



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CILCA

25th September 2020

Dear Councillor,

Town Council Meeting – Thursday 1st October 2020

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council on **Thursday 1st October 2020** commencing at **7.00pm**. This will be a virtual meeting which needs to be accessed via Zoom.

The Zoom meeting entry details are:

Meeting ID: 844 9884 4711

Passcode: 913779

[Use this link to open the Council Meeting via Zoom on Thursday 1st October 2020.](#)

- **The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note** - There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally or at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.
- There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press in accordance with Section 100 (B) (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Yours sincerely,

D McGifford
Chief Officer

Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

Congleton Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

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AGENDA

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.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings (Enclosed)

To approve and sign the minutes of the [Council meeting held on 20th August 2020](#).

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.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally at the meeting including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

5. [Town Mayor's Announcements](#) (Enclosed)

To receive any announcements by the Town Mayor and to receive a list of the Mayor’s engagements.

6. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

7. Youth Committee

To receive questions from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

8. [Community & Environment Committee](#) (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2020.

9. [Planning Committee](#) (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2020.

10. [Finance & Policy Committee](#) (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2020.

11. Personnel Committee (Enclosed)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2020.

12. Additional Christmas Lights (To follow)

To approve any recommendations from the Community and Environment Committee regarding the purchase of additional lights for Congleton this Christmas.

13. Leisure Centre Development Clarification (Enclosed)

To receive an update report relating to the Development of the Leisure Centre.

14. Urgent Items

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

15. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports

To suspend Standing Orders to allow Councillors from the principal authority to report on matters relating or impacting on Congleton.

16. Resolution to exclude members of the press and public from item 17 due to Commercial Sensitivities

17. Streetscape Contract (Enclosed)

To approve a proposal from the Chief Officer on matters relating to the Streetscape contract following initial discussions with Cheshire East Council.

To: All Members of the Council

CC: Press 3, Burgesses 3, Congleton TIC, Congleton Library, MP

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 20th August 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID: 856 3594 1683

PRESENT:

Sally Ann Holland (Mayor)
Suzanne Akers Smith (Items 12-14)
David Brown
Russell Chadwick
Robert Douglas
Paul Duffy
Suzy Firkin
Margaret Gartside
George Hayes
Robert Hemsley
Amanda Martin
Rob Moreton (Items 1- 14)
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 Councillors Dawn Allen, Duncan Amies and Mark Rogan.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CTC/16/2021 RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd July 2020.

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

4. Questions from Members of the Public

There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally at the meeting including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

No questions were received.

5. Mayors Announcements

The Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that she had fulfilled since the last Council meeting.

6. Outstanding Actions

None.

7. Youth Committee

There were no questions received from Members of the Youth Committee present at the meeting.

8. Community & Environment Committee

CTC/17/2021 RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020.

9. Planning Committee

CTC/18/2021 RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meetings held on 11th June and 9th July 2020.

10. Town Hall, Assets and Services Committee

CTC/19/2021 RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2020.

11. Leisure Centre

To consider a response to Cheshire East Councils' decision to review the refurbishment of the Leisure Centre.

CTC/20/2021 RESOLVED to accept the proposal that we:

- 1) Request a meeting with the CEC Portfolio holder and Officials to consider if we (CTC) can help mitigate the issues surrounding the project review.
- 2) Write an open letter to CEC asking for the current plan to be reinstated and starting immediately.
- 3) We place an open letter in the press and social media for Congleton residents to send to CEC demanding this project be reinstated immediately.

12. COVID-19 Budget Allocation

To approve a proposal to allocate an agreed amount of the Emergency COVID 19 budget to support the Town Centre Recovery.

CTC/21/2021 RESOLVED to approve the proposed budget allocation for the Town Centre Recovery of £20,000 which will be ring fenced within the general COVID19 emergency budget. This budget will be managed by the Chief Officer to ensure procurement is aligned to the Councils Financial Regulations and within the Chief Officers delegated authority of up to £5000 for a single project.

13. CCTV Provision

To approve a proposal for additional CCTV provision.

CTC/22/2021 RESOLVED to approve payment of up to £5000 from the Ear Marked Capital Reserves for Crime Prevention and to purchase a re-deployable CCTV camera via Cheshire East Council CCTV department, subject to written confirmation from Cheshire East Council with regards to ongoing monitoring and maintenance costs.

14. Urgent Items

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

Cllr Amanda Martin raised concerns about the closure of Rope Walk Car Park.

15. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports

To suspend Standing Orders to allow Councillors from the principal authority to report on.

- Cllr George Hayes confirmed that Cheshire East Car Parks will be taking cash as well as cards.
- Cllr Denis Murphy commented that he had discussions with the Car Park Team at Cheshire East and they didn't believe Rope Walk Car Park was a necessary provision.
- Councillors were reminded that this is Love Culture Week (17 – 22 August).

16. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press

To consider passing a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting due to confidential items within the next agenda item.

17. Congleton Link Road Naming

To discuss options for the naming of Congleton Link Road, noting that the decision lies with Cheshire East Council.

CTC/23/2021 RESOLVED that Councillors:

- 1) Forward any proposals for the naming of the Link Road and the reasons why to the Chief Officer via e-mail.
- 2) Share their initial thoughts with Cheshire East Council and adjacent Parish Councils.

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

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

2020

1 st September	Update Visit to the Link Road
23 rd September	Rotary Tree of Light Presentation
26 th September	White Ribbon Promotion
27 th September	Bear Town Charity Road Cruise

The Mayor also attends various other events including meetings, photo requests and grant presentation promotions.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 860 9871 8135

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

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

Non-Committee Members:

Suzie Akers Smith (13)
Duncan Amies
David Brown
Robert Douglas
Robert Hemsley
Robert Moreton
James Smith (joined item 7)

Also present: CTC Officers David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur and Ruth Burgess (until item 6)
2 Members of the Press, 1 officer from the Police and 6 public.

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020 a correct record.

CE/13/2021 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020 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.

Councillors Denis Murphy, David Brown and Rob Moreton declared an interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Outstanding Actions

Agenda Item 9 provides an update paper from 4th June 2020.

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 were questions from two members of the public – Lisa Miller and Olga Whitmore. This can be seen in Appendix A.

6. Cheshire Police

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

PC Helen Weeks from Cheshire Police provided updates to the Committee see Appendix B for details.

7. Monthly Domestic Abuse Clinics in Congleton

To give support to a new initiative which would see a monthly Domestic Abuse Clinic introduced to Congleton.

CE/14/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council would work in Partnership with Cheshire Police and MyCWA to deliver a monthly Domestic Abuse Clinic at The Old Saw Mill starting in September 2020. Cost of venue to be £40 per month, funded from the Crime Prevention Budget. The clinic to be reviewed after 6 months.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/15/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group from the 16th July 2020.

9. Updates Paper 4th June 2020 C&E Committee

CE/16/2021 Resolved to receive an updates paper highlighting issues raised at the Community and Environment Committee meeting on 4th June 2020.

10. Update from Working Groups

CE/17/2021 Resolved to receive a brief update from the Working Groups on progress being made by the groups.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

CE/18/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group held on 3rd June 2020.

12. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/19/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 23rd July 2020.

13. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

CE/20/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group held on the 2nd July 2020.

14. Glyphosate use in and around Children's Play Areas

To consider a report into stopping using glyphosate in and around children's play area and fencing the areas which surround them in Congleton.

CE/21/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council formally confirms the verbal commitment made by officers that glyphosate will not be used in children's play areas and the fencing areas which surround them.

15. Edinburgh Road Telephone Box

This paper was withdrawn. A future report will come to committee updating on plans for a 24/7 defibrillator for the Bromley Farm area.

16. Increasing Walking and Cycling in Congleton

To discuss a report from Councillor Suzanne Akers-Smith and the Integrated Transport Working Group about efforts to increase walking and cycling to school in Congleton this autumn.

CE/22/2021 Resolved that Congleton Town Council will support the need for Congleton schools, focussing on the secondary schools but also considering the opportunities for the primary schools, to create safer routes for cycling and walking to school. To actively encourage Cheshire East Highways officers to explore ways that this can be done safely in Congleton drawing on Government Active Travel funds where possible.

17. Request for support A34 Astbury Junction Road Safety

To consider a request to support Astbury Parish Council in their campaign to make A34 Astbury junction safer for all users.

CE/23/2021 Resolved to offer our condolences to the families involved and give our support to Astbury Parish Council in their efforts to negotiate improvements to the safety of the junction with Cheshire East Highways.

18. Proposed Closure of Rope Walk Car Park

To receive a report and update from Councillor Amanda Martin on concerns from local residents about the potential loss of Rope Walk car park in Congleton.

