

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday,
10th February 2015 in the Town Hall, Congleton.

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

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 G Baxendale Mrs J D Parry and G S Williams.

2. **MINUTES**

CTC/55/1415 RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2015 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.

There were no declarations of interest

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None.

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

Mr Keeling made a statement outlining a request for a copy of the SimNet purchase order. The Town Clerk initially agreed to provide this information, but, Mr Keeling commented that when he was asked by the Town Clerk why he wanted the document, he would not say what he wanted the document for. The Town Clerk later asked Mr Keeling to make his request for the information via a Freedom of Information Request. Mr Keeling went on to state that a Conservative Councillor had been provided with a copy, but an Independent Councillor had not.

6. **SIMNET**

The Council considered what action to take as a consequence of SimNet failing to deliver the Digital Display Unit and went onto consider the advice from the solicitor dealing with the matter.

Cllr L D Barker pointed out that the issue concerning SimNet is not a criminal matter, it is a civil matter and going down the route of claiming fraud is not appropriate because it is difficult to prove.

The appropriate course of action would be to apply to the court, which would set a strict timetable for proceedings. If the court action is successful, it then may be possible to make a claim against the Directors of the company if it is found that there had been any wrong doing.

A number of comments were made relating to taking action via the Police or a debt recovery agency.

CTC/56/1415 RESOLVED that:-

1. The Town Clerk to provide a copy of the latest set of accounts for SimNet.
2. Undertake a financial investigation of the Directors of the company.
3. Prepare a cost estimate of potential court action for the Finance and Policy Committee to consider.

Cllr D Murphy
TOWN MAYOR