

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 5th December 2019 Town Hall Congleton

PRESENT: Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)
Suzanne Akers Smith
Dawn Allen
Duncan Amies
Martin Amies
David Brown
Russell Chadwick
Robert Douglas
Paul Duffy
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
George Hayes
Robert Hemsley
Amanda Martin
Rob Moreton
Jean Parry
Mark Rogan
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, Denis Murphy and James Smith.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 2019.

CTC/44/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 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 Sally Ann Holland; G Hayes; Rob Moreton; S Akers Smith; David Brown declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

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

Questions received from members of the Public

1. Can the climate emergency situation be declared more widely to the local public, for example on the Council web site and in the Information Centre?
2. Can you nominate one of the Councillors to meet with myself and the appropriate officer of Cheshire East, regarding the longer-term status of the Climate Emergency Information display in the library?
3. Has the Council made provision in its latest budget for extra resource (over and above the previous year) to assist the Congleton Green working group, in order to accelerate the necessary climate emergency mitigation actions?

Response to the questions in 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 and updates from members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

There were no members of the Youth Committee in attendance.

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

CTC/45/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **Finance & Policy Committee**

CTC/46/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

10. **Planning Committee**

CTC/47/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 24th October 2019 be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

11. **Town Hall & Assets Committee**

CTC/48/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25th July 2019 be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

12. **To approve a recommendation from Town Hall & Assets Committee re :Streetscape Reporting to Town Hall and Assets**

To approve the reporting of the Streetscape Service.

CTC/49/1920 RESOLVED to approve the reporting of the Streetscape Service to the Town Hall and Assets Committee.

13. To approve a recommendation from Town Hall & Assets Committee re: Committee Name and Terms of Reference

To approve the revised Town Hall and Assets Committee Name and Terms of Reference.
CTC/50/1920 RESOLVED to approve –

1. That the name of the Town Hall and Assets Committee be changed to the Town Hall, Assets and Services Committee
2. The updated Terms of Reference for the committee

14. To approve a recommendation from Community, Environment and Services Committee re: Committee Name and Terms of Reference

To approve the revised Community, Environment and Services Name and Terms of Reference.

CTC/51/1920 RESOLVED to approve –

1. The name of the Community Environment and Services Committee being changed to the Community and Environment Committee.
2. The updated Terms of Reference for the committee.

15. Business Plan 2020-23

To approve the 2020-23 Business Plan.

CTC/52/1920 RESOLVED to approve the 2020 -2023 Business Plan.

16. Budget and Precept for 2020-21

To approve the Budget and Precept for 2020 – 2021.

CTC/53/1920 RESOLVED to approve the budget and precept of £923,674 which is £89.61 per annum per Band D property for 2020-21.

17. Urgent Items

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

There were no urgent items.

18. 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.

Verbal updates were provided by Cllrs George Hayes and Suzanne Akers Smith.

**Cllr Mrs Sally Ann Holland
(Town Mayor)**

Appendix 1

Response to questions received from members of the Public

1. Can the climate emergency situation be declared more widely to the local public, for example on the Council web site and in the Information Centre?

Relevant Officers and councillors will be meeting during January to review the activity that has taken place so far on the subject of the climate emergency. The communication of what steps have been taken so far as well as the wider promotion of the climate emergency will be discussed at this meeting. It will certainly be included on the Council website. The Visitor Information centre is leased and run by Cheshire East Council and will be involved in the discussions if appropriate

2. Can you nominate one of the Councillors to meet with myself and the appropriate officer of Cheshire East, regarding the longer-term status of the Climate Emergency Information display in the library?

Officers of the Town Council will have discussions with CEC this month on this matter as

3. Has the Council made provision in its latest budget for extra resource (over and above the previous year) to assist the Congleton Green working group, in order to accelerate the necessary climate emergency mitigation actions?

I can advise that within our budgets for next year we have allocated budget for additional resource, which is the equivalent of 1 full time employee, to help deliver the objectives of the business plan. Climate change is one of the key objectives of the plan.

The Business Plan and the budget are subject to approval this evening

As a general point on the climate emergency we stated we would report back to council within 3 months which is the 19th December. I would like to take this opportunity to advise councillors of the steps we have taken to date

We have developed a Congleton Green working group, incorporated the Climate Emergency into our Business Plan, have had some funding approvals for the tree planting project and held a successful Green Fayre at the Town Hall. A formal report will be provided at Council in January 2020

I would also like to extend the offer for you to attend the next meeting of the Congleton Green Working Group, we will advise you of the time and date of the meeting as soon as it has been agreed.