CE/24/2021 Resolved to make representations to Cheshire East Council Parking services and to the Head of Planning about the serious highway problems that the proposed closure of Rope Walk car park will cause and seek parking solutions for the area. Also to raise concerns that Congleton Town Council was not consulted about possible solution.

19. Request to use the Community Garden for Addition Tables and Chairs

To consider a request to put tables and chairs in the Community Garden in Lawton Street.

CE/25/2021 Resolved to delegate responsibility to officers to draw up an agreement with Mr Hilrup from Congleton Kitchen to allow Congleton Kitchen and other businesses working with him to put tables and chairs in a COVID-19 secure and socially acceptable way in the Community Garden, initially for a four week trial.

20. An Interim Report on the Congleton COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey

To consider an interim report in the findings of a COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing survey of Congleton residents.

CE/26/2021 Resolved to note the report and to continue the survey until the end of August.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

Appendix A Public Questions

Question from Lisa Miller

“Firstly, I’m thrilled that the amount of pesticide/herbicide usage in Congleton has been reduced, I’m wondering if there’s any further plans to reduce/eradicate its use anymore? Also, I know that streetscape/ANSA are having meetings to review each individual area that is mown to see if they can be left/rewild. I’m wondering how this is progressing, are there more grass verges being left to nature now?”

RESPONSE BY CHAIR:

Congleton Town Council was set to try out a new approach to grass cutting in an attempt to preserve wildflowers and the wildlife who rely on them.

The Town Council had announced that some of the roadside verges and open spaces – will be cut in a different way in order to encourage the growth of wildflowers. However, this has been put on hold until next year 2021, as it was difficult to set up the scheme whilst in COVID lockdown. The Scheme will happen next year and is something we are all looking forward to doing and carrying out.

Under this new approach, the grass which the Town Council is responsible for will not be cut fortnightly which is the current schedule but will be left, the parts which will be left will be cut only once a year, between mid-July and mid-August, with the grass cuttings removed. This will prevent aggressive plant species from dominating the areas and will allow for the growth, flowering and seeding of wildflowers. This in turn will provide the ideal habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.

Congleton Town Council is determined to protect and improve Congleton’s natural environment and this fairly simple change to how we cut our grass will help increase the habitats and food that our pollinating insects rely on.

Congleton Town Council’s progressive move towards a better management of their grass areas is part of their Sustainable Strategy and Climate Responsibility.

Questions from Olga Whitmore:

1. *“CTC declared climate emergency in September 2019, is CTC planning to reduce the fortnight mowing of the verges in Congleton?”*

Happy with the same response as question from Lisa Miller.

2. ***“In Bloom Committee aka Floral Arrangement Group plays an important role in Greening the town, but still resists the change to sustainable planting, why are such prominent members of the planting community not invited to the committee?”***

As far as the current In Bloom team are aware the three mentioned have never asked to join the In Bloom working group itself, although they are already actively involved with In Bloom activities and also separate green Initiative groups.

Val works with the streetscape team roughly once a Month as well as maintaining the food for free bed which we present and show to the judges each year.

Ruth is part of the tree initiative group and has been carrying out work on Congleton’s Green Open Spaces for the Town Council. She is also working with Ruth Burgess from the Town Council on plans to develop wild areas on council owned land.

Sandra runs the Buglawton in bloom group, which is one of nine Its Your Neighbourhood areas that makes up the bigger In Bloom campaign. Congleton in bloom supports and provides plant, labour and equipment to the group. We actively seek out meetings with the local groups each year and support where possible.

The Town Council is very grateful to them and the many other volunteers who support these initiatives across Congleton.

3. ***“Correct me if I am wrong, perhaps In Bloom Committee has endorsed sustainable planting in view of CTC declaration of climate emergency in September. Since the minutes of October 2019 In Bloom Committee meeting were never published, I can’t tell for sure if any changes in planting scheme took place.”***

Streetscape and Congleton in Bloom has many changes planned this year however a lot has been put on hold due to Covid and will be put in place next year. This includes sustainable planting schemes, wild flowers, reduced grass cutting. Copies of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group minutes - along with all the Working Groups, can be viewed on the Congleton Town Council website in the section on Working Groups.

4. ***“Will planting roundabouts be using perennial plants, or will CTC decide on using annuals which have high environmental impact? Only one roundabout has permanent planting.”***

We have 5 roundabouts which we are responsible for there is currently two sustainable and three with bedding plants however in the autumn there is plans for one more roundabout to be made sustainable with perennial planting to be done

5. ***“Considering the cost of labour to replant those roundabouts, perhaps CTC will consider to reduce the carbon footprint and the money expenditure at the same time?”***

Financial, Environmental and Equality & Diversity as well as Safety concerns have to be considered for all our projects and this will certainly be taken into account.

