

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
23rd August 2012 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors

L D Barker
P Bates
G Baxendale
R I Brightwell
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs A M Martin
D Murphy
Mrs J D Parry
N T Price
E Wardlaw
G 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 D.S Allen, D.T Brown, J.S Crowther, S.A Holland, M. J Hutton, D.A Parker and R.K Williams

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/23/1213 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 31st May, 2012 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor G Baxendale declared a personal interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Borough Council.

4. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that the Mayor and he had attended.

5. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

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

There were no questions received from members of the public.

7. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor Baxendale provided the following report:

1. Abacus Care providing domiciliary care in Cheshire East has ceased trading, but, users will continue to receive care from other sources.
2. The Congleton Northern Relief Road is to be called the "Northern Link Road", which will link Congleton and Macclesfield to the M6 providing a more effective East West route.
3. The Highways Department is undertaking the repair of pot holes in a more systematic and effective manner. Cheshire East Borough Council is also seeking to secure government funding to carry out further highway repair work.

8. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/24/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June and 19th July, 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

CTC/25/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **TOWN HALL COMMITTEE**

CTC/26/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June, 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

CTC/27/1213 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 matters raised.

13. **YOUTH COMMITTEE/JUNIOR COUNCIL**

CTC/28/1213 RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meetings held on the 18th June and 23rd July 2012 be received.

14. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct provided by Cheshire East Borough Council was presented to the Council for consideration along with a guide from DCLG, (Department for Communities and Local Government) on Openness and Transparency and a Declaration of Interests Form.

CTC/29/1213 RESOLVED That:-

1. The Code of Conduct be approved and adopted.
2. Councillors to return a completed Declaration of Interests Form to the Town Clerk.

15. **LOCAL SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX**

The Council noted that the government is withdrawing a subsidy from principal councils for the support of non-rate payers. That is those residents who, for whatever reason, have been exempted from paying or who enjoy a reduced council tax.

A paper from Cheshire East Borough Council outlining its position on this subject was also considered.

CTC/30/1213 RESOLVED That:-

1. To inform Cheshire East, in the strongest possible terms, that Town and Parish Councils should not be expected to bear any costs of this change on their local precepts.
2. To lobby NALC (National association of Local Councils) and CHALC (Cheshire Association of Local Councils) to persuade the House of Lords to amend the legislation and remove any reference to Town and Parish Councils.

16. **CHESHIRE EAST LOCAL PLAN**

Correspondence from Cheshire East which explained the approach being taken to planning and development was considered.

CTC/31/1213 RESOLVED that: - The correspondence be received and noted.

17. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

A letter from the Lord Lieutenant's office requesting that a Deputy Lord Lieutenant read a lesson or lay a wreath at the remembrance Service in Congleton was considered.

CTC/32/1213 RESOLVED that: - the Lord Lieutenant be invited to the Remembrance Service in November 2012.

18. **ANNUAL MEETING OF ChALC (Cheshire Association of Local Councils)**

A notice of motion for the Annual Meeting of Chalc was discussed.

CTC/33/1213 RESOLVED that: - Chalc and member councils be requested to reject any proposal put forward by Cheshire East to pass on any of the cost of local support for Council Tax.

19. **TOWN STRATEGY**

An amended Town Strategy was considered by the Council.

CTC/34/1213 RESOLVED that: - the amended Town strategy be approved.

20. **HONORARY BURGESS**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor G. Hayes and the Town Clerk presented Mr. E. Clarke with a plaque confirming Mr Clarke as a Burgess of the Town of Congleton.

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

There was no resolution to exclude the public and press.

Mr. G Hayes

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR