

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 14th March 2019

PRESENT:

Committee members

Mrs D S Allen
C H Booth (Vice Chair)
R Boston
P Broom
Mrs S A Holland (Chair and Deputy Town Mayor)
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry
G S Williams

Non-Committee members G.R Edwards, D.T Brown and M A Walker

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Committee Members Cllrs Mrs A L Armitt and G P Hayes

Non-Committee Member – Cllr Mrs S Akers Smith (Town Mayor)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

CES/50/1819 Resolved to receive the minutes from the meeting held on 31st January 2019 as a correct record with the inclusion of 'presented by Cllr Akers Smith' for item 16 Reclaim our Pavements'.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr G S Williams (Cheshire East Council and Partnership) and Cllr D T Brown (Cheshire East Council and Congleton in Bloom).

4. Outstanding Actions

See item 9 – Updates Paper

5. Questions from members of the Public

Cllr Mrs S A Holland, as Chairman, had been approached by a member of the public to ask what the Council was going to do to remember Marie Johnson. Marie died a year ago had raised thousands of pounds for charities in her lifetime as well as being a great supporter of the arts in Congleton. Marie Johnson's name had already been passed to Cheshire East Council as a potential street name, which the family was happy about. The family didn't want anything placed in the memorial garden.

6. Cheshire Police

An update report was given by PC Helen Weeks – summary as Appendix 1.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CES/51/1819 Resolved to receive the minutes from the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held 12th December 2018.

8. Floral Arrangement Working Group

CES/52/1819 Resolved to receive the minutes from the Floral Arrangement Working Group held on 23rd January 2019.

- Noted that the first litter-pick of the year, on March 2nd 2019 was very successful and a hoping that even more people will turn out for the next Community Town Tidy on the 6th April, meeting at Astbury Mere from 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Request from the Chairman of Congleton in Bloom for residents to all take a few minutes to clear weeds and any mess in front of their own house or business.

9. Updates Paper

To receive an update on Committee items from Community, Environment and Services on 31st January 2019.

CES/53/1819 Resolved to accept the report. The following actions were commented on:

- a) Need for a team of interested people to create an action plan and drive forward a town-wide campaign against Single Use Plastic.
- b) Need to promote Congleton's three Post Offices.
- c) White Ribbon campaign – next stage is for Richard Walton to come back with a draft plan.
- d) Promote the work of the Speed Watch Volunteers in an article in Bear Necessities and the press.

10. Congleton Market Working Group

To receive an update from the Congleton Market Working Group

CES/54/1819 Resolved to accept the verbal update from the Chief Officer, it was noted that Congleton Town Council has requested a response from Cheshire East Assets about the costs and liabilities that would be associated with a potential transfer of the market to the Town Council.

11. Update of the Refurbished Play Areas for Congleton

To receive an update paper on the refurbishment of three play areas for Congleton – Quinta, West Road and Townsend Road.

CES/55/1819 Resolved to note the report and requested that publicity was generated about Congleton’s play areas.

12. Update on the Youth Council Cinema Event

To receive an update on the recent young person’s film event held at the Daneside Theatre on Sunday 24th February 2019.

CES/56/1819 Resolved to note the verbal report given by Cllr Mrs S A Holland on behalf of the Youth Committee and to thank all those involved with the successful event.

**Mrs S A Holland
(Chairman)**

Appendix 1: CONGLETON BEAT MANAGEMENT REPORT

National Knife Crime Week

It is currently National Knife Crime Week and as such Congleton Police have been highlighting the dangers of knife crime to local youths. Assemblies have been conducted at both Congleton High School and Eaton Bank Academy for the year 12 and 13 year groups and some presentations have been given to year 8 pupils. Further to this Congleton PCSOs have been highlighting the dangers via social media, Facebook and Twitter. An amnesty bin has been located in the front office of the Police Station, this too is being advertised via social media.

Rise in thefts from vans

There has been a recent increase in offences of theft from motor vehicles in the Congleton area. In reaction to this officers have conducted a large scale leaflet drop highlighting the increase to as many van owners as possible throughout the town. Furthermore Selecta DNA was handed out to victims of car crime.

Across the Macclesfield Local Policing Unit as a whole, there was a reported increase in offences of theft from/of motor vehicles which had a keyless entry. This did not particularly affect Congleton but awareness was raised where practical. Within the last few days a male was arrested and charged with two offences of theft of motor vehicle. He is currently awaiting his Crown Court date for sentencing.

Memorial Gardens

Following reports of anti-social behaviour and the plants being pulled up in the Memorial Garden, PCSO SHORE put signs up stating that the police were monitoring the area and since this time no further reports have been received.

Warrants

3 x warrants have taken place under the Misuse of Drugs Act, all of which were positive and the enquiries are on-going for each.