



# Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CILCA

12<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Councillor,

## **Town Council Meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council, to be held in the Town Hall, Congleton on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019** commencing at **7.00pm**

**The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting.** There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press.

Yours sincerely,

D McGifford  
Chief Officer

## **AGENDA**

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).

2. **Minutes** (enclosed)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and the Emergency meeting of the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

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.

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

Congleton  
**beartown**  
where friends are made

Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

Tel: 01260 270350

Email: [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

**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.

Heather Seddon – Use of peat based compost

**6. Mayor's Announcements (enclosed)**

To receive any announcements by the Town Mayor and to receive a list of the Mayor's Engagements.

**7. Youth Committee**

To receive Questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

**8. Community, Environment & Services Committee (enclosed)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**9. Finance & Policy Committee (enclosed)**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**10. Planning Committee (enclosed)**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**11. Town Hall & Assets Committee (enclosed)**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**12. Climate Emergency (enclosed)**

To seek approval for Congleton Town Council to declare a Climate Emergency

**13. External Auditor Report and Certificate 18/19 (enclosed)**

To receive the External Auditor Report and Certificate 18/19 and to note any comments.

**14. Removal of Standing Order 31 (enclosed)**

To approve the removal of Standing Order 31 from the Constitution

**15. White Ribbon (enclosed)**

To approve the progression of the White Ribbon campaign including funding and associated commitments

**16. Urgent Items**

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

**17. 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.

**To: All Members of the Council**

CC: Press 2, Burgesses 3, Congleton TIC, Congleton Library, MP

# Congleton Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Town Hall Congleton

### **PRESENT:**

Mrs S A Holland (Town Mayor)  
Suzy Akers Smith  
Dawn Allen  
Duncan Amies  
Martin Amies  
David Brown  
Paul Duffy  
Suzy Firkin  
Margaret Gartside  
George Hayes  
Robert Hemsley  
Amanda Martin  
Rob Moreton  
Denis Murphy  
Jean Parry  
Mark Rogan  
James Smith

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 Russell Chadwick, Robert Douglas and Kay Wesley

2. **Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**CTC/20/1920 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be approved and signed by the Town 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.

Councillors S A Smith, D Brown G Hayes, S A Holland D Murphy R Moreton all declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

**5. Questions from Members of the Public**

None Received

**6. Mayor's Announcements**

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

**7. Youth Committee**

To receive questions from members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

The Youth Committee had no questions but expressed their thanks for the support provided by Councillors.

**8. Community, Environment & Services Committee**

**CTC/21/1920 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**9. Planning Committee**

**CTC/22/1920 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**10. Urgent Items**

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

Councillor James Smith raised concerns over the Cenotaph project and advised that he would like there to be an internal review of the project with a focus on the scope, timescales and cost, a view supported by Councillor Mark Rogan.

**11. 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.

See reports in appendix 1

**12. New Applications for Financial Assistance**

- **GR04/1920 Resubmission - Congleton Pentecostal Church**
- **GR06/1920 Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival**
- **GR07/1920 Dane Valley Swimming Club**

**CTC/23/1920 RESOLVED** that

- GR04/1920 be awarded £500
- GR06/1920 be awarded £750
- GR07/1920 be awarded £415 subject to evidence of the match funding being provided – this will be delegated to the chief Officer for approval.

**13. Final Internal Audit Report for 2018/19**

To consider and approve the Internal Audit – Final report 2018/19.

**CTC/24/1920 RESOLVED** that the Final Internal Audit report for 2018/19 be approved.

**14. Amendments to the Grants' Policy**

To consider a proposal to amend the Grants and Funding Policy.

**CTC/25/1920 RESOLVED** that the amendments to the Grant's Policy are deferred back to the Finance and Policy Committee for further development and approval.

**Cllr Mrs S A Holland  
(Town Mayor)**

## **Appendix 1 - Cheshire East Councillor Reports**

1. Councillor George Hayes extended congratulations on the recent news that nearby Jodrell Bank Observatory has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; welcoming the recognition of this world-class facility which will also promote an increase in visitors.

He went on to promote the Summer Reading Challenge which is being run at Congleton Library in partnership with The Reading Agency to promote reading for children during the forthcoming summer holidays. The theme of this year's challenge is "Space Chase" and is being appropriately supported by Jodrell Bank with participants receiving vouchers to visit the Observatory's Discovery Centre.

2. Councillor Suzie Akers Smith, who advised that there would be a review of the Local Transport Plan and the Economic Strategy and that as a council we should make comment and asked individual councillors to feedback their thoughts to herself. Also proposed that there could be a Strategy Group meeting to discuss and that it should also be passed through to the relevant Congleton Neighbourhood Plan group for comment.

# Congleton Town Council

## Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 Town Hall Congleton

### **PRESENT:** Councillors

Suzanne Akers Smith  
Martin Amies  
David Brown  
Russell Chadwick  
Suzy Firkin  
Margaret Gartside  
George Hayes  
Paul Duffy  
Robert Hemsley  
Amanda Martin  
Jean Parry  
Mark Rogan  
James Smith  
Kay Wesley

### **1. Agreement for the Chair for the meeting**

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillors to agree the chair for the meeting.

**CTC/26/1920 RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr David Brown as Chair for the meeting

### **2. 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 for absence were received from Cllrs Dawn Allen Robert Douglas, Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor) and Denis Murphy

### **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 S A Smith, D Brown and G Hayes declared their interest in matters relating to Cheshire East Council

### **4. 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 which relate to the agenda item below.

No questions were received from members of the public



**5. Congleton Cenotaph**

For the Council to agree its position on the commencement date for the regeneration of the Cenotaph.

