

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23rd January 2020 Town Hall Congleton

***Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Council on 20th February 2020**

PRESENT:

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

2. **Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th December 2019.

CTC/54/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th December 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 Suzanne Akers Smith, David Brown, Sally Ann Holland, Rob Moreton and Denis Murphy declared a non- pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

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.

A statement from R Walton was read out to the committee relating to the Minor Injuries unit 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 questions or updates from the Youth Committee

8. **Finance & Policy Committee**

CTC/55/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

9. **Planning Committee**

CTC/56/1920 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2019 be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

It was requested that both S106 and the Bridge at Astbury Place remain on each agenda.

10. **War Memorial Hospital – Update and Actions**

To consider an update on the War Memorial Hospital and agree a way forward.

CTC/57/1920 RESOLVED that the Chief Officer writes to the East Cheshire NHS Trust requesting a Future Action Plan and monthly updates relating the War memorial Hospital Minor Injuries Unit.

11. **Council and Committee Meeting Frequency**

To approve the proposed Council and Committee meeting frequency for 2020-2021.

CTC/58/1920 RESOLVED to approve the proposed frequency of meetings with the exception of Planning which would remain as 12 meetings per annum rather than the proposed 11 and that Personnel and Strategy Group meetings could be arranged when necessary.

12. Urgent Items

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

13. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports

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

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

Appendix 1

Dear Cllrs,

I note that under agenda point 10 of tonight's Council Meeting you will be receiving an update on the current unsatisfactory state of affairs that currently exist at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital & it's Minor Injuries Unit.

These issues have been often discussed in this chamber, in various Cheshire East committees and at a Congleton Town Council working group. However, the harsh reality is that whatever we have all done in the two years in which I have been involved in the War Memorial campaign, our actions have failed to deliver any real change-**indeed the matter has actually got worse with the MIU currently closed.**

I would therefore like to thank those Councillors who have raised this issue again this evening and I sincerely hope that the recommendations contained in their report are unanimously accepted.

However, before you vote on the recommendations contained therein, could I please ask that you bear the following two key points in mind and even consider amending the proposals presented to reflect them;

1) Firstly, and critically, please insist that the members of the East Cheshire NHS Trust do not simply state and explain the causes of both current and ongoing closures, without offering a proposed solution. I have already raised these issues in writing with the Chief Exec of the Trust, lodged a formal complaint & met with and requested intervention by our MP. I have received replies to all these written enquiries, but East Cheshire NHS Trust only seek to explain recent events & without offering a plan to address them. What the people of Congleton must hear is an actual game plan as to what steps are being actively taken to secure the staffing levels and infrastructure required to return the MIU to full and consistent use.

2) As part of a National review of the provision of Emergency Medicine conducted by NHS England, the East Cheshire NHS Trust CCG recently advised that they would be unwilling to spend a reported £4m to bring the MIU up to the new required standard. However, what they have steadfastly refused to comment on, is if this means that all current funding will be withdrawn as a result of this review. This matter is of equal if not more importance to the long-term future of the MIU than the staffing issues it faces. I have pressed both the CCG & East Cheshire NHS Trust for an answer for over twelve months now, yet no comment has been made? I therefore ask if the proposal being put forward this evening could be amended to include provision for the answering of this vital question.

I do sincerely hope you choose to act on the proposal before you this evening and will provide any information you require.

Kind regards,
Richard Walton