

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11th March 2021

Conducted via Zoom –Meeting ID: 854 3356 3243

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 11th March 2021](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)
Cllr Martin Amies
Cllr Paul Duffy
Cllr Suzy Firkin
Cllr Margaret Gartside
Cllr Amanda Martin
Cllr Denis Murphy (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jean Parry
Cllr Sally Ann Holland (Mayor, Ex Officio)

Non-Committee Members: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Robert Hemsley, Cllr Russell Chadwick, Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr James Smith

Also present: CTC Officers David McGifford, Jackie MacArthur
2 Members of the Press, 1 Cheshire Police Officer, 3 members of the public
Jo Money Community Projects (presenting item 7)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dawn Allen, Ruth Burgess, Streetscape Manager (item 14)

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/56/2021 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 12th November 2020](#) as a correct record and agreed with a proposal from the Chair that point 1 of **CE/51/2021** should be subject to a debate at Council. Point 1 stated *Agreement in principle that a statue of Elizabeth (without plinth) should be placed in the centre of Bridge Street at Victoria Street junction, subject to Planning Permission and ground assessment. This will be added to the agenda for the Council meeting on 22nd April 2021.*

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 David Brown, Sally Ann Holland, Rob Moreton, and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings. See minute note 9.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There were three questions:

- a) Olga Whitmore – requesting information about some Bromley Farm in Bloom projects
- b) Olga Whitmore – asking for information on Congleton Town Council’s work on Green Infrastructure plans
- c) Andrew Copestick – asking for clarification on the request for potential S106 and CiL funds for the Elizabeth Statue.

The questions and responses can be seen in Appendix 1

6. Urgency Items

There were no Urgent Items mentioned.

7. Cheshire Police

Sergeant Paul Brunton from Cheshire Police provided updates to the Committee - see Appendix 2

8. 750 Year Charter Anniversary Plans

Councillors thanked Jo Money from Congleton Community Projects for the presentation and **CE/57/2021 Resolved:** Congleton Town Council supports the programme of events being developed for 2022 and that a working group is formed to work on the details of the Town Council’s involvement.

Working Group Members Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Suzy Firkin, Cllr Sally Ann Holland and officers.

9. Updates Paper from 21st January 2021 C&E Committee

CE/58/2021 Resolved to accept the report giving updates on Volunteer Co-ordination Point and consultation responses on the Local Transport Development Plan, Cheshire East Car Parking Consultation, Police Crime Commissioners Consultation.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Notes

CE/59/2021 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group](#) held on 4th March 2021.

11. Congleton in Bloom Working Group Notes

Received an update from the Chair of Congleton in Bloom minutes of the meeting of the 10th March will come to the next meeting. Noted that there will be regional finals this summer.

12. Congleton Green Working Group Notes

CE/59/2021 Resolved to receive the notes of the meeting of the [Green Working Group](#) from the 21st January. The chair gave a brief update.

13. White Ribbon Working Group

CE/60/2021 Resolved to accept the notes of the [White Ribbon Working Group](#) from the 10th March 2021. The Chair gave a brief update.

14. Update on Streetscape Waste

CE/61/2021 Resolved to note the report into the changes that Streetscape has made with disposing of waste to make sure that zero goes to landfill. The Committee wanted its thanks to the Streetscape team to be noted.

15. Proposed response to Cheshire East Council Air Quality Consultation.

CE/62/2021 Resolved to approve the response prepared by the Green Working Group to be submitted to Cheshire East Council on the 12/3/21 as the Committee's response to the Cheshire East Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

16. Introduction of Civic Pride Awards for Congleton

CE/63/2021 Resolved to introduce a Civic Award scheme starting with a COVID-19 Community Involvement awards. Delegated responsibility for the 2021 scheme to the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Community and Environment Committee with a report of a large scheme for 2022 to come back to committee.

17. COVID-19 Community Update

A verbal update was given by the on the current priorities and projects relating to COVID-19. Vaccinations continue in the Town Hall, subject to vaccine supply, led by the GP Practices. The COVID community leaders still meet every 2 weeks to discuss ongoing projects to support residents with wellbeing, food supply and general support.

