

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th July 2022

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Community & Environment Committee 28th July 2022](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

CLlr Kay Wesley (Chair)

CLlr Suzy Firkin

CLlr Sally Ann Holland

CLlr Amanda Martin

CLlr Denis Murphy

CLlr Jean Parry

Ex Officio members: CLlr Rob Moreton (Deputy Mayor)

Non-Committee Members: Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith and David Brown

Also present: Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford - Chief Officer
- Jackie MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer

22 members of the public – One for question time and two to make presentations.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Members: Cllrs Robert Hemsley and Dawn Allen

Ex-Officio member: CLlr Margaret Gartside (Town Mayor)

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CE/12/2223 Resolved to approve the [minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 26th May 2022 as a correct record](#).

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors David Brown, Robert Moreton, Sally Ann Holland and Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters relating to Cheshire East Council. CLlr Denis Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 (which became item 8 Food and Friendship) as a member of Congleton Rotary.

4. Outstanding Actions

See Agenda item 10 for any outstanding actions for the Community and Environment Committee.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

There was one [question raised by Mr Dagleish referring to the Town Centre](#).

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

Change to Agenda

CE/13/2223 Resolved to take item 16 (Skate Park) as item 7, followed by agenda 9 on Food and Friendship as agenda item 8. Both items had a guest speaker.

7. Congleton Skate Park

Following a presentation by Xander Greenwood and a discussion on the needs of the skating community

CE/14/2223 Resolved that:

1. The Town Council should support and help progress a fully revamped and redesigned skate park, rather than a refurbishment of the existing facilities.
2. A project team should include Everybody, ANSA, Cheshire East Council (CEC) and the Town Council to work together to deliver this project.
3. Officers should spend time looking for and helping put funding bids together.
4. Engagement must take place with the skating community in the development of a new skate park.
5. Subject to positive feasibility discussions with Cheshire East Council officers due to take place w/c 1st August, a funding request should be submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee for £5k towards this work.

8. Food and Friendship at Congleton Town Hall

CE/15/2223 Resolved to receive the presentation from Mark Bailey on a community scheme that Mark's Events will be trialling in Bluey's space in Congleton Town Hall and potentially in the Grand Hall depending on numbers. The committee supported the initiative to provide food and friendship and thought the Town Council should look to positively support this venture.

9. Cheshire Police

Cheshire Police gave apologies for this meeting and provided some information which the Deputy Chief Officer read out. Details with Appendix 1.

10. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

The Committee received an updates paper from the Community and Environment Committee held on 26th May 2022. Noted the action on Chatty Benches is still outstanding.

11. Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group

CE/16/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group held on 7th July 2022](#). In a short update the group chair mentioned that the Front Desk at Congleton Police Station would be closing in the autumn despite the Town Council's protests. The public meeting with the Police on speeding on the link road and in town was well attended.

12. White Ribbon Working Group

CE/17/2223 Resolved to receive a copy of the [White Ribbon Working Group minutes from the 8th June 2022](#). The committee was updated on a successful visit to Alsager High School, work with Alsager Town Council, the White Ribbon floral tribute at the fire station and a reminder of the White Ribbon Cheshire East event on November 25th.

13. 'Reset' Pilot Project Launched in Congleton

CE/18/2223 Resolved to note the report highlighting the Reset Project which is being piloted in Congleton to teach young people about healthy relationships.

14. Congleton in Bloom Working Group

CE/19/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton In Bloom Working Group from the meeting held on 3rd May 2022](#). There was also a meeting on the 9th June and these notes will go to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee. North West in Bloom judging took place on the 26th July. Congleton in Bloom would like to formally thank the Town Council, Streetscape Services and everyone who helped make the regionals a success. The National judging will be on the 2nd August.

15. Congleton Green Working Group

CE/20/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on the 18th May 2022](#). Noted the next meeting would be on the 4th August not the 27th of July as stated on the agenda. The group is working on the Biodiversity Action Plan, reducing the carbon footprint of the Town Hall and the Green Fayre.

16. “No Mow May”

CE/21/2223 Resolved to continue to support “No Mow May” in 2023, but to increase the publicity and public education around the project to reduce the amount of time spent dealing with complaints. This vote was approved 4-3 with the Chair using their casting vote.

Action: When equipment is up for renewal would it be possible to look at machines that collect up grass?.

Action: Can we work more closely with Dane Housing and Astbury Mere for a more consistent approach to No Mow May?.

17. Update on Chapel House – Known Locally as Moody Hall

CE/22/2223 Resolved to receive the update report on Moody Hall, Moody Street.

Action: Requested that the Chief Officer, on behalf of the Town Council, writes to the developer and requests a meeting with themselves and the potential buyer.

18. 750 Year Celebration Working Group

CE/23/2223 Resolved to receive the [notes of the 750 Year Celebration Working Group held on 9th June and 14th July 2022.](#)

19. Update on 750 Year Celebration Activities

CE/24/2223 Resolved to receive the update report on the 750 Year Celebration activities organised by Congleton Town Council.

Action: That a formal letter is written to Jenny and John Unsworth to thank them for sponsoring and making the 1272 Diorama of Congleton.

20. Support for Ukraine

Received a verbal update from the Chair of the Community and Environment Committee on activity in support of Ukraine. This included an update on local hosting numbers and continued support of the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network [CAUSN](#)

**Cllr Kay Wesley
(Chair)**

APPENDIX 1 - UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE POLICE - ITEM 7

As the Police were unable to attend this meeting, Jackie MacArthur, Deputy Chief Officer, gave an overview of Congleton crime-related figures from 1/4/2022 – 30/06/2022. This was based on the figures given by the Police and covers Congleton East and West Wards

Anti-Social Behaviour – 79 Incidents - same time for 2021 –131 incidents

Domestic Violence 96 Incidents, 38 Arrests - same time for 2021 – 101 incidents, 38 arrests

Sexual Offences – 28* incidents – