



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CILCA**

10th October 2019

Dear Councillor,

Town Council Meeting – Thursday 17th October 2019

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council, to be held in the Town Hall, Congleton on **Thursday 17th October 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 19th September 2019 and the Emergency meeting of the Council on 3rd October 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

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.

None received

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 1st August 2019.

9. Finance & Policy Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 12th September 2019.

10. Planning Committee (enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th September 2019.

11. Proposal to make changes or remove Standing Order 31 (enclosed)

To agree the amendment or removal of Standing Order 31.

12. Congleton Park Play Area Upgrade (report to follow)

To receive a proposal for investment into the Congleton park play area.

13. Urgent Items

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

14. 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 19th September 2019 Town Hall Congleton

PRESENT:

Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)
Suzie Akers Smith
Dawn Allen
Martin Amies
Russell Chadwick
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
Robert Hemsley
Rob Moreton
Mark Rogan
James Smith
Kay Wesley

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, Duncan Amies, David Brown, Robert Douglas, Paul Duffy, George Hayes, Denis Murphy and Jean Parry.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th July 2019 and the Emergency meeting of the Council on 1st August 2019.

CTC/28/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th July 2019 and the Emergency meeting of the Council on 1st August 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 Suzie Akers Smith and Sally Ann Holland declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

Heather Seddon – use of Peat based compost - see appendix 1

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 advised that they had attended a climate change event in Manchester and expressed an interest in any emerging local initiatives relating to this subject.

8. Community, Environment & Services Committee

CTC/29/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. Finance & Policy Committee

CTC/30/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. Planning Committee

CTC/31/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 20th June, 18th July and 8th August 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. Town Hall & Assets Committee

CTC/32/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

12. Climate Emergency

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

CTC/33/1920 RESOLVED to declare a climate Emergency for Congleton and to –

- Publicise this initiative to at the Congleton Green Fair on 26th October 2019;
- Appoint Cllr Margaret Gartside as Lead Councillor on Climate Emergency;
- Pledge to make Congleton Town Council carbon neutral by 2025;
- Call on Cheshire East, and the national government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2025 target possible;
- Continue to work with partners across the town and region to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- In all discussion, debate and decision-making procedures ensure that climate impact is thoroughly considered and recorded;
- Report to Council within three months with the initial actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency.

13. External Auditor Report and Certificate 18/19

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

CTC/34/1920 RESOLVED to receive the External Auditor Report and Certificate 18/19

14. Removal of Standing Order 31

To approve the removal of Standing Order 31 from the Constitution.

CTC/35/1920 RESOLVED to defer the removal of Standing Order 31 from the Constitution until the next meeting of the Council giving time for the Standing Order to be reviewed and incorporated into the emerging Draft Civic Protocol

15. White Ribbon

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

CTC/36/1920 RESOLVED to

- Authorise annual payment of £300 for White Ribbon Accreditation.
- Train Councillors and Council staff.
- Councillors and Council Staff to take the simple White Ribbon Pledge.
- Launch the White Ribbon campaign on a community stall at the Congleton Maker's Market
- Authorise the White Ribbon Working Group to action the other parts of the Implementation Plan

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. - **see appendix 2**

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

Appendix 1

Questions from members of the Public

1. Heather Seddon

It has come to my attention that the Congleton In Bloom planters are using peat based compost in the majority of their hanging baskets and boxes. Although the flower displays are very beautiful and now a cultural part of Congleton Town, could it please be investigated as a matter of urgency before the winter planters are prepared to ensure that only peat free compost is used in the planters.

I'm sure that all the Town Councillors are aware that rising carbon dioxide levels are contributing to global warming. Peat bogs store carbon and support biodiversity and we have a responsibility to preserve our natural habitats, not to destroy them.

It would certainly be a positive news story if Congleton in Bloom could make this change to peat-free composts in all their planters. It would show residents that Congleton Town was taking sustainability and care of the environment seriously. And be a great start in the launch of Congleton's Climate Emergency action plan.

I would also like to formally request that Congleton Town Council follows Cheshire East Council and other local councils such as Alsager Town Council in announcing that they also will also commit to ensuring that carbon emissions are reduced as per the Cheshire East climate emergency conditions.

Mayor's Response

Thank you for your questions relating to our floral displays and your concerns about the environmental impact.

I am aware that the In Bloom working group are keen to discuss and explore any environmental improvements they can with regards to our floral displays.

Currently we have approximately 250 Town centre hanging baskets, these are lined with moss and then filled with plants, the soil used is the root ball of the plants. We source our plants locally from a major supplier but we will need to check what soil they use for their plants

We have 30 solid baskets filled with recycled compost from previous year's plants which have been composted down, then filled with plants

We have 30 Large Planters and 180 troughs - this is currently a mix of normal compost and peat compost, we currently use peat compost as it has the benefit of holding moisture well and releasing nutrients slowly and over a long period of time, which is ideal for planters and containers, however we are keen to explore any other options that achieve the same results

Our roundabouts and park beds used to be totally peat beds as this was something that Cheshire East and the former Congleton Borough maintained. When topping up the flower beds over the last 10 years we have used peat free compost which is ultimately replacing the previously 100% peat beds.

As a general principle Congleton in bloom is looking towards more sustainable beds and wildflower areas on grass verges but recognises there is still other options that need to be explored.

Ruth Burgess our Streetscape manager will be returning to work following maternity leave on September 23rd and would be happy to meet with you to discuss the matter further if you so wish.

With regards to you second point you will notice on tonight's agenda that we are covering the Climate Emergency situation on item 12 of the agenda, hopefully you will be able to stay to listen to that debate

Appendix 2 - 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 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 3rd October 2019 Town Hall Congleton

PRESENT:

Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)
Suzie Akers Smith
Dawn Allen
Duncan Amies
Martin Amies
David Brown
Russell Chadwick
Robert Douglas
Paul Duffy
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
George Hayes
Amanda Martin
Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)
Jean Parry
Mark Rogan
James Smith
Kay Wesley

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 Cllr Robert Hemsley.

2. **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 SA Holland (Mayor) D Brown, S Akers Smith, G Hayes, D Murphy (deputy Mayor) declared a non- pecuniary interest in matters relating to Cheshire East Council
declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

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

Representations were made from several representatives of user groups affected by the proposed development of the leisure centre, these included the Coronation Bowls and Social Club, badminton, squash and the Dane Valley Swimming Club.

4. Congleton Leisure Centre

To consider a proposal requesting that Cheshire East Council delay the commencement of the Leisure Centre development to enable a review to take place.

It was proposed that there should be a recorded named vote on this item

CTC/37/1920 RESOLVED to agree to a recorded named vote.

CTC/38/1920 RESOLVED to support the proposal of – not to request any delay on the redevelopment of the leisure centre, but to request that they specifically re check the following:

1. Adequacy of the provision of badminton and squash courts.
2. The parking and access issues for the bowling club.
3. The viewing area for the pool and have the ability to incorporate timing boards.

It was suggested that CEC officers discuss the above with relevant stakeholders to ensure that their requirements are understood.

COUNCILLOR	
S Akers Smith	Against
D Allen	In support
D Amies	Against
M Amies	Against
D Brown	In support
R Chadwick	In support
R Douglas	In support
P Duffy	Against
S Firkin	Against
M Gartside	In support
G Hayes	Abstained
R Hemsley	Not in attendance
S A Holland (Mayor)	In support
A Martin	In support
R Moreton	Against
D Murphy (Deputy Mayor)	In support
J Parry	In support
M Rogan	Abstained
J Smith	Against
K Wesley	In support

In support 10, Against 7, Abstentions 2 not in attendance 1

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

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

2019

20 th September	Visit to Woodcocks Well School
20 th September	Centre Stage Youth Theatre
24 th September	Visit to Blackfirs School
25 th September	Bradwell Court Care Home – Anniversary Presentation
27 th September	Concept Data Solutions Launch Event
28 th September	Ruby's Fund Ball – Town Hall
1 st October	Visit to Astbury School
1 st October	Congleton Player's – Goodnight Mr. Tom – Daneside Theatre
3 rd October	Opening of Elizabeth's Garden
6 th October	Congleton Half Marathon
6 th October	Macclesfield Civic Service

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

27 th September	Macclesfield Mayor's Autumn Charity Quiz
10 th October	Young Artist Competition
13 th October	Nantwich Civic Service
16 th October	New Life Nursery Service

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 1st August 2019

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Martin Amies
Paul Duffy
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
Amanda Martin
Jean Parry
Mark Rogan
Kay Wesley (Chair)

Non-Committee members

Suzie Akers Smith, Russell Chadwick, Robert Hemsley, James Smith and Robert Moreton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Committee members Councillors Dawn Allen and Denis Murphy, and Non-committee members Cllrs Robert Douglas and Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 as a correct record.

