

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4th June 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 895 4804 1508

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Kay Wesley (Chair)
Martin Amies
Margaret Gartside
Amanda Martin
Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)
Jean Parry

Non-Committee Members:

Suzie Akers Smith
David Brown
Robert Douglas
Robert Hemsley
Robert Moreton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received Councillors Dawn Allen, Paul Duffy, Suzy Firkin and Mark Rogan and from non-committee members Councillors Russell Chadwick and Ex-Officio member Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

To note the minutes of the meeting held on [12th March 2020](#) as these were approved by the COVID 19 Emergency Powers Committee on 9th April 2020.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillors Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor) and Robert Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

Cllr Robert Douglas declared an interest in Congleton Museum - linking to Moody Hall item.

4. Outstanding Actions

Note that these actions are covered in Agenda Item 8 - Updates paper from 12th March 2020 Community & Environment Committee.

CE/01/2021 Resolved to: Move item 15 on Moody Hall to item 7 after the police report due to interested members of the public being present.

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) Question submitted by Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE about 5G. – see Appendix A

CE/02/2021 Resolved to: Send an interim response to Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE and for Congleton Green group to carry out further investigations into the subject and report back to this committee.

6. Cheshire Police

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

PC Iain Bell and Amy Heath from Cheshire Police provided updates see Appendix B for details

7. Moody Hall

To consider a request for help to ensure that this historical building is protected.

CE/03/2021 Resolved to:

1. Contact the owner and Cheshire East Council Planning department to understand more about the delays to the proposed redevelopment and what the owner's intentions and timescales are.
2. Work with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and the owner to agree a plan to secure the building, improve the visual aspects of the site and to prevent further deterioration. Most important for the Town Council is to see the exterior of the building retained, and this should take priority over the interior

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

To receive the notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 28th May 2020 and to receive a summary from the group chair. The summary is available on the ASB Working Group page.

CE/04/2021 Resolved to accept the minutes of the Anti- Social Behaviour Group from the 28th May 2020.

9. Updates Paper from 12th March 2020 C&E Committee

To receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the Community and Environment Committee meeting on the 12th March.

CE/05/2021 Resolved to accept reports contained in the update paper.

10. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

To receive an update on Congleton in Bloom 2020 and the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 7th January, 5th February and 11th March 2020. The update is on the In Bloom working group page.

CE/06/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the In Bloom meetings held on the 7th January, 5th February and 11th of March.

11. Congleton Green Working Group

To receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group from the 2nd April and 23rd April 2020 and an update from the Chair. The update can be seen in the Congleton Green Working Group page.

CE/07/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group on the 2nd April and 23rd April.

12. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

To receive an update from the group and the notes of the Health and Well-Being Group held on 23rd April 2020 and an update from a group member. The update is on the Health and Wellbeing Working Group page.

CE/08/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting, proposed: Cllr Wesley, 2nd Cllr Gartside

13. Integrated Transport Working Group

To receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group from the 9th April and 23rd May 2020. Noted this area was discussed at Council on the 28th May 2020

CE/09/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Integrated Transport Working Group held on the 9th and 23rd May.

14. White Ribbon Working Group Update

To consider an update and next steps from the White Ribbon Working Group.

CE/10/2021 Resolved to note the White Ribbon Report and the next step for Councillors and staff to attend a White Ribbon training session.

15. COVID-19 Leads Group

To note an update report from the Congleton COVID-19 Leads group on activities carried out.

CE/11/2021 Resolved to note the report.

16. Traffic Free Cycle Routes in and out of Congleton

To consider a recommendation for traffic-free cycle lanes in and around Congleton.

CE/12/2021 Resolved to ask Cheshire East Council to look at the feasibility of improving the cycle network in Congleton to enable people to cycle to the town centre and other listed destinations (parks, schools and attractions) safely avoiding main roads

17. Childcare in Congleton

To consider a report on Childcare in Congleton and its recommendations.