Cllr Paul Duffy proposed that there should be a named vote against this item, this was supported by Cllr Suzie Akers Smith.

**CTC/27/1920 RESOLVED** to not commence with the planned date for the construction phase of the Cenotaph due to concerns about it being completed in time for the Remembrance Day parade. The construction phase should commence as soon as is practicable afterwards. 8 in support 6 against

Councillors who supported this proposal were –

Cllrs - Paul Duffy, Robert Hemsley, James Smith, Mark Rogan, Martin Amies, Suzy Firkin, Margaret Gartside and Suzie Akers Smith

Those who were against the proposal were –

Cllrs - Russell Chadwick, George Hayes, Kay Wesley, Amanda Martin, Jean Parry and David Brown.

**(Chair)**  
**Cllr David Brown**

## **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

### **2019**

12 <sup>th</sup> July	Astbury School Event
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Eaton Garden Fete
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Youth Orchestra Concert
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Blue Light Community Engagement Day - Winsford
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Trinity Amateur Operatic Society – Daneside Theatre
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Congleton Pride Event
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Congleton Choral Society Concert – Town Hall
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Poynton Civic Service
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Congleton Lions Defibrillator Launch
16 <sup>th</sup> August	SOL Theatre School – Daneside Theatre
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Rotary Charity Lunch – Glebe Farm, Astbury
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Jazz & Blues Event
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Mayor's Charity Afternoon Tea
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Summer Fete – Marton
27 <sup>th</sup> August	Congleton Community Projects Play Day
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Raising of the Ensign Flag – Glebe Farm, Astbury
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Charity Family Fun Day – Railway Inn
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Slimming World Event – Hanley
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Biddulph Civic Service
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Trinity Methodist Church Service

7 <sup>th</sup> September	Fire Station Open Day
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Congleton Horticultural Show – Town Hall
7 <sup>th</sup> September	High Sheriff Garden Party
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Congleton Lions Duck Race
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Buglawton School Teddy Bear Picnic
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Visit to Buglawton School
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Visyon Event
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Congleton Library Summer Reading Challenge
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Dementia Event

### **DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

14 <sup>th</sup> July	New Life Nursery Sports Day
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Opening of Memorial Garden – Middlewich
25 <sup>th</sup> July	North West In Bloom Judging Event
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Leek Civic Service
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Congleton Horticultural Show – Town Hall
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Staffordshire Moorland Shooting Day
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Congleton Library Summer Reading Challenge

The Mayor also attends various other events including meetings, photo requests and grant presentation promotions.

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019

#### **PRESENT:**

##### Committee members:

Dawn Allen (Vice Chair)  
Martin Amies  
Paul Duffy  
Suzy Firkin  
Margaret Gartside  
Amanda Martin  
Denis Murphy  
Jean Parry  
Mark Rogan  
Kay Wesley (Chair)  
Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)

##### Non-Committee members

Suzie Akers Smith, Russell Chadwick, Robert Douglas, James Smith

#### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Non-committee member Rob Moreton.

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

**CES/01/1920** Resolved to receive the minutes from the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 as a correct record.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Sally Ann Holland, Cllr Denis Murphy and Cllr Suzie Akers Smith - all Cheshire East Council.

#### **4. Outstanding Actions**

- White Ribbon Campaign - noted that information had been received from Richard Walton enabling actions on this project to progress
- Speed Watch campaign - noted working with PCSOs to promote the volunteer SpeedWatch teams and that the funding request for a SID from the Police Crime Commissioner had been rejected.

#### **5. Questions from Members of the Public**

Richard Whitelock raised two questions:

- a) There appears to be a distinction between traffic offences that can be dealt with by the Police and those by Cheshire East Council Officers. Apart from the fact that this is very confusing for members of the public who see the offences being ignored by the 'wrong type' of officer; is there a way that the two forces could combine their efforts to find a solution.
- b) Is there a possibility of a scheme (similar to SpeedWatch) for the recruitment of volunteers to monitor e.g. School Clearways?. I have offered to volunteer if such a scheme was possible but have not had a response from parking at Cheshire East Council.

Both of these requests will be passed to the Police and Cheshire East Council for a response.

#### **6. Cheshire Police**

An update report was given by PC Helen Weeks - see summary Appendix A

#### **7. Anti Social Behaviour Working Group**

**CES/02/1920** Resolved to receive the minutes from the Anti-Social Behaviour held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

#### **8. Floral Arrangement Working Group**

**CES/03/1920** Resolved to receive the minutes of the Floral Arrangement Working Group held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Note the name of the group was questioned which will be raised by the appropriate members at the next working group.

#### **9. Congleton Market Working Group**

**CES/04/1920** Resolved to receive an update from the Market Working Group. Noted that the group was still waiting for some key information from Cheshire East Council and had planned a meeting with Congleton's Market Traders on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### **10. Health and Well-Being Working Group**

**CES/05/1920** Resolved to receive a verbal update at the meeting. Agreed in principle to the working group exploring issues around Mental Health provision in Congleton and to report back to a future meeting of Community Environment and Services Committee.

#### **11. Congleton Green**

Received a paper by Peter Aston, Chair of Congleton Sustainability Group (CSG) on Congleton Green which led to a lengthy discussion.

