

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
5th March 2015 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

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

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/57/1415 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2014 be approved and signed by the Deputy 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 Borough Council.

Cllrs J. Parry and G. P. Hayes declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 16.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

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

Mr. P. White asked a question related to the proposed Link Road route and asked how the Town Council could ignore the residents views which favoured the purple route and suggested that the purple route should be taken more seriously.

Mr. Goodwin read out a statement concerning proposed changes to the Town Council's Financial Regulations and Complaints Policy and suggested that Councillors should consider rejecting the proposals.

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/58/1415 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2014 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/59/1415 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2014 and 8th January 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

CTC/60/1415 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2014 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent matters.

11. **CESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr D. T. Brown agreed to circulate to Councillors the documents that were available on the new preferred route for the Link Road.

12. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

CTC/61/1415 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Youth Council meetings held on 27th January and 23rd February 2015 be received.

The Chairman of the Youth Committee read out an initiative called the Drugs Awareness Day for young people in Congleton prepared in conjunction with Fiona Bruce M.P. He also mentioned the need to support the Jeanne Whitehurst Fellowship.

13. **COMPLAINTS POLICY**

The new Complaints Policy was considered by the Council.

CTC/62/1415 RESOLVED that:- the new Complaints Policy be approved and adopted into its Constitution.

14. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

There was a considerable discussion on the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations.

CTC/63/1415 RESOLVED that the decision to adopt the amendments to the Financial Regulations be deferred until the outcome of the External Auditors report on the purchase of the Digital Display System is available.

15. **ELECTIONS ARRANGEMENTS**

The report on the election arrangements for May 2015 which included the period of purdah was noted.

16. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S PREFERRED LINK ROAD ROUTE**

A considerable debate took place concerning the proposed route for the Link Road as set out in the consultation documentation. A short presentation was provided by Councillor Parry in favour of the purple route.

The route had been amended because of land, environmental and topography issues resulting in a Preferred Route which is a blend of the red and purple route.

Councillors expressed concerns that the views of the residents in favour of the purple route should not be ignored.

CTC/64/1415 RESOLVED that the Town Council reject the Preferred Route proposed by Cheshire East Borough Council and suggest the Purple Route is adopted.

D. Murphy

TOWN MAYOR