CES/11/1920 Resolved to receive the minutes from the meeting held on 27th June 2019 as a correct record.

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 from Committee Members.

4. Outstanding Actions

Note that these actions are covered in Agenda Item 11 - Updates paper.

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.

- Letter from Congleton Pride Group (Richard Walton)
- Question on the green space at the back of the Town Hall (Val Scaresbrook)
- Question on Bromley Woods (Val Scaresbrook)

See appendix A below

6. Cheshire Police

To receive and consider a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

Sergeant Keith Graham – Cheshire Police provided updates on:

- Crime rates
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Homelessness
- Updates on localised flooding

See Appendix B below

7. Floral Arrangement Working Group

CES/12/1920 Resolved to receive the minutes of the Floral Arrangement Working Group held on 25th June 2019.

8. Sheldon Avenue - Bins and Parking

To discuss a report and presentation from Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith and Rob Moreton requesting support for resolving issues in this area.

CES/13/1920 Resolved that Congleton Town Council Officers would arrange a site meeting as a matter of urgency with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Police, Environmental Health and ward Councillors.

9. Ruby's Fund – Update on the Sensory Centre and Appeal for Help

To discuss a report and receive a presentation from Ruby's fund on the imminent sale of the premises.

CES/14/1920 Resolved to write a letter to the Finance Portfolio Holder at Cheshire East Council supporting Ruby's Fund request for a commercial loan to facilitate the acquisition of their current premises.

10. Congleton Christmas Lights 2019

To receive a report on the plans for Congleton Christmas Lights and to agree a lead member to join the Christmas Team.

CES/15/1920 Resolved to receive the report and noted that Cllrs Paul Duffy and Russell Chadwick would become members of the Christmas Team working group.

11. Updates Paper from June 27th 2019

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the previous Community, Environment & Services Committee meeting.

CES/16/1920 Resolved to receive the updates report.

12. Health and Well-Being Working Group

CES/17/1920 Resolved to receive the minutes from the Health and Well-Being Working Group from 20th June 2019.

13. Congleton Market Working Group

To receive an update from the Congleton Market Working Group.

CES/18/1920 Resolved to receive the update from the Chief Officer who advised that communication was ongoing with the Market Traders about a potential Partnership Arrangement for its future management. The latest communication was sent on 23rd July 2019, requesting names for 3 selected representatives from the Traders and clarity about who they think should be responsible for the various aspects of managing the market.

14. Congleton in Bloom

To receive an update on the North West in Bloom judging day, which took place on 25th July 2019.

CES/19/1920 Resolved to receive the update from the Chief Officer who advised that the judging went well and the results would be announced on the 1st November 2019. Councillors gave thanks to the support provided by the volunteers.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

Appendix A – Item 5 Questions from members of the Public

1. LETTER OF THANKS FROM CONGLETON PRIDE ... 22 JULY 2019

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of both the Trustees and Organising Committee of Congleton Pride, I would like to pass on our most heartfelt thanks to Congleton Town Council for their unwavering support in delivering Congleton's first LGBT+ event on Sat 20th July.

Not only was your financial support the cornerstone of our ability to stage such an event, but it was also the enthusiasm and ideas of so many of your team, so freely given, that was instrumental in allowing us to hold what we hope will become an annual event.

In thanking specific people you always run the risk of offending those who don't get a personal mention, especially when so many people are involved, and so apologies in advance if I have missed anyone out.

I would however very much like to thank the outstanding contribution made by Jackie Macarthur throughout the project, Cllr Sally Anne Holland (Mayor) for officially opening our day and then staying with us all day braving near monsoon conditions, and to our Town Crier (Paul Bates) who not only added colour to the opening ceremony, but was an incredible source of ideas and support throughout.

I would finally like to acknowledge the support of the people of Congleton. The support we received from the whole community was outstanding and moved us all deeply and they really did themselves proud. It is one thing to call ourselves the small town with the big heart, but quite another to demonstrate it.

Well on Sat, we did just that!! The town was incredible.....

Kind regards,

Mr Richard Walton,

Trustee-Congleton Pride-Congleton Pride Charitable Trust

RESPONSE: - This letter was received with thanks and the Congleton Pride Group congratulated on the success of their event.

2. LAND AT THE BACK OF THE TOWN HALL - From Val Scaresbrook

The long established shortcut between the police station and library/bus station in Congleton was removed when the old council offices in Congleton were demolished. This despite the expense of a top-up fence being installed to prevent people falling or jumping into the Fairground car park, although I don't know if anyone has ever done this. The shortcut was not a public right of way, but used without let or hindrance for at least 30 years (that's how long I used it). So pedestrians are disadvantaged by having to walk three sides of the square along very uneven paving, unless they want to vault or limbo the wooden rail fence. Cyclists cannot ride/push their bikes along the shortcut either, and as Market Square is one way, cannot cycle around legally.

Can the town council press Cheshire East Council (CEC) to restore this valuable amenity to the public? CEC states that vulnerable road users (i.e. pedestrians, disabled, cyclists) are at the heart of all they do, but now we have this obstacle. One option would be to apply for public right of way status so this route is added to the definitive map. Can the town council initiate the application? I believe it only has to gather evidence from a small number of people who have used the route regularly and over a number of years without let, hindrance or a charge.

RESPONSE: - Dear Mrs Scaresbrook

Thank you for bringing this issue to the committee, we can certainly look into the points you have raised with Cheshire East Council to understand their position on this matter and will feedback to you accordingly what we believe to be the next steps.

3. BROMLEY FARM WOODS - From Val Scaresbrook

There is a heavily used network of paths and steps in Bromley woods between Dane-in-Shaw Brook and Bromley housing estate. I believe these woods are owned by the town council.

These paths were edged where necessary, and steps cut in steeper sections, many years ago and the timber is now at the end of its life. Soil is washing down onto the surface and where edging boards have rotted, the path surface is washing downhill, so the original level paths now have a camber to them making them narrower and more difficult to use. It is a pity that the original work on these paths is not being maintained as it is a case of a stitch in time saves nine - are there plans to do anything here please? If not, then can some plans be implemented, and in a timely manner?

This area is an informal leisure area giving access to the brook, the SSSI meadows and the Biddulph Valley Way and is a much valued resource for local residents who can just walk out 'into the green' for their mental and physical wellbeing. Beyond the woods, the areas are cared for by CE rangers so the contrast in maintenance levels is noticeable.

RESPONSE:

Bromley Farm Woods are owned by Cheshire East Council (CEC).

The wood has a network of paths through it with a main path. This was put in around 15 years ago as a joint project of Bromley Farm Community Development Trust, Congleton Borough Council, Groundwork Cheshire and Plus Dane Group. In the last couple of years some remedial work was carried out by Congleton Town Council of the edging boards paid for by Cheshire East.

There is some further works to additional edging boards that is now required. There are a number of areas where this is becoming urgent to ensure integrity of the path and safety of users. Bromley Farm Community Development Trust has raised this with George Broughton. These type of works would fall under the remit of ANSA.

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust were instrumental in creating a safe walkway through the woods which has a number of links to Biddulph Valley Way. This is a popular walking area especially for residents of the Bromley Farm neighbourhood, an area of multiple deprivation. Bromley Farm Woods project was the starting point of all my community work now.

Bromley Farm Trust has asked CEC for some further remedial work to be carried out and for a proper maintenance plan to be put in place for the whole site, not just the paths. When the paths were put in, a report was compiled which included maintenance and it helped to get the area protected as a site of biological importance.

Streetscape carry out litter picks, as does the Trust. Streetscape trim the path edges once a year and the Trust has carried out path clearance, particularly in the autumn, but there is no formal schedule.

Following your question, the Town Council will also contact Cheshire East Council along the lines of those given in the Bromley Farm Community Trust questions.

Appendix B – Item 6 Cheshire Police

Burglaries/Vehicle Crime – no noticeable crime spikes in the last month

Drugs – no warrants executed since the last council meeting. Covert operations on going. 1 noticeable arrest of a male linked to County Lines in Congleton resulted in a 3yr 8mth prison sentence

Anti-Social Behaviour – no noticeable increases since schools broke up for the summer holidays. Aware there are 2-3 homeless people frequenting the town centre area who will be dealt with as and when incidents reported. They have all been offered accommodation by Cheshire Homeless Shelter but all have refused for their own reasons.

Flooding – all roads now open, no major issues in the area

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 12th September 2019**

PRESENT Committee members,

Duncan Amies
David Brown
Russel Chadwick (Chair)
Paul Duffy
George Hayes
Rob Moreton
Sally Ann Holland (Mayor)
Mark Rogan
James Smith

Non Committee members

Suzy Firkin
Robert Hemsley
Amanda Martin
Kay Wesley

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Committee members Robert Douglas, Jean Parry and Deputy Mayor Denis Murphy

2. Minutes

FAP/11/1920 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6th June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair.

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 David Brown, George Hayes, Rob Moreton, Sally Ann Holland – declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.
- Cllr David Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7(iii) Our Gang.
- All councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 (iv) CCCU.

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 31st July 2019.

FAP/12/1920 RESOLVED that the grant statement be received

7. New Applications for Financial Assistance (enclosed)

FAP/13/1920 RESOLVED that

- Grant ref GR08/1920 The Big Heart Foundation Steering Group (URC Church) **£1,000 grant be approved**
- Grant ref GR09/1920 Congleton Park Bowling Club **£250 grant be approved**
- Grant ref GR10/1920 "Our Gang" **£600 grant be approved**
- Grant ref GR11/1920 Congleton Community Credit Union **£45 grant be approved**

8. New Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

- Beartown Patchwork and Quilters (GR15/1819)
- Friends of Congleton Park (GR05/1920)

FAP/14/1920 RESOLVED to approve the Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

9. Management Accounts

FAP/15/1920 RESOLVED to receive the Management Accounts to 31st July 2019.

10. Bank Reconciliation

FAP/16/1920 RESOLVED to receive the bank reconciliation as at 31st July 2019.

11. Savings Account Balances

FAP/17/1920 RESOLVED to receive the Savings Account balances as at 31st July 2019.

12. List of Payments

FAP/18/1920 RESOLVED to receive the Payments lists between 1st May 2019 and 31st July 2019.

13. Amendments to the Grants' Policy

FAP/19/1920 RESOLVED to accept the proposed changes to the Grant's Policy with the addition of the word "tangible" in section 13 to read "Grant requests for tangible products or services. "

Russell Chadwick
Vice Chair

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2019**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors R Douglas, M Gartside and G Hayes

2. MINUTES

PLN/12/1920 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8th August 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, Moreton 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

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/13/1920 RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Planning Ref	Location	Declaration of Interest	Comments
1 19/3624C	Land To The East Of Black Firs Lane And To The South Of, BACK LANE, SOMERFORD		<p>There were two Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can Bellway confirm they are planting trees to replace each of those lost as this was not clear from the plans? • Can Bellway consider the flood risk of the pond on the development and reassure the council about this? <p>REJECT due to the following – Objections to the proposal due to the inadequacy of the Travel Plan. We recognise that the Travel Plan was well-written and comprehensive, but in some areas it falls short of the standard we require in terms of walking/cycling provision and public transport. We would like to see the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Travel Plan Co-ordinator should provide printed bus timetables and maps to residents, not just a web link, and actively encourage bus use. 2. Bellway should work with bus companies to get at least one bus per hour re-routed via Back Lane, much closer to the development. 3. Bellway should work with bus companies (and perhaps other developers in the area) to provide a NEW direct bus service to Congleton Station to sync with trains to Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent 4. The Travel Plan and Residents' Pack should include information about buses to Holmes Chapel Station 5. Bellway should commit to providing an improved, segregated cycleway and footpath along Back Lane to Congleton Town Centre 6. All shared space on the development where vehicles/pedestrians/cycles will mix should be 20mph zones