**CES/06/1920 Resolved that** a small working group made up of CSG and Town Councillors would put together some proposals and priority suggestions for Congleton. Town Councillors wishing to be on the group: Jean Parry, Mark Rogan, Martin Amies, Suzy Firkin, Sally Ann Holland (but with restricted time in 2019/20 due to Mayoral duties). Noted that Cllr Suzie Akers Smith and Cllr Margaret Gartside are already on the Congleton Sustainability Group.

#### **12. Living Streets**

Received a paper from Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr Margaret Gartside and Patti Pinto to consider becoming a member of Living Streets and outlining positive steps that could be taken towards becoming a walking town.

**CES/07/1920 resolved that:**

- a) Congleton should sign up to Living Streets
- b) Further discussions, including professional advice, needed on actions that the town can implement as part of Living Streets and towards an integrated and sustainable transport policy.

#### **13. Congleton Makers Market**

**CES/08/1920 Resolved to** note the report into the monthly Makers Market held in Congleton on the last Saturday of the month.

#### **14. Reducing the Road Traffic Speed Limit on Reades Lane**

**CES/09/1920 Resolved to** support a residents' campaign to have the 30mph speed limit on Reades Lane extended as far as the Coach and Horses Public House. Officers to inform the two residents of Town Council's support and to write a strongly worded letter in support of the request to Cheshire East Council Highways asking them to take the request forward. PCSO Jess Shore to request a temporary Speed Indication Device (SID) for the road.

#### **15. Lack of Dropped Kerb by the Citizens Advice Bureau**

**CES/10/ 1920 Resolved** to write to Cheshire East Highways supporting the request for a dropped kerb outside the Citizens Advice Bureau in Lawton Street Congleton and to carry out a review dropped kerbs in Congleton with Cheshire East Highway Inspectors to report to a future meeting.

#### **16. Remembering Marie Johnson**

It was noted that a meeting would be held with three nieces of Marie Johnson on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and a report given on the actions proposed.

#### **17. Mountview**

At the time of the meeting there had not been any official communication from Cheshire East on the future of Mountview or the proposed relocation venue for the services currently provided at Mountview. If appropriate this will come to a future meeting.

**Kay Wesley  
(Chair)**

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **Report from the Police given by PC Helen Weeks**

**DRUGS:** No warrants executed in May/June

There are both overt and covert operations ongoing with updates in the future.

One notable incident on 19/6/19, during a Beat team led operation, 2 males arrested Procession With Intent To Supply (PWITS) in Buglawton linked to county lines. Investigation still ongoing.

**BURGLARIES/VEHICLE CRIME:** There was a small increase in burglaries and vehicle crime in April/May but the arrest of a well-known local nominal has seen a reduction in these offences recently so no major issues to report

**ASB:** No notable incidents to report. Issues with the Crewe urban street gang appear to have abated. Several Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) have been granted to a number of the gang with others currently being sought.

**TRAFFIC:** No notable events/incidents to report

No other incidents/issues to report at this time

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

PRESENT     Committee members,

Duncan Amies  
Russell Chadwick (Vice Chairman)  
Robert Douglas (Chairman)  
Paul Duffy  
George Hayes  
Rob Moreton  
Sally Ann Holland (Mayor)  
Jean Parry  
Mark Rogan  
James Smith

Non Committee members

Suzy Firkin  
Robert Hemsley  
Amanda Martin

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Committee member David Brown and Deputy Mayor Denis Murphy

#### 2. Minutes

**FAP/01/1920 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st March 2019 be approved 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.

- Cllr Robert Douglas – declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Congleton Museum
- Cllrs George Hayes, R Moreton, Sally Ann Holland – declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council
- Cllr Amanda Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Friends Of Congleton Park (no voting rights as not on the committee)

#### 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

There were no questions from members of the public.

## 6. Grant Approvals and Commitments 2019/20 (enclosed)

To receive a statement showing the current position to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**FAP/02/1920 RESOLVED that** the grant statement be received.

## 7. New Applications for Financial Assistance (enclosed)

**FAP/03/1920 RESOLVED that**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Grant ref GR01/1920 Congleton Bowling Club-      | <b>£250 grant be approved</b>   |
| • Grant ref GR02/1920 Congleton Harriers           | <b>£650 grant be approved</b>   |
| • Grant ref GR03/1920 St Peter's Church Clock      | <b>£242 grant be approved</b>   |
| • Grant ref GR04/1920 Congleton Pentecostal Church | <b><i>for officers to seek clarification with regards to quality and quantity of chairs</i></b> |
| • Grant ref GR05/1920 Friends of Congleton Park    | <b>£250 grant be approved</b>   |

## 8. New Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

- KEMS Orchestra
- Congleton Unplugged
- Rode Hall Silver Band
- St Peter's Church

**FAP/04/1920 RESOLVED to** approve the Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

## 9. Management Accounts (i)

**FAP/05/1920 RESOLVED to** receive the Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## 10. Management Accounts (ii)

**FAP/06/1920 RESOLVED to** receive the Management Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## 11. Bank Reconciliation

**FAP/07/1920 RESOLVED to** receive the bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## 12. Savings Account Balances

**FAP/08/1920 RESOLVED to** receive the Savings Account balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

13. List of Payments

**FAP/09/1920 RESOLVED** to receive the Payments lists between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

14. Asset Register

**FAP/10/1920 RESOLVED** to receive the Asset Register and Inventory for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Russell Chadwick  
Vice Chair**

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

**PRESENT**

Councillor P Duffy – Chair  
Mrs S Akers Smith  
Mrs D S Allen  
D Amies  
M Amies  
D T Brown  
R Chadwick  
R Douglas  
Mrs S Firkin  
R Hemsley  
Mrs S A Holland  
Mrs A Martin  
R Moreton  
D Murphy  
Mrs J D Parry  
M Rogan  
J Smith  
Mrs K Wesley

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors G P Hayes and Mrs M Gartside

**2. MINUTES**

PLN/4/1920 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillors Akers Smith, Brown, Holland, Murphy and Moreton declared a “non pecuniary” interest due to their membership of Cheshire East Council.

Councillor Duffy declared a “non pecuniary” interest in any discussions relating to S106 monies for Galloway Green.

**4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

No outstanding actions.

## 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair read out a letter from Mr R Walton regarding commitments to improving infrastructure in respect of conditions on planning applications for new housing developments. It was agreed to request the Chief Officer to provide updates on tracking Section 106 funds.

## 6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLN/5/1920 RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Planning Ref	Location	Declaration of Interest	Comments
<b>1 *</b> 19/2496C	17A, BRIDGE STREET, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 1AS		No Objection
<b>2</b> 19/2507C	27, TUDOR WAY, CONGLETON, CW12 4AS	NP – M. Amies	No Objection subject to appropriate measures being taken to deal with any seepage of water from the watercourse from the bridleway
<b>3 *</b> 19/2523T	8, RANGLES VIEW, CONGLETON, CW12 3JN		No Objection
<b>4 *</b> 19/2642T	17, ISIS CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3RT		Reject – as tree is not diseased
<b>5 *</b> 19/2601C	21, DAISYBANK DRIVE, CONGLETON, CW12 1LX		No Objection
<b>6</b> 19/2570C	130, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4NY		A member of the public spoke to outline her concerns regarding application 19/2570C Reject due to the following - 1. Previous Planning decisions – the application invalidates reasons for the Appeal on 16/3286C. Conditions 2- development in accordance with approved plans and 9 does not appear to include overnight electric vehicle charging points. 2. Overdevelopment – the Appeal rejects this due to spacious rear garden (point 11). The extension reduces the garden to small. 3. Design and visual appearance - appeal states variation of design between the two pairings reflect local character (point 13). The appearance now appears to be identical. 4. Materials – appeal imposes conditions regarding external materials (point 23). Inferior materials being used on doors and windows such as some missing lintels and

			<p>sills.</p> <p>5. An additional row of windows between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor not on Appeal's approved plans.</p> <p>6. Highway safety issues and vehicular access – Appeal approved plans have only one vehicular access per property. New plans have two making concerns regarding safety with the possibility of up to eight vehicles leaving at the same time near to the junction with a major A road.</p> <p>7. Loss of important trees and nature conservation.</p>
<b>7 *</b> 19/2594T	70, OBELISK WAY, CONGLETON, CW12 4FY		Reject – as tree is not diseased
<b>8 *</b> 19/2772D	LAND ADJ 1, LEAMINGTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4PF		No Objection
<b>9 *</b> 19/2572T	6, BRADBURY GARDENS, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3SR		No Objection
<b>10 *</b> 19/2688C	3, TRINITY PLACE, CONGLETON, CW12 3JB		No Objection
<b>11 *</b> 19/2746C	Fir Tree Cottage, TUNSTALL ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 3QB		No Objection
<b>12 *</b> 19/2780C	War Memorial, LAWTON STREET, CONGLETON	NP – Councillors Brown Murphy Akers Smith Douglas	No Objection
<b>13 *</b> 19/2824C	BROOKHOUSE FARM, BROOKHOUSE LANE, CONGLETON, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3QP		No Objection
<b>14 *</b> 19/2807C	128, LONGDOWN ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4QT		No Objection
<b>15 *</b> 19/2770D	LAND ADJ 1, LEAMINGTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4PF		No Objection

7. **PLANNING APPEALS**

None to report.

8. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

None to report.

9. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

The Town Events & Marketing Manager & Deputy Chief Officer informed the meeting that Cheshire East Enforcement Officers are dealing with the issues at 9 Swan Bank, Congleton and warned that it may take a while to resolve.

The Chief Officer to be requested to provide updates on tracking Section 106 funds.

**Councillor P Duffy - Chair**

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

**PRESENT**

Councillor P Duffy – Chair  
Mrs S Akers Smith  
D Amies  
D T Brown  
Mrs S Firkin  
Mrs M Gartside  
Mrs S A Holland  
Mrs A Martin  
R Moreton  
D Murphy  
Mrs J D Parry  
M Rogan  
J Smith

Approximately 40 members of the public attended the meeting

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors M. Amies, R Chadwick, R Douglas, R Hemsley and K Wesley.

**2. MINUTES**

PLN/6/1920 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillors Akers Smith, Brown, Holland, Murphy and Moreton declared a “non pecuniary” interest due to their membership of Cheshire East Council.

Councillor Duffy declared a “non pecuniary” interest in any discussions relating to S106 monies for Galloway Green.

**4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

No outstanding actions.

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

There was public comment made in relation to

Planning Application 19/3162C where residents made strong objections against the application and

Planning Application 19/2938C – residents raising strong objects to this application.