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX ONE: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Question One – Olga Whitmore, resident

According to the last Congleton In Bloom, meeting three more boats with plants were planned to be installed at Bromley Farm. I live at Bromley Farm and I know there are already numerous planters which are not attended by In Bloom volunteers of Bromley Farm, can CTC Committee confirm it will look at the area and decide before putting new planters at Bromley Farm and spend more money?
Can the Committee confirm there are In Bloom volunteers at Bromley Farm?

RESPONSE by the Committee Chair.

The minutes from the last in Bloom meeting held on 7th December state - *3 x new boats with colourful sustainable planting scheme to be added in Bromley Farm, Congleton Park and a roundabout.* There is going to be one boat sited the Bromley Area, which will be part of the Bromley In Bloom plans, however planted and maintained by Congleton In Bloom members and staff.

We can confirm there is a Bromley farm in Bloom team as well as the following the Teams:
Buglawton In Bloom, Bath House and Physic Garden, Jubilee Club, Astbury Mere, Old Saw Mill
Congleton Park, Heath View in Bloom and Hilary Ave Allotments These 8 groups, also known, as Its Your Neighbourhood groups, work closely with Congleton In Bloom on their local campaigns and each group has many members – the majority of which are volunteers with some paid staff.

All volunteers in any of the above groups were asked to stop any non-essential volunteer work due to the Covid pandemic. This decision was led by the RHS and at Government briefings led by Boris Johnson. Due to volunteering stopping a lot of work has been put on hold and works are planned to start up again in June when the government guidance allows.

Question Two: Olga Whitmore – resident

CEC has published a Green Infrastructure plan for every town in CE, are there plans to start implementing this plan? What can community groups and individuals do to help CTC to implement this plan?

RESPONSE by the Committee Chair

A committee item with a detailed response on work already taking place to implement the Green Infrastructure Plan for Congleton, what else is proposed and what opportunities there will be for local groups and individuals to help will be tabled for the next Community and Environment Committee.

Question Three: Andrew Copestick resident:

I understand that the Elizabeth Group received a £2000 donation from Graham Group who are doing the link road. Under the proposals of the report it asks for the council to a). identify Unspent monies relating to Congleton to be redirected to the statue project and /or b). require new building projects in Congleton to make a CIL/S10G contribution to the statue.

My question is are other charities, organisations getting as much of a push for monies when they investigate with CEC these possibilities of builders' community contributions.

RESPONSE by Committee Chair

The Elizabeth Group was grateful to Graham's construction for donating £2000 to the Elizabeth project. This donation had nothing to do with CILS or Section 106 funding and was the result of a successful direct request by the group to the business

In the January meeting it was asked if CTC officers could ask CEC if there was any CILs or Section 106 funding available that could support the Elizabeth project. It was always anticipated that this would be a long shot. Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) are legal agreements that Cheshire East Council enters with developers. The agreement is usually allocated to specific projects such as affordable housing, highway, parks, green spaces and infrastructure such as schools and health.

APPENDIX TWO – POLICE REPORT

All figures are for the last 6 weeks in line with the Police priority period.

Drugs and Alcohol

No hotspots in our repeat demand, however work extended under Op Piloted to tackle dealing on Biddulph Valley Way. Some initial success with three arrests and intelligence generated.

Total Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents: 28. Reduction of 36 incidents on last period and a reduction of 19 year on year.

Current ASB Repeat locations

- West Heath Shopping centre (2) – 4 youths, joint response with school, parents & ASB team
- Tetton Court (4) – Arrestable Injunction complete and served
- St James Avenue Gawsorth (5) – Male arrested and under investigation

Total Domestic Violence Incidents: 50 (the same as the last period and up 16 year on year.

Total Sexual Offences: 5, 4 down on last period and 2 down year on year.

Congleton Priorities

- TEAM: Rural Crime – education and enforcement
- PERSON: Warrant development on West
- PLACE: Op Piloted – East

Total COVID Related Incidents: 54

No COVID Repeat Locations

Force

Op Paw – Dedicated COVID Patrols & Patrol Plan

Op Delivering – Patrol Plan for vulnerable sites

Push on Driving whilst on a mobile phone – Macclesfield highest

AOB

Cloudside Shooting Range – Sits with Staffordshire Policing.

Funding Activities via community and PCC

East: Dementia friendly Packs

West: Educational Road Safety Tools (Marfields, St Marys, Quinta)

Gawsorth & Chelford: Community Orchard (Orchard Trust)

Odd Rode: Road Safety Conferences. Kit for school drop off/collection and educational packs