

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 30th January 2020

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Dawn Allen (Vice Chair)
Martin Amies
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
Amanda Martin
Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)
Jean Parry
Mark Rogan

Non-Committee members

Suzie Akers Smith
Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)
Rob Moreton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Committee members Councillors Kay Wesley (Chair) and Paul Duffy and non-committee member Councillor Robert Douglas.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2019 as a correct record.

CE/41/1920 Resolved to receive the minutes from the meeting held on 7th November 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.

Cheshire East Councillors Suzie Akers Smith, Sally Ann Holland and Rob Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Outstanding Actions

Note that these actions are covered in Agenda Item 8 - Updates paper from 7th November 2019.

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 was a question from John Saville Crowther on dog fouling.

The question and response can be seen in Appendix A

6. Cheshire Police

Received a verbal report from a representative of Cheshire Police on Policing matters affecting Congleton.

PC Iain Bell from Cheshire Police provided updates on:

- Two Congleton PCSOs have left and are training as PCs – this has meant the beat teams are short staffed, but recruitment plans are in place
- A person is being charged with theft from motor vehicles - this should go to court soon.
- No major incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Town
- Had a good result from local intelligence in closing down a cannabis farm
- PC Helen Weeks has had received a lot of praise for the Safe Project working on positive interaction with young people
- Inspector Kelly Johnston has started as the new Inspector for Congleton, taking over from Inspector Penny Jones who has retired.

7. Plastic Free Congleton

To receive a report with recommendations on actions Congleton Town Council should take to help Congleton become an accredited Plastic Free Town.

CE/42/1920 Resolved to recommend to Council that it passes a resolution to support Plastic Free Congleton on its journey to achieve Plastic Free Status.

ACTIONS: Cllr Margaret Gartside to represent the Council on Plastic Free Congleton
Create a plan to removal or replacement of at least 3 items of single use plastic from Council managed premises
Create and publicise a list on the web site of recycling and terracycling sites
Assist Plastic Free Congleton to find Terracycling Sites in Congleton
Assist in at least two litter picks
Assess adequacy of litter bins – especially around waterways

8. Updates Paper from 7th November 2019 CES Committee

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

CE/43/1920 Resolved to note the updates.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 24th October 2019.

CE/44/1920 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting

10. Health and Well Being Working Group

To receive the notes of the Health and Well-Being Group held on 24th October 2019.

CE/45/1920 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting.

11. Congleton in Bloom Group

To receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom group held on the 3rd December 2019 and to receive an update on news for the 2020 competitions.

CE/46/1920 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting and the update on the involvement of the group in the National Finals.

12. Congleton Events Calendar for 2020

To receive and discuss a report of events planned for Congleton in 2020 including some details on the groups leading on the events.

CE/47/1920 Resolved to note the report.

**CIlr Dawn Allen
(Vice Chair)**

APPENDIX ONE – Letter from John Saville Crowther to CE Committee

I would like to bring this Committee's attention to the disgusting issue of dog mess on our pavements and public spaces, and to ask for your support in stamping out this revolting practice by ignorant dog owners and walkers.

The other day, I went to collect my child from Congleton High School, as the weather was bad. While I was waiting for my child, there were lots of school children leaving school onto Box Lane towards Sandbach Road. I noticed that some of the children had discovered that they had trodden in dog mess on Box Lane near the traffic lights. I found it rather distressing to see them all wiping their shoes on the grass in the bad weather. As you can appreciate this is unavoidable when children are so distracted by talking to each other instead of watching where they are walking.

Some children may have trodden this into school, walking through the Main Hall to get to their classrooms and at lunch time the Main Hall is used for lunch breaks and some children accidentally drop their lunch on the floor. I am really angry, we shouldn't we have to put up with this disgusting behaviour from so few in our town?

I feel for the parents when the children arrive home, some will just walk straight into their homes not realising they have dog dirt on their shoes.

I would like this Committee to consider this issue and let us know what can be done. I know I am not alone in being appalled by this behaviour, just last week there was a letter in the Chronicle and there have been numerous posts on social media.

Response to letter by John Saville Crowther

Congleton Town Council shares your frustration. It is illegal to fail to clear up after your dog under the Cleaner Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2015 – as well as disgusting and creating an unnecessary hazard.

As a Town Council we run campaigns to encourage people to clear up after their dog. We provide and empty over 160 public bins across the town to make it easier for people to dispose of waste properly. Dog waste can be placed in the ordinary public bins and well as the specific dog- bins. We provide anti-dog fouling posters and spray stencils and can speak to groups and organisations about the issues of dog fouling and help to run localised campaigns. We have installed three dog bag dispensers in the town centre to help reduce the issue of dog walkers who have 'run out of bags'.

Although the Town Council carries out street cleansing work in the area, it is not feasible to attend every call requesting someone comes out to remove a single piece of fouling near their home. In the Box Lane, we have put up signs to help warn the parents and children who attend Congleton High school that there is dog fouling in the area so please take care when walking to and from school.

We also work closely with the Cheshire East Wardens. The wardens have the powers to issue £100 fixed penalty notices to people not clearing up after their dog. If the public are aware of regular offenders they can contact the wardens with times, locations and a description of the dog and owner, and then the wardens can make targeted efforts to carry out enforcement in the area. The dog wardens can be contacted on 0300 123 5021 or wardens@cheshireeast.gov.uk