6. **PROCEDURE FOR STARRING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

PLN/7/1920 RESOLVED: - to not star applications relating to trees and hedgerows.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

PLN/8/1920 RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Planning Ref	Location	Declaration of Interest	
19/2788C	1A, WEST STREET, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 1JN		No Objection
19/2607C	20, ANTROBUS STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 1HB		No Objection but wish to raise concerns regarding the adequacy of parking
19/2844C	13, BURSLAM STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 3AF	NP – P Duffy	No Objection
*19/2923C	8, MEAKIN CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3TG		No Objection
*19/2946D	Land Off A34, NEWCASTLE ROAD, CONGLETON		No Objection
19/3105C	Shakerley Arms, 7-9, WILLOW STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 1RL	NP – S A Holland A Martin J Parry	No Objection
*19/3054C	4, Cloud View, Weathercock Lane, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3PS		No Objection
*19/3166C	9, COPPERHILL ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3JG		No Objection
*19/2946D	Land Off A34, NEWCASTLE ROAD, CONGLETON		No Objection
*19/3257D	Proposed, CONGLETON LINK ROAD, CONGLETON		No Comment
19/3183T	2, QUARRY CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3GS		Reject due to the following – 1 Loss of important trees 2 Landscaping 3 Nature conservation
*19/3265D	Land at Radnor Park Industrial Estate, BACK LANE, CONGLETON		No Objection



19/2938C	Hawthorn Cottage, Harvey Road, Congleton, CW12 2PS	NP – A Martin	Reject due to the following – 1 In the green belt 2 Site not part of the Local Plan 3 Highway and safety issues 4 Traffic generation 5 Loss of important trees – two with TPO's 6 Landscaping 7 Risk of flooding
*19/3235C	19, THE MOORINGS, CONGLETON, CW12 3RF		No Objection
19/3162C	Land South of Waggs Road, Congleton		Reject due to the following – 1 Local, strategic, regional and national planning policies. 2 Previous planning decisions (including appeal decisions. 3 Layout and density of buildings. 4 Noise and disturbance 5 Highway and safety issues. 6 Traffic generation 7 Vehicular access 8 Nature conservation 9 Intrusion into Open Countryside/Green Belt 10 Risk of potential flooding 11 Safer routes to school and general safety 12 Traffic statements to take into account junction assessments at the bottom of Foll Hollow and into Town via Waggs Road. Also the traffic surveys to include information gathered at the beginning and end of the school days in addition to normal rush hour times. 13 In conflict with the draft neighbourhood plan
19/3319C	25 Crescent Road Congleton, CW12 4BG		No Objection

#### 8. **PLANNING APPEALS**

None to report.

#### 9. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

The Railway Inn, 4 Biddulph Road, Congleton, CW12 3JS – No Objections  
Councillor Duffy declared a “pecuniary” interest, vacated the Chair and left the room.

10. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

PLN/9/1920 RESOLVED: - To have further discussion on how the Town Council monitor decision notices and enforcement progress. Action – The Chief Officer to arrange a meeting with Planning Officer and Councillors Martin and Akers Smith.

Councillor P Duffy - Chair

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019**

**PRESENT**

Councillor P Duffy – Chair  
D Amies  
D T Brown  
R Chadwick  
Mrs M Gartside  
R Hemsley  
Mrs A Martin  
D Murphy  
Mrs J D Parry – attended 6.45 p.m.  
M Rogan – attended – 6.45 p.m.  
J Smith  
Mrs K Wesley

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Mrs D Allen, M Amies, R Douglas, Mrs S Firkin, G Hayes, Mrs S A Holland and R Moreton

**2. MINUTES**

PLN/10/1920 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with the amendment of item 19/2938C – should read 2 – site not part of the Local Plan.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillors Brown and Murphy declared a “non pecuniary” interest due to their membership of Cheshire East Council.

Councillor Duffy declared a “non pecuniary” interest in any discussions relating to Galloway Green.

**4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

The Chief Officer reported that a meeting will be arranged to discuss S106 and enforcement issues – target date the end of September.

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

None received

## 6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PLN/11/1920 RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Planning Ref	Location	Declaration of Interest	Comments
1 19/3351C	ROBIN HOOD, BUXTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3PE		No Objection subject to Cheshire East Officers be requested to check the adequacy of car parking capacity
2 19/3348D	Land off Manchester Road Phase 2, MANCHESTER ROAD, CONGLETON	NP – P Duffy	REJECT due to the following – 1 – Travel Plan inadequate and does not follow current guidelines – difficult for people with disabilities
3 19/3322D	Land To The East Of Black Firs Lane, BACK LANE, SOMERFORD		No Objection to the discharge of conditions – NOTE COMMENTS – The Travel Plan appears to have been omitted. Cheshire East Officers requested to check
4 * 19/3327C	Land Off, WINDSOR PLACE, CONGLETON		No Objection
5 * 19/3315C	10, QUARRY CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3GS		No Objection
6 19/3275C	Land off, Macclesfield Road, Congleton		REJECT due to the following – The developer is looking to reduce the drainage scheme to enhance the opportunity to provide height variations to the dwellings.
7 19/3258C	Proposed Congleton Link Road		No Objection
8 * 19/3391C	13, ABBOTTS CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3JD		No Objection
9 * 19/3473C	9, Sheldon Avenue, Congleton, CW12 3LD		No Objection
10 * 19/3408C	79, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 4NU		No Objection
11 * 19/3366C	FIDDLERS GREEN, SHOP LANE, CONGLETON, CW12 3AW		No Objection
12 19/3427C	Paul Sheard Autos, NEWCASTLE ROAD, ASTBURY, CHESHIRE EAST, CW12 4JX		A member of the public spoke in objection REJECT due to the following – 1 – In conflict with Local Plan GR6 2 – Noise and disturbance from use 3 - Smells 4 – Highway and safety issues – Cheshire

