involved.

Highways

Cllr Jones stated that there is no excuse for not replacing road traffic signage at Manchester Road and he would look into this.

Public Health

Cllr Jones said that Crewe had the greatest health problems in Cheshire East, which makes Congleton's problems look small in comparison, but, there is an intention to install better leisure facilities to improve health.

But the Borough doesn't yet have all the powers to deal with some of the contributory issues creating health problems, particularly those caused by alcohol. But they are looking at a sub-regional level at problems of obesity and want to install a Lifestyle Centre in Congleton to help address some of these issues.

Lifestyle Centre

Cllr Jones stated that Cheshire East is committed to building a new Lifestyle Centre in Congleton, but, Congleton needs to tell Cheshire East what it wants and where.

Planning

Cheshire East wants to treat Town and Parish Councils as statutory consultees in future, which means planners, will have to explain why they are ignoring recommendations from such bodies from 2014.

Sustainable Community Strategy

Cllr Jones stated that this was a big issue and covers a wide variety of subjects ranging from ensuring you have the right number of school places for all children, you can get an appointment at your GP, there are jobs available and there is sufficient housing. If the Council is to get this right in requires a two way dialogue and must be led by the people.

### Playing Pitch Strategy

Cllr Jones said that he didn't believe the playing pitch strategy was preventing inward investment in Congleton and the Council has been adding new pitches to the exiting stock.

### Financing the Lifestyle Centre

The Lifestyle Centre will be financed partly by setting up a Trust which provides additional financial benefits not available to the Council and partly from reducing staff costs.

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

Mr G. Goodwin raised a number of questions which were responded to on the agenda items later in the meeting.

## 7. **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 also pointed out the fantastic results that schools in Congleton had achieved that were announced during the summer.

## 8. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**CTC/23/1314 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

**CTC/24/1314 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## 10. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**CTC/25/1314 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## 11. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**CTC/26/1314 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## 12. **ACCOUNTS**

**CTC/27/1314 RESOLVED-**

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

## 13. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

14. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**CTC/28/1314 RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July , 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 be received.

15. **DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES**

The Business Plan to devolve Streetscape and Grounds Maintenance Services from Cheshire East Council to the Town Council was considered.

**CTC/29/1314 RESOLVED that** the Business Plan be approved and devolution of Streetscape and Grounds Maintenance Services from Cheshire East Council to the Town Council be approved.

16. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

The notion of how the Town Council minutes should be recorded was discussed by members as was a report from Cllr Ms L. Bours.

It was noted that a change to the procedure on how Committee minutes are dealt with will be brought up at the next meeting of the Town Council.

**CTC/30/1314 RESOLVED that** the manner of recording minutes which has served the Council well for the past 20 years should remain unchanged.

17. **STREET BEGGING**

A report produced by Cllr Ms L. Bours on Street Begging in Congleton was discussed. It was noted that the Police have already taken action against one individual.

G P Hayes

TOWN MAYOR