APPENDIX B Item 6 - Report from Congleton Police

Summary of the report given by PC Helen Weeks to the Community and Environment Committee
30th July 2020

General Police Update

Congleton Beat Priorities

Road Safety

in addition to the PCC promise Congleton Beat Team are undertaking Operation Assembles focussing on Road Safety, it will last 6 weeks and will include:

- 1 Trucam per day
- 1 Police Traffic Enforcement Operation per week
- Increasing our Community speed watch groups and their activity
- A focus on our Road Traffic Collision hotspots as well as those areas highlighted by the community
- Road Safety messaging

Request for members to utilise their platforms to push the messaging.

Drug Dealing in Town - Op Little

Organised Criminal Gang members targeted as well as enforcement at street level. All-encompassing approach - Businesses, landlords, dealers and customers.

Previous Priorities Updates:

- Meadow Mill Court – ASB/Crime. 1 Injunction (arrestable), 1 custodial
- Anti-Social Behaviour Issue – Shaw Close – Eviction
- Astbury Mere ASB – Increased patrols there. Bike marked 100 bikes and are returning for more.
- Buxton Old Road – Harassment: partner working resolution
- Robert Hughes charged with blackmail and remanded in prison – Vulnerable victim reassurance being provided

Summer Plans

Summer Activity Program supporting Youth Services – targeted youth project

Panna football has been made available to Glenn Williams

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th AUGUST 2020 – Via Zoom**

PRESENT

Councillor P Duffy - Chair

D Amies

R Douglas

S Firkin

A Martin

R Hemsley

J Parry

J Smith

Councillors Brown, Murphy and Moreton who are not members of this Committee and Andrew Thomson, Planning Consultant. There were also three members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors M Rogan and K Wesley.

2. MINUTES

PLN/5/2021 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9^h July 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded to declare both “non pecuniary” and “pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Councillors Brown and Moreton declared “non pecuniary” interests as they are members of Cheshire East Council but are not members of this Committee.

Councillor Martin declared a “non pecuniary” interest due to her membership of CPRE - The Countryside Charity.

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The Chief Officer reported that an update on the Neighbourhood plan would be provided at the end of the meeting

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received

6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

PLN/6/2021 RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to Cheshire East Borough Council:

Planning Reference	Location	Declaration of Interest	Comments
1 * 20/2754C	6, CORNWALL CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3JZ		No Objection
2 20/2784T	Small woodland bank between Forge Lane a, 11 , Forge Lane, Congleton, CW12 4HF		REFER TO CHESHIRE EAST TREE OFFICER – to ensure that any changes do not affect the life of the tree Support the pruning of T1 but only minimal pruning of T2
3 * 20/2805C	Tall Ash Farm, 112, BUXTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 2DY		No Objection
4 * 20/2935C	5, BEATTY DRIVE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 2ER		No Objection
5 20/2938C	18, LAWTON STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 1RP		No Objection subject to noting concerns regarding lack of disabled toilet facilities
6 20/1375T	41, KESTREL CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3FA		REJECT – work considered not to be necessary
7 20/2907T	9, FENTON CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3TH		REJECT – Trees appear to be on land owned by 3 rd parties and there appears to be no justification provided for the proposed action and the natural woodland should be protected
8 * 20/2807C	Stradville, GIANTSWOOD LANE, CONGLETON, CW12 2HG		REFER THE DECISION TO CHESHIRE EAST HIGHWAYS OFFICER – to ensure that there are no safety concerns
9 * 20/2866C	Land West of Padgbury Lane, Padgbury Lane, Congleton, CW12 4LR	For Information Decision made –	No Objection

		Permission granted	
10 * 20/2986C	Hill Farm, CONGLETON EDGE ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 3NB		No Objection
11 * 20/3067C	LAND WEST OF GOLDFINCH CLOSE, CONGLETON		REJECT – REASON This is a material amendment as it reduces the width of the woodland buffer
12 * 20/2985D	Tall Ash Farm, 112, BUXTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 2DY	For Information	No Objection
13 * 20/3030C	Land At, Back Lane, Congleton, CW12 4RB		No Objection
14 * 20/3118C	7, RYEDALE WAY, CONGLETON, CW12 3SX		No Objection
15 * 20/3114C	31, LABURNUM CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 4TX		No Objection
16 * 20/3113C	30, LABURNUM CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 4TX		No Objection
17 * 20/3130C	9, STIRLING CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 4US		No Objection
18 20/2819T	59, PARK LANE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3DD		REFER TO CHESHIRE EAST TREE OFFICER – Work considered to be tree management