			East Highway Officers requested to assess the impact of extra vehicles and congestion on the A34 5 – Pollution from water and chemicals 6 – Unsuitable for a residential location
13 19/3525C	7, MOODY STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 4AN		No Objection
14 * 19/3486C	80, CHESTNUT DRIVE, CONGLETON, CW12 4UB		No Objection
15 * 19/3492D	Land To The East Of Black Firs Lane And To The South of, BACK LANE, SOMERFORD		No Objection
16 * 19/3391C	13, ABBOTTS CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3JD		No Objection
17 * 19/3473C	9, Sheldon Avenue, Congleton, CW12 3LD		No Objection
18 19/3593C	Crossley Stud Farm, Buxton Road, Congleton, CW12 2PN		REJECT due to the following – 1 – Local, strategic, regional and national planning policies 2 – Design, visual appearance and materials 3 – Layout and density of buildings 4 - Intrusion into Open Countryside/ Greenbelt
19 * 19/3630C	Winterfell, 19, PAVILION WAY, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 4EW		No Objection
20 18/4888C	Land at BACK LANE, CONGLETON	Pecuniary Interest – D Brown left room did not vote	REJECT due to the following – Social housing for families is inadequate and not pepperpotted (integrated) and lack of an adequate transport plan
21 * 19/3478C	Land adjacent to 1, LEAMINGTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4PF		No Objection
22 19/3635C	54, Astbury Street, CONGLETON, CONGLETON, CW12 4EQ		No Objection

23 * 19/3726D	Congleton Bath House And Physic Garden, COLEHILL BANK, CONGLETON, CW12 3AD		No Objection
24 * 19/3745D	Land Off, MANCHESTER ROAD, CONGLETON		No Objection
25 19/3711C	33, GIANTSWOOD LANE, CONGLETON, CW12 2HQ		No Objection – Subject to checking the adequacy of parking and highway and safety issues

#### 7. **PLANNING APPEALS**

The following appeal was noted –

18/6283C – APP/RO660/D/19/32267763 – 135 Ennerdale Drive, Congleton – Appeal Dismissed

#### 8. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

The following licensing application was noted -

Office 7 First Floor Riverside Mill, Mountbatten Way, Congleton, CW12 1DY

#### 9. **ADDITION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH**

The following information was received from Cheshire East Council

- Addition of public footpath number 86 – request Cheshire East to check if this is wide enough to be made into a cycleway.

#### 10. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

As noted in item 4 above - The Chief Officer reported that a meeting will be arranged to discuss S106 and enforcement issues – target date the end of September.

Councillor P Duffy - Chair

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> April 2019

In attendance

Committee members

Mrs S A Smith (Town Mayor)  
G P Hayes (Chairman)  
M A Walker

Non Committee members

G R Edwards (Ex-Officio)  
G S Williams

#### **Minutes**

1. **Apologies for absence.**

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 were received from Committee members Councillors Mrs A L Armitt, L D Barker, D T Brown, Mrs A E Morrison and Mrs E Wardlaw and non-Committee member Councillor R Boston.

2. **Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as a correct record.

**TH/05/1819 resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Outstanding actions**

There were no outstanding actions.

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.

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. **Town Hall Trading Account**

To accept the Town Hall Trading account to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and to note the content of the summary report.

**TH/06/1819 resolved** to accept the Town Hall Trading account to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and the summary report.

7. **Grand Hall Toilet Refurbishment**

To agree the specifications for the refurbishment of the Grand Hall toilets so that the project can move forward. Report by the Town Hall Supervisor.

**TH/07/1819 resolved** to approve the final design and specification for the Grand Hall toilets and corridor as identified in the report.

**TH/08/1819 resolved** to authorise officers to progress the project by putting the approved project out to tender in line with the CTC financial regulations and prepare a paper regarding expenditure for the next Finance and Policy Committee

8. **Town Hall Emergency Lighting**

A report to inform members of works taking place to replace the Emergency Lighting following an internal routing health and safety check. Report by the Town Hall Supervisor

**TH/09/1819 resolved** to note the report regarding the emergency lighting and recommended that going forward the emergency lighting is tested on a monthly basis.

9. **Spencer Suite Refurbishment**

A report to update members on the progress of the Spencer Suite improvement works. Report by the Town Hall Supervisor.

**TH/10/1819 resolved** to remove creating a new entrance to the Spencer Suite from the Town Hall Work Plan and to approve the refurbishment of the Spencer Suite using the current entrance.

**G P Hayes  
(Chairman)**



**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 7pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair, C,E &amp;S), Peter Aston (Chair, Congleton Green)</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Congleton Climate Emergency</b>		
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<p>In June 2019 The Community, Environment and Services Committee heard a report from the Congleton Sustainability Group about a potential approach that the Council could take to tackle climate change.</p> <p>A working group called Congleton Green was set up, including CSG and 3 Councillors and the CE&amp;S Chair. It received the full support of Congleton Partnership and is now ready to outline its goals with respect to the Climate Emergency.</p>		
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<p>It is clear from the reports from the IPCC 'Special Report on Global Warming' (2018) and the CCC report 'Net Zero – the UK's contribution to stopping global warming' (May 2019), that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• human activities are changing our planet and the need for everyone to act on climate change is more urgent and immediate than ever;</li> <li>• not meeting the UK's targets will have a negative impact on our residents whilst measures to combat climate change can have significant benefits;</li> <li>• local government has a role to play in responding to climate change, both through their own practices and policies, and through leadership and facilitation</li> </ul> <p>To date more than 200 councils across the UK have declared a climate emergency (as has the UK parliament) and committed to radical action to combat climate change.</p> <p>Cheshire East has published a new draft Environmental Strategy for consultation, stating the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheshire East will be carbon neutral by 2025;</li> <li>• Waste and pollution will be reduced;</li> <li>• Air quality will be improved;</li> <li>• The use of sustainable transport and travel will be increased;</li> <li>• New development will be sensitive and sustainable;</li> <li>• The authority will manage the environment to restore nature, conserve heritage and enhanced the beauty of landscapes.</li> </ul> <p>Congleton Sustainability Group has been active for many years, and it and Congleton Green have been sharing ideas on sustainability and environmental initiatives with a number of enthusiastic local organisations and individuals. They</p>		

