

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14th June 2018 Town Hall Congleton

PRESENT: Councillors

Mrs S A Smith (Town Mayor)
Mrs A L Armitt
L D Barker
P Bates
R Boston
P Broom
G R Edwards
G P Hayes
Mrs S A Holland (Deputy Town Mayor)
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs A Morrison
Mrs J D Parry
M A Walker
G S Williams

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs D S Allen, J G Baggott, D T Brown, C H Booth and Mrs E Wardlaw.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on the 12th April 2018 and the Annual Council Meeting held on the 17th May 2018.

CTC/09/1819 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on the 12th April 2018 and the Annual Council Meeting held on the 17th May 2018 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.

Cllrs, P Bates, G P Hayes and G S Williams declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council. – specifically item 10

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive any questions from Members of the Public including those received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

Question from Mr R Walton

Dear Councillors,

In a recent edition of the Chronicle, it was mentioned that that the War Memorial Hospital minor injuries clinic was closed over the May bank holiday weekend so that staff shortages at Macclesfield's A&E could be covered.

Since the War Memorial Hospital is an important part of the health service for all the people of Congleton, any closure will be of concern to residents. Travelling to use alternative facilities will have a real cost (both in time and money) for people in the town. In addition, the inconvenience could possibly also result in people not attending a minor injury unit which may well result in an unnecessary deterioration of the original health issue.

A group of local residents was so concerned about this reduction in a vital local service that a freedom of information request was made, available on request. This showed over the last 3 years the minor injuries unit at Congleton War Memorial hospital has been closed for 1,725 hours or 21% of the time. This is on top of the fact that the weekend opening hours were changed from 8 am - 4 pm in October 2015 compared to the previous opening times of 8 am - 8:30 pm - a 36% reduction in weekend opening time.

The War Memorial is a priceless gem at the heart of the Congleton community

I would therefore like to know the following

- 1) Is Congleton Town Council unequivocally opposed to any further withdrawal of services at Congleton War Memorial Hospital, or indeed its eventual closure?
- 2) What practical assistance can Congleton Town Council give in ensuring that this doesn't happen again, or to stop the facility closing all together?

Response from the Mayor

Dear Mr Walton,

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about the Congleton War Memorial Hospital which I am sure we can all agree is a much valued facility for Congleton residents, the key point you raise is about the level of service and how accessible they are for residents and that should be the focus. With the planned development of over 4,000 dwellings in Congleton there is a case to actually enhance accessible services rather than reduce them, so in answer to your question in my opinion we would be opposed to any further withdrawal of services or its eventual closure.

I am aware that our Cheshire East Councillors have already advised you that the jurisdiction of the War Memorial Hospital is placed with the Eastern Cheshire NHS Trust and in turn the Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group. I believe they have also already notified you of forthcoming meetings and also offered to meet with you directly to discuss.

The Town Council are in constant dialogue with our Cheshire East Council representatives who will be keeping the Town Council abreast of any developments affecting this facility which if necessary will be debated by Council or a relevant committee.

Thank you again for raising this matter and I hope the response meets with your satisfaction.

6. Mayor's 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. Finance & Policy Committee

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2018.

CTC/10/1819 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2018 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8. Planning Committee

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th April 2018.

CTC/11/1819 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 5th April 2018 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. Town Hall Committee

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 8th February 2018.

CTC/12/1819 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2018 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. Congleton Museum Update

To receive an update and request of support from Congleton Museum relating to its proposed relocation to Bradshaw House

CTC/13/1819 RESOLVED to support the Museum in its proposed relocation to Bradshaw House

11. Internal Audit Report

To receive the 2017/18 Internal Audit Report.

CTC/14/1819 RESOLVED to receive the 2017/18 Internal Audit Report.

12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

(i) To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18.

CTC/15 /1819 RESOLVED to receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement and accountability Return 2017/18.

(ii) To receive and approve the Accounting Statements 2017/18

CTC/ 16/1819 RESOLVED to receive and approve the Accounting Statements 2017/18

13. Financial Statements 2017/18

To receive and approve the unaudited financial statements 2017/18.

CTC/17/1819 RESOLVED to receive and approve the unaudited financial statements 2017/18

14. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

15. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports

To suspend Standing Orders to allow Councillors from the principal authority to report on relevant issues and to receive questions from members.

- Cllr Bates provided updates relating to Cheshire East Finance
- Cllr Williams provided update relating to Cheshire East Highways
- Cllr Hayes provided updates relating to Health and Adult Social Care

16. Youth Committee (enclosed)

- a) To receive the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 1st May 2018.
- b) To receive the minutes of the Junior Council meeting held on 14th May 2018.
- b) To deal with Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

**Cllr Mrs S Akers Smith
(Town Mayor)**