

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT

Councillors

Mrs D S Allen
L D Barker
P Bates
R Boston
C Booth
G R Edwards (Chair)
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry (Vice)
Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Adams, Mrs S Akers Smith, and J G Baggott.

Apologies were also received from Cllrs P Broom, D T Brown, H Richards and G S Williams who are not a member of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES

FAP/17/1516 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th September 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Cllrs P Bates and Mrs E Wardlaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

Cllr P Bates declared a non-pecuniary interest in all parts of item 11 and item 13.

Cllr C Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (ii).

The Town Clerk stated that in reference to item 16, he was a member of Congleton Rotary and Chairman of the Bonfire Committee.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS 2015-16

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the Committee and it was noted that £12,773 is available for grants in 2015-16.

FAP/18/1516 RESOLVED that the grant summary be received.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/19/1516 RESOLVED that:-

i. GR 11/1516 – Congleton Gang Show

A grant of £500 be approved.

ii. GR 12/1516 – St Peter’s Church

A grant of £258 be approved.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

There were no new Grant Activities monitoring forms.

8. MANAGEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

FAP/20/1516 RESOLVED that the Managements Accounts for September 2015 be received.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION

FAP/21/1516 RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation for 30th September 2015 be received.

10. LIST OF PAYMENTS

FAP/22/1516 RESOLVED that the Payments List between 1st August 2015 and 30th September 2015 be received.

11. PRESENTATIONS FOR BUDGET 2016-17

There were presentations provided by the following organisations who received grants from the Town Council:

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

The CAB outlined a number of changes that have taken place with the service, put forward nationally to make it more effective.

The core funding the CAB receive has not changed for the past 2 years, but is lower than it was in 2007.

Whilst the number of clients the CAB deals with has remained about the same, the complexity of the cases handled has increased considerably.

Congleton Community Projects (CCP)

Congleton Community Projects is a not for profit organisation with 11 Trustees and one part time paid employee.

CCP supports the Town Council in many ways by putting on a variety of events. They organize the Food and Drink Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On and this year assisted in the Every Step Counts Campaign. They promote the Rural Touring Theatre, support many other events including the Jazz and Blues Festival and manage Cheshire Marshalls.

Congleton Community Partnership

The Partnership has been involved in a number of high profile projects to improve the wellbeing of the Town which include, completing the River Dane Walkway, Cycle way Signage and Antrobus Street Gardens. Many of its projects are coordinated in partnership with the Town Council.

The Partnership brings volunteers together with the ability to apply for other grants to enable it to complete worthwhile projects.

Projects planned for 2016-17 include installing Town Centre Destination Maps, heritage and cycle trails and upgrading the Community Orchard to make it more accessible.

12. BUDGET 2016-17

A number of issues were mentioned in respect of the Budget for 2016-17 which included increasing funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau and Youth Committee.

13. CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Correspondence was received from the carnival committee who confirmed that they would not be seeking any grant funding for the 2014 Carnival Event.

FAP/23/1516 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and noted.

14. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOs)

Correspondence from Cheshire Police Constabulary concerning funding for PCSOs for 2016-17 was considered. Some concerns were expressed at the current level of policing being experienced in Congleton in relation to the number of PCSOs being available. It was noted that Cllr P Bates would be attending a meeting in early November with Cheshire Police to discuss funding and policing generally.

FAP/24/1516 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

15. MARGARET WILLIAMSON TRUST FUND

A letter from Congleton Partnership concerning the setting up of a memorial Trust Fund in memory of Margaret Williamson was considered.

FAP/25/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. The Town Council would provide match funding of the Partnership of £5,000, coming from the grants budget.
2. The funding for the Memorial Trust would be reviewed in 2016-17 if it doesn't reach its target of £100,000.

16. CONGLETON ROTARY BONFIRE EVENT

A request from Congleton Rotary to underwrite any losses arising out of the Bonfire Event to be held on 7th November 2015 was considered.

FAP/26/1516 RESOLVED that the Town Council underwrite any potential losses on the event up to a maximum value of £5000.

17. DEBT

Room at the Top placed an advert in the Town Council Christmas Brochure at a cost of £90, but failed to pay and the business no longer exists.

FAP/27/1516 RESOLVED that the bad debt of £90 be written off.

18. GRANTS & FUNDING POLICY

The Committee considered an amendment to the Grants and funding Policy to encourage grant applicants to volunteer in other activities taking place in the Town.

FAP/28/1516 RESOLVED that the following new clause be added to the Grants and Funding Policy:

- Whenever possible, grant applicants and the organisations they represent, should consider what options are available to support the wider community by volunteering for activities such as Congleton in Bloom, litter picking and other activities in the Town requiring volunteer support.

G R Edwards
Chairman