			We would like the TPC to report against targets to Congleton Town Council as well as Cheshire East Council, please.
2 19/3909C	Land Off Manchester, MANCHESTER ROAD, CONGLETON		No Objection
3 19/3927T	27, PARK LANE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3DG		No Objection
4 * 19/3931C	37 & 39, HEATH ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4LF		No Objection
5 19/3770C	80, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4NX		No Objection
6 * 19/3884C	97, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4NU		No Objection
7 19/3692T	12, Ryedale Way, CONGLETON, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 3SX		REJECT due to the following – The pruning is excessive and would leave the tree unbalanced Advice should be take from a qualified tree officer
8 * 19/3813C	Land at BACK LANE, CONGLETON	For Information - Application Approved	No Objection
9* 19/4023C	31 , Somerset Close, Congleton, CW12 1SG		No Objection
10* 19/3978C	Meadowside Medical Centre, MOUNTBATTEN WAY, CONGLETON, CW12 1DY		No Objection
11 * 19/4058D	Fir Tree Cottage, TUNSTALL ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 3QB		No Objection

12 19/4016C	11, BERKSHIRE DRIVE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 1SB	Pecuniary Int R Moreton – he left the room and did not vote	No Objection Subject to – Concerns regarding foul water drainage being addressed
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7. **PLANNING APPEALS**

None to Report

8. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

The following application was noted –

Morrisons, Market Street, Congleton – No objections

9. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

As noted in item 4 above - A meeting will be arranged to discuss S106 and enforcement issues – target date the end of September. There was a discussion regarding this item and the Chair will discuss the details with the Chief Officer. There was a request for training and copies of Policies. Councillor Brown updated on Section 106 funds and Community infrastructure Levy.

Councillor Akers Smith updated on the following –

Astbury Place – the developers have been sent legal correspondence in connection with the condition to provide a bridge into the Park.

Seddon Homes development (Goldfinch Close) – a path has now been completed

Bovis Homes development – Sandbach Road/Holmes Chapel Road – a path has been started

Councillor P Duffy - Chair

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Council Meeting		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	17 th October 2019 7.00pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Proposal to make changes or removing Standing Order 31.		
For reference:	From the Town Council Constitution Standing Orders: Page 7, Item 31: 31. A member or officer shall stand when speaking unless permitted by the Chair to sit on account of infirmity.		
Background:	This item was initially discussed at the Council meeting on 19 th September 2019 where the resolution was as follows – CTC/35/1920 RESOLVED to defer the removal of Standing Order 31 from the Constitution until the next meeting of the Council giving time for the Standing Order to be reviewed and incorporated into the emerging Draft Civic Protocol		
Updates	On the 4 th October 2019 past Mayors, D Parker (Town Burgess) , D Brown, D Murphy (current Deputy and past Mayor) and S A Holland (current and past Mayor) met with officers to discuss the draft Civic Protocol which is in development, section 31 of the Standing Orders was discussed during the meeting As stated within a letter from Burgess D Parker which was circulated at the Council meeting on the 19 th September 2019 it outlined the tradition of respecting the Town Mace and Town Mayor which is believed to have dated back to the year of our Charter which was awarded in 1272. The museum is currently the custodian of the town's charters and corporation records. Of the 120 charters and associated documents, 81 date from before 1500. The earliest datable document is the charter of Henry De Lacy, Baron of Halton and later Earl of Lincoln, written in 1272. This allowed the men of Congleton the right to hold land through the payment of a money rent rather than by personal service to the Lord of the Manor. It also gave the inhabitants of the town the right to elect a Mayor, this right is now legally afforded to towns. The general view of the "Mayors" was that standing Order 31 was outdated in terms of the wording but would like to retain the respect of the position of Mayor where Councillors stand where possible. They also felt that councillors should also have / take the opportunity to understand the history		

	<p>and the traditions associated to Mayoralty in Congleton before trying to make any changes.</p> <p>Councillor Rogan, who was the proposer for the removal of Standing Order 31, previously advised that he knew that standing is part of the tradition and custom of Council meetings, but believed that this could result in members feeling humiliated, upset and angry as 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>He felt that 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>On 9th of October 2019 the Chief Officer met with Councillor Rogan who advised that in his opinion the wording of Standing Order 31 contravened the Equality Act 2010 Section 19 (attached), however he felt that an amendment to Standing Order 31 wording would be acceptable if it stated that standing was optional.</p>
Options for consideration	<p>Standing order 31 is :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removed from the constitution 2. Retained as it currently is 3. Amended to <i>"A Councillor or Officer shall stand when speaking unless they have advised the Mayor or Chief Officer of their intention not to do so prior to the meeting"</i> 4. Amended to <i>"Traditionally Councillors and Officers have stood when speaking in Council meetings, however they may remain seated, unchallenged, if they choose to do so"</i>