

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28th May 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 846 4947 5507

PRESENT:

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

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 Suzanne Akers Smith, David Brown, George Hayes, Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor), Rob Moreton and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

3. **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.

No Questions were received.

4. Annual Meeting/Mayor Making Update

To approve the deferment of the Annual Meeting to May 2021.

CTC/01/2021 RESOLVED to approve the deferment of the Annual Meeting through to May 2021.

5. Comments from the Mayor and the Chief Officer

To receive updates from the Mayor and the Chief Officer.

CTC/02/2021 Noted that officers would still be working on COVID-19 matters but routine work on the business plan is now forming the majority of officers' work.

Councillor Margaret Gartside proposed a vote of thanks to officers for their sterling work over the past 10 weeks which has been over and above normal duties.

6. Proposed Constitutional Changes

To approve the proposed changes to:

- 6.1 The membership of the Planning Committee.
- 6.2 The Chair and Vice Chair for the Town Hall Assets and Services Committee.
- 6.3 Representation to the outside body: Hilary Avenue Allotment Association.

CTC/03/2021 RESOLVED to

- 1. Approve the reduction of the planning committee from 20 members to 10, Cheshire East Councillors to be excluded.
- 2. Approve Cllr Suzy Firkin as Chair and Cllr George Hayes as Vice Chair of the Town Hall, Assets and Services Committee.
- 3. Approve Cllr Rob Moreton as the council representative on Hilary Avenue allotment association.

7. Youth Committee

No Questions were received from Member of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

8. Finance & Policy

To receive the following:

- 8.1 The internal Audit report for 2019/20
- 8.2 The payments made for March and April 2020

CTC/04/2021 RESOLVED to:

- receive the Internal Audit Report for 2019/20.
- receive and approve the payments for March and April 2020.

It was noted that there were no issues or recommendations for the financial year 2019/20 and the RFO was congratulated on her fine work.

9. Social Distancing in the Town Centre

To approve recommendations for temporary and experimental changes to make Congleton safer whilst social distancing is required due to COVID 19.

CTC/05/2021 RESOLVED to approve voting for items 1-6 as one item rather than each item at a time, and to then vote on an additional recommendation for one-way streets (Point 7).

CTC/06/2021 RESOLVED to approve items 1-6 of the recommendations and to send to Cheshire East Highways recommendations as initial requests for measures to help make Congleton Town Centre safer for all during COVID-19 and give confidence for more people to come into the town.

1. 20mph Town Centre zone to make Congleton town centre a safer and more pleasant environment for all as outlined in map A.
2. Broadhurst Lane, off Clayton Bypass should become a 10mph zone due to its extreme narrowness and route to a business hub.
3. Recommend that pavements are widened or pedestrian passing points introduced in the following areas :
 - a) Mill Street - pavements widened where possible plus loading and disabled bay added in the wide area by the bus stop
 - b) Swan Bank – pedestrian passing points introduced which will mean reducing some of parking bays to provide refuges for pedestrians
 - c) West Street – Highways to explore pavements widening on both sides of the road where possible but to the Waggs Road side if only one side possible - especially from the town centre to the car park.

- d) High Street - bus stop temporarily moved to the bus station in Market Street.
Pedestrian passing points introduced which will mean losing some parking spaces.
 - e) Market Street - widen the footpath running alongside Morrisons and B&M – work with Highways on what would be possible ensuring adequate turning circles for buses and access to the yard by Morrisons for delivery vehicles.
 - f) Lawton Street - create pedestrian passing points, which will need some reduction of the parking space.
4. Mountbatten Way Traffic Lights – introduce advance cyclist stop line (similar to Park Lane) to make it a safer route around the town for cyclists.
 5. Introduce appropriate signage throughout the town centre to remind town centre users of social distancing.
 6. May need to be some reallocation of space within the pedestrian area – such as recommending to Highways that Victoria Potatoes can have an alternative pitch to Victoria Street to enable social distancing, or alterations to the Alfresco policy. These will be on a case by case basis for officers to discuss with Highways.
 7. Ask Cheshire East Council to investigate the principle and promotion of one-way walking routes around the town.

CTC/07/2021 RESOLVED to approve the principle and promotion of one-way walking routes around the town

It was noted that all measures should be reviewed at least every three months.

10. Cenotaph Update

To receive a verbal update from the Chief Officer on the commencement of the Cenotaph refurbishment.

CTC/08/2021 RESOLVED to note the update which stated that the work to refurbish the cenotaph would commence mid - June 2020.

11. Town Council meeting schedule

To approve an updated meeting schedule.

CTC/09/2021 RESOLVED to approve the revised meeting schedule.

12. 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.

Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith and David Brown, Cheshire East members on the future of the redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre. Understood that the redevelopment plans are currently frozen, but the capital funding is still available. The first contract has been signed and the second contract should be signed soon. Request for the Chief Officer to write to Cllr Mick Warren for an official response.

Cllr George Hayes: Highlighted the great work that the Fostering team within Cheshire East, as highlighted during Fostering Fortnight. CEC is responsible for more than 500 children.

Cllr Denis Murphy updated on an Electricity bill going through Parliament which will allow people who privately generate electricity to be able to sell it to local residents.

Cllr Sally Ann Holland remarked on the great achievements being made by the community and highlighted the expectation that some funding may be made available for charities.

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