CE/13/2021 Resolved to review Town Council policies on childcare, develop an online information hub, work with employers and write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support the NALC campaign for Local Councils Caring Allowances.

**Clr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX A - QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions were submitted by Dr Dawn Gibbins MBE about 5G

1. Will 5G radiation be rolled out in Congleton? Yes or No
2. If Yes - What is the date 5G radiation will be switched on in Congleton?
3. How will 5G radiation be transmitted to Congleton?
4. Where are the antennae been erected to make this happen?
5. Is it true that the Council have allowed 5G radiation antenna's to be installed on LED streetlights?
6. If the answer is yes to the above please provide a grid of lights with 5G radiation antennas installed, or to be installed.
7. Have any schools in Congleton had 5G radiation antennas installed? If so in which schools?

The following response given by the Chair of Community and Environment Committee on behalf of the Town Council was:

We understand that there is a national roll-out programme for 5G which has been approved by the UK Government. We have received no notification of a roll out programme for Congleton and the Cheshire area and cannot find Congleton mentioned by EE, Vodafone, O2, BT, Sky Mobile or Three on any of their materials.

Last year the Town Council raised its concerns and objections in a Government consultation into allowing 5G operators permitted development rights (which would mean that there would be no need to consult with the planning authority (Cheshire East) before extending or converting current masts to 5G). We are waiting to hear when this consultation will be discussed by the UK Government.

We do not have the technical details about how 5G may be transmitted or how this may be planned but we will investigate.

The Head of Cheshire East Highways street lighting has confirmed that he is not aware of requests for any 5G attachments to be added to any street furniture in either Cheshire East or Cheshire West area. The Cheshire East areas next work manager was also not aware of any requests, although confirmed that there has been a big project in Congleton to improve superfast broadband fibre cabling and people will have seen BT Openreach vehicles in town. We have not yet heard back from Congleton schools, but all the indications are that nothing has been installed in Congleton.

In reality, the Town Council is unlikely to be consulted on the plans for the 5G roll out. But as a Town Council we will take a more active role and the Chair of the Congleton Green group has agreed for that group to carry out more research and report back to this committee.

APPENDIX B

Item 6 - Report from Congleton Police

Summary of the report given by PC Iain Bell to the Community and Environment Committee 4th June 2020

Congleton Beat Priorities

1. Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour in Meadow Mill Court
2. Anti-Social Behaviour Bromley Woods/Biddulph Valley Way and Dane-in-Shaw Pastures
3. Targeted nominal residing on the East

Anti-Social Behaviour -

188 COVID related Incidents reported for the period 23/03-23/05. Top two locations are private dwellings resulting in one eviction. Third spot is Astbury Mere and has involved daily patrols. Patrols continue for all green spaces/supermarkets/petrol stations and other vulnerable premises. Force stance remains incremental Engage, Explain, Enforce

Three cannabis farms found since the March committee

1. Old Picture House Cross Street - up for development
2. Dane Street (next to MOT Garage) – Modern Day Slavery Investigation
3. Millford House on West Street – Located due to proactive PCSO information

It's standard to practice to make all found cannabis farms safe (electrics/boarding up etc) prior to closure. All are still live investigations, including a subsequent arson at Millford House. All located quickly due to community intelligence. Some increase in cannabis cultivation sites across the country since lockdown.

Arson at Moody Hall in Moody Street.

Proactive work ongoing in partnership with Housing Associations at:

Meadow Mill Court

Tetton Court

Shaw Close

Buxton Old Road

Woodview Row

Recent Police Action

Street a Week – Tall Ash Avenue

Domestic Violence

Slight decrease year on year (lockdown period 61 vs 88)

Force revisiting higher risk victims during lockdown

Planned Operations

Op Automotive

Street a Week w/c 06/07

NOTE: Congleton Beat Team now fully staffed but 2 abstractions due to COVID 19.