19 * 20/2205C	69, Newcastle Road, CONGLETON, Congleton, CW12 4HL		No Objection
20 * 20/3126C	35, GIANTSWOOD LANE, CONGLETON, CW12 2HQ		No Objection
21 * 20/3093C	11- 19 HILLARY AVENUE, CONGLETON, CW12 3EG		REJECT – DUE TO The proposed demolition of the buildings does not appear to have any plans for replacement social housing. Action – To write to Plus Dane to establish if there are any other plans to demolish social housing and to ascertain if they will be replaced
22* 20/3164T	5, QUARRY CLOSE, CONGLETON, CW12 3GS		NOTE – that the Tree Officer has made a site visit and would agree with their recommendation
23 * 20/2804C	55, LEAMINGTON ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 4PE		No Objection
24 * 20/3284C	51, LAWTON STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 1RU		No Objection
25 20/3338C	Congleton Autos, NEWCASTLE ROAD, ASTBURY CW12 4JX		Objection Application 18/18/2420C: Refused by CEC on 30/7/18. The reason was: "This proposal is unacceptable by virtue of the detrimental impact on the residential amenity of neighbours. It is also likely to result in queuing traffic on Newcastle Road which would have an unacceptable impact upon visibility for traffic leaving Padgbury Lane and be likely to result in unsafe overtaking movements within the chevrons on Newcastle Road" These issues, along with other environmental impacts such as noise have not been addressed through the current application

26 * 20/3369C	4, ROSEVILLE DRIVE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3LU		No Objection
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7. **PLANNING APPEALS**

None to Report

8 **GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON PLANNING DEVELOPMENT**

An introduction to this was given by Andrew Thomson, Planning Consultant with regards to the Governments White paper on proposed changes to the planning process. It was agreed that that this should be reviewed by the Council through a Strategy Group meeting on the 17th September 17.00 – 18.30pm

"the officers formally notify Cheshire East Council that Congleton Town Council wishes Cheshire East Council to formally lobby the Government through all channels available to reverse the changes recently announced by the Government in respect of Upwards Development".

9. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

None to Report

10. **SECTION 106 UPDATES**

None to Report

11. **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

The Chief Officer was requested to contact Cheshire East Council for an update on progress on the work to build the bridge to Congleton Park.

12. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chief Officer advised that there would be a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting w/c 17th August 2020

Councillor P Duffy - Chair

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 851 1863 5580

PRESENT Committee members:

Duncan Amies
David Brown
Russell Chadwick
Robert Douglas (Chair)
Paul Duffy
George Hayes
Rob Moreton
Jean Parry
James Smith

Ex-Officio Members Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)
Denis Murphy (Deputy Town Mayor)

Non Committee members Suzie Akers Smith
Martin Amies
Suzy Firkin
Kay Wesley

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2020 were approved by the COVID-19 Emergency Powers Committee on the 23rd April 2020 and are attached for reference only.

FAP/01/2021 RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting on 19th March 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.

Cllrs Suzanne Akers Smith, David Brown, George Hayes Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor), Denis Murphy and Rob Moreton 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.

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. Grant Approvals and Commitments 2020/21

To receive a statement showing the current position to 31st May 2020.

FAP/02/2021 RESOLVED that the grant statement be received and It was requested that the RFO contact the ATC to check the situation with the £500 pledged for a new ATC minibus, and to contact the guides who had received money for this summer's Jamboree which will not be going ahead. Also that the press be contacted to publicise Town Council grants and encourage more applicants.

7. New Applications for Financial Assistance

- **Grant ref GR01/2021 – Congleton Bowling Club**

FAP/03/2021 RESOLVED that £200 be granted to the bowling club under GPoC.

8. New Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

None received.

9. Letter of Thanks

FAP/04/1920 RESOLVED to receive a letter of thanks from Astbury Mere Trust.

10. Management Accounts

FAP/05/2021 RESOLVED to receive the management accounts to 31st May 2020.
It was suggested that the Chief Officer should enquire about Government funds to help with the Town Hall lack of income during the Covid-19 crisis.

11. Bank Reconciliation

FAP/06/2021 RESOLVED to receive bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2020.