	<p>are running a 'Congleton Green Fair' with many different stalls on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Town Hall.</p> <p>A co-ordinated approach is now needed with the leadership of Congleton Town Council to ensure we make the best possible use of the resources at our disposal to galvanise the people and organisations of Congleton to help combat the climate emergency.</p>
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';</li> <li>2. Publicise this initiative to at the Congleton Green Fair on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019;</li> <li>3. Appoint Cllr Margaret Gartside as Lead Councillor on Climate Emergency;</li> <li>4. Pledge to make Congleton Town Council carbon neutral by 2025;</li> <li>5. Call on Cheshire East, and the national government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2025 target possible;</li> <li>6. Continue to work with partners across the town and region to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies and plans;</li> <li>7. In all discussion, debate and decision-making procedures ensure that climate impact is thoroughly considered and recorded;</li> <li>8. Report to Council within three months with the initial actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency.</li> </ol>

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Finance and Policy		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	<b>LOCATION</b>	Congleton Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Support Manager RFO		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	External Auditor Report		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 established arrangements for the accountability and audit of local public bodies in England.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that having approximately 10,000 authorities establishing correct procedures and appointing their own auditors for the first time would generate significant challenges. To assist smaller authorities (income or expenditure less than £6.5m) find and appoint an external auditor, the Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) specified SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) as a sector led body with powers to procure and appoint auditors and set audit fees for smaller authorities in compliance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and the Local Audit (Smaller Authority) Regulations 2015.</p> <p>SAAA undertook a comprehensive and robust procurement tender exercise in 2016 which resulted in the appointment of external auditors in a cost-effective way that has resulted in significant financial savings for the smaller authority sector.</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn were appointed in 2017/18 for a period of 5 years. They carry out a limited assurance review of the council and sign and complete section 3 of the AGAR (Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return).</p>		
<b>Updates</b>	<p>The 18/19 certificate has been received for the Council to note. There are no issues giving cause for concern.</p>		
<b>Decision Requested</b>	To receive the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19		

## Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Congleton Town Council – CH0056

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2019; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

### 2 External auditor report 2018/19

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

### 3 External auditor certificate 2018/19

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

Date

03/09/2019

\* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2018/19 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Council Meeting		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 7.00pm	<b>LOCATION</b>	Congleton Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Councillor Mark Rogan		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b><u>Proposal to make changes to the Protocol for Members at Council Meetings</u></b>		
<b>For reference:</b>	From the Town Council Constitution Standing Orders: Page 7, Item 31:  <b>31. A member or officer shall stand when speaking unless permitted by the Chair to sit on account of infirmity.</b>		
<b>Background:</b>	<p>As a recently elected member to this Council, I would like my fellow councillors to consider changing item 31 of the Town Council Constitution requiring members and officers to stand to speak at Council Meetings, unless permitted by the Chair to sit on account of infirmity.</p> <p>I understand that this is part of the tradition and custom of Council meetings, but I believe that this rule can lead to members feeling humiliated, upset and angry. Council meetings are public meetings open to the press and public. There may be many reasons why someone is not able to stand when addressing the Mayor, and their ability to stand can alter from one meeting to another. Just because a member is not able to stand when speaking they should not be labelled as infirm, or to be made to feel in any way different.</p> <p>As Councillors we do not stand up to address the room in any other committee meetings. In other committees there are also press and public in attendance – so this custom is not necessary in order to enable people to see who is speaking, in the way it may be in the House of Commons or in a larger Council Chamber.</p> <p>As a Council which is striving to be diverse and inclusive it would be an easy step to remove this barrier so that no Councillor is required to stand, rather than making those that can't stand give excuses or be made to feel in some way inferior.</p> <p>With regards to the formalities of the Council meeting, I would also suggest that it is not necessary for the Mayor and Officers to be placed on a raised stage/dais. I believe that they should be on the same level as the rest of the Council for full council in the same way as the room is set for other committee meetings. This would make the Council meeting more user friendly and less intimidating.</p>		

	<p>The exception would be the Annual Council and Mayor Making, where use of the stage adds to the theatre and sense of occasion to an event that often attracts over a hundred people.</p>
<b>Proposal</b>	<p>I propose that the Town Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Remove Item 31 (page 7 of the constitution) stating: <b>A member or officer shall stand when speaking unless permitted by the Chairman to sit on account of infirmity</b></li> <li>2) Remove the stage/dais from the Council meeting so that the Chair, Mayor's Chaplain and anyone sitting at the top table are located on the same level as the rest of the council attending the meeting, with the exception of the Annual Town Council meeting when the new Mayor is elected.</li> </ol>



# CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Council Meeting		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 7pm	<b>LOCATION</b>	Congleton Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Cllr Paul Duffy, Chief Officer David McGifford and Cllr Kay Wesley		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	White Ribbon Accreditation for Congleton Town Council		
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	In January 2019 CTC agreed that it would like to become a White Ribbon Town. A Working Group has been set up and the next steps now need to be authorised and implemented by Council.		
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<p>White Ribbon UK was founded in 2005 and is part of a global movement to end male violence against women. It is a charity that works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence.</p> <p>The need to change behaviour in order to avoid and prevent violence against women has never been clearer.</p> <p>Rape conviction rates in the UK are at an all time low at 3% of all reported cases. And less than half of rapes are reported (CSEW). This means more than 98% of rapists are walking free. The UK has among the worst conviction rates in the world.</p> <p>The reasons are complex but due to prejudice throughout the legal system in which the victim is effectively 'put on trial'. Vulnerable victims are interrogated to malign and discredit them, using rape myths and stereotypes. The attitudes of some police officers, members of the CPS, the judiciary and the jury all play a part.</p> <p>The media has a huge influence, especially when it gives front page news to false accusations. This is despite research by the CPS in England and Wales that showed that less than 1% of rape accusations could credibly be considered false.</p> <p>For these reasons it is important to change attitudes in order to both prevent and prosecute rape effectively in future.</p> <p>Rape is a crime that can only be committed by men, so it is vital that men lead the way in changing attitudes.</p>		





The new Domestic Abuse Bill is now delayed by the prorogation of parliament. This bill includes provision to stop perpetrators cross-examining their victims in the family courts and enables the UK government to ratify the Istanbul convention, the landmark international treaty for preventing and combating violence against women.

The crime of domestic abuse, which affects more than 150 families in Congleton, should be at the top of our agenda. As we know 9 out of 10 defendants in domestic abuse cases are men, so through White Ribbon, men can help to lead the way in driving change.

White Ribbon volunteer ambassadors act as role models, engaging with men and boys to call out abusive and sexist behaviour among their peers and promote a culture of equality and respect.

The White Ribbon Accreditation programme ensures organisations take a strategic approach to ending male violence against women by engaging with men and boys, changing cultures and raising awareness.

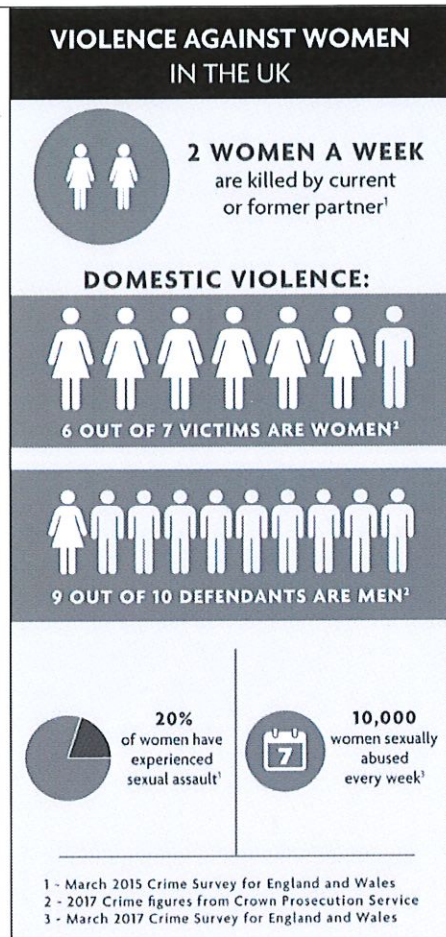
A great many Councils across the country have become White Ribbon Accredited.

For public bodies accreditation is evidence that an organisation is carrying out its Public Equality Duty for employees, members and service users according to the Equality Act 2010.

We believe that Congleton would be the first Town Council in Cheshire East to achieve this.

In order to be Accredited, the Council must take certain actions and pay a membership fee to White Ribbon.

Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire & Rescue are White Ribbon Organisations:





	<p>In January 2019 the CE&amp;S Committee received a presentation from Richard Walton on White Ribbon and Resolved to make Congleton Town Council a White Ribbon Member by appointing at least one member of staff and one councillor to meet with R Walton to review how this can be integrated into the Town Council (CES/39/1819).</p> <p>A White Ribbon Working Group has now been set up - Cllrs P Duffy (Chair), M Rogan, G Hayes, K Wesley, Chief Officer D McGifford, R Walton.</p> <p>The Group has created an Action Plan for CTC for the next 4 years. This consists of 4 Sections:</p> <p><b>Section 1: Strategic Leadership</b> – ensuring policy and practice is compatible with the behaviours required, and creating White Ribbon Ambassadors</p> <p><b>Section 2: Engagement</b> – training Councillors and staff initially, then reaching out more widely e.g. through Congleton Partnership.</p> <p><b>Section 3: Culture</b> – taking action to stamp out sexism and a willingness to report and deal with inappropriate behaviours</p> <p><b>Section 4: Raising Awareness</b> – outreach into the wider community through a broader Communications Plan, encouraging other organisations to become White Ribbon Accredited</p> <p>The White Ribbon organisation charges small councils £300 annual membership fee (£1000 for Borough Councils), for which we get support for training and awareness building, participation in national events and communications, and the right to use the White Ribbon Mark on Council materials.</p>
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise annual payment of £300 for White Ribbon Accreditation.</li> <li>2. Train Councillors and Council staff.</li> <li>3. Councillors and Council Staff to take the simple White Ribbon Pledge. We suggest we organise an event for this and invite the local press.</li> <li>4. Launch the White Ribbon campaign on a community stall at the Congleton Maker's Market (booked for 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019).</li> <li>5. Authorise the White Ribbon Working Group to action the other parts of the Implementation Plan (which can be achieved within current resourcing).</li> </ol>