

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 7th December 2017
at Town Hall Congleton.

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs D S Allen
Mrs A L Armit
J G Baggott
L D Barker
P Bates
C H Booth (Town Mayor)
P Broom
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry
M Walker
Mrs E Wardlaw
G S Williams

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence. (Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apologies in advance and to give a reason for non-attendance).

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Akers Smith, R Boston, D T Brown, Mrs A E Morrison and H Richards .

2. MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th October 2017.

CTC/31/1718 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2017 be approved and signed by the Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSIBLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are requested to declare both "non pecuniary" and "pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become aware of it.

Cllrs J G Baggott, P Bates, G P Hayes, Mrs E Wardlaw and GS Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

None

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

Question from Mr. Richard Walton -

'Dear Mayor,

Do you believe that the attendance pattern of some of our Town Councillors, including one Cllr who has missed 16 consecutive full Town Council meetings, is acceptable and, if not, what can the people of Congleton expect from their Councillors in terms of this between now and the next election in 2019?'

Response from the Mayor

Dear Mr Walton

Thank you for your question, in response

In line with national guidance our constitution is quite explicit in what it regards as unacceptable attendance, and that is 6 months non-attendance; anything short of that can only be handled by discussion, local election at the end of the 4 year term, or by a councillor resigning of their own free will."

As much as I don't condone meeting absence, it has been pointed out to me that many councillors do more than just attend the meetings, and all members of the council are available to members of the public who wish to raise concerns, a lot of councillors do contribute their time to other activities in Congleton, therefore I cannot accuse anyone of wrongdoing by not attending,

Following election there could be circumstances that may impact upon a councillor's ability to contribute towards the council as they themselves initially hoped but I would rather continue to discuss this issue with the councillors directly to support them in upholding the commitments they made until their term is complete.

If anyone politely asked me why I wasn't attending, or even challenged my contribution to the council in general, I would be forthcoming, I expect that others would be too.

6. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that he and the Deputy Town Mayor had fulfilled since the last Council meeting.

7. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CTC/32/1718 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 12th October and 2nd November 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

CTC/33/1718 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **DONATION OF DEMNETIA FREE BANNERS TO CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL FROM CLLR MRS S A HOLLAND**

Thanks were given to Councillor Holland for her donation

10. **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CTC/34/1718 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

- Cllr Mrs D Allen advised that there was an appeal for the donation of toys for children at Christmas
- A local resident had knitted a Mayor Bear which was passed over to the council

12. **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Updates were received from CEC members, P Bates, G Williams G Hayes and .
Mrs E Wardlaw

13. **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

- a) **CTC/35/1718 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 30th October 2017 and Junior Council on 22nd November 2017 be received.
- b) To deal with Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the Youth Committee.

14. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2018/19**

To consider the recommendation from the Finance and Policy Committee held on 23th November 2017 to approve the precept and budget for 2018/19.

CTC/36/1718 RESOLVED to approve the 2018/2019 Budget and Precept as proposed –
£836,152 = £84.09p per annum band D

15. **CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

To receive and consider a report on the office opening and closing times for the Christmas period.

CTC/37/1718 RESOLVED to accept the proposed closure of the Town Hall offices over the Christmas period

**C H Booth
Town Mayor**