12. Savings Account Balances

FAP/07/2021 RESOLVED to receive the Savings Account balances as at 31st May 2020.

13. List of Payments

FAP/08/2021 RESOLVED to approve the List of Payments between between 1st – 31st May 2020.

14. Review and Amendments to the Financial Regulations

- (i) To review and approve updates to the Financial Regulations to be recommended to Council to update the Constitution.
- (ii) To approve paying certain items by direct debit and purchase payments by BACs in accordance with 6.6 and 6.7 of the Financial Regulations

FAP/09/2021 RESOLVED to accept the amendments to the Financial Regulations and recommend them to Council and to approve paying certain items by Direct Debit and BACs.

15. Fixed Asset Register and Inventory

FAP/10/2021 RESOLVED to receive the Fixed Asset Register and Inventory for the year ending 31st March 2020.

16. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and Unaudited Financial Statements.

FAP/11/2021 RESOLVED to receive and approve the AGAR and Unaudited Financial Statements and recommend approval and signing by Council on 23rd July to enable submission PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditors by the statutory deadline of 31st July 2020.

17. Flag Flying Policy

FAP/12/2021 RESOLVED to approve the flag flying policy for Congleton Town Council and include in the Constitution.

**Cllr Robert Douglas
Chair**

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 25th June 2020

Conducted via Zoom – Meeting ID 891 1297 1637

PRESENT: Councillors:

David Brown (Chair)
Margaret Gartside (Vice Chair)
Suzanne Akers Smith
Russell Chadwick
Robert Hemsley
Amanda Martin
James Smith
Kay Wesley

Ex-Officio: Sally Ann Holland (Town Mayor)

Non-Committee Members: Robert Douglas and Rob Moreton

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence. (Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non-attendance).

Apologies were received from non-committee member Cllr Suzy Firkin.

2. Minutes

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2019 as they were approved by the COVID-19 Emergency Powers Committee on the 23rd April 2020.

PERS/01/2021 Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2019.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

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

4. **Outstanding Actions**

None.

5. **Committee Terms of Reference**

To receive the current Terms of Reference for the Committee.

PERS/02/2021 Resolved to approve the current Terms of Reference subject to the following amendments:

- Function 4 column 2 Remove Leader in items 2 and 3
- Function 4 column 2 Fifth bullet point, remove Town Centre and Marketing Manager and replace with Town Marketing, Events Manager and Deputy Chief Officer
- Function 15 Column 1 Change to Monitoring Equalities and Inclusion Policy in relation to employment

6. **Current Structure**

To receive an update of the current staffing structure of the Town Council and the impact of COVID19.

PERS/03/2021 Resolved to receive the update of the current staffing structure of the Town Council and the impact of COVID19.

7 **Resolution to exclude the Public and Press**

To consider passing a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting for the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

8. **Update on Sickness – Streetscape Operative**

To receive an update relating to a member of staff on long term sickness and a proposal for support.

PERS/04/2021 Resolved to approve the proposal of support for 1 month with delegated authority to the Chief Officer for an additional month if required.

9. **Staff Holidays**

To receive a proposal relating to staff holidays affected by COVID19.

PERS/05/2021 Resolved to support the proposal of the Chief Officer.

10. **Complaint**

To receive notification of a complaint against a member of staff.

PERS/06/2021 Resolved to receive the notification.

**David Brown
(Chair)**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	1 st October 2010	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Leisure Centre Development Clarification		
Background	<p>Recent media has reported that the Congleton Leisure Centre refurbishment has been paused to enable them to review the opportunities to develop a new facility that meets the needs of the growth of Congleton and would potentially be located on a larger alternative site.</p> <p>On the 16th September 2020 representatives of Congleton Town Council, Cllrs David Brown, Russell Chadwick, Robert Douglas and the Chief Officer met with the Cheshire East Cabinet Member for Communities, the Director of Environment & Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Neighbourhood Services from Cheshire East Council to seek clarification.</p>		
Notes from the meeting	<p>The key responses to the questions raised by Councillors is as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The statement in the press reflected the views of an individual Cheshire East Councillor rather than the Council as a whole.2. The development is on hold due to the uncertainty over the financial impact of Covid-19 on Leisure Centres.3. There is a contract in place for Pre-Construction and Construction services, but in order for the construction phase to commence the Council must issue a Notice to Proceed.4. The contract is to deliver the approved design on Hankinson's Field5. All leisure projects will be reviewed during October following which there will be a joint press release from Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council with regards to the current status of the Congleton Leisure Centre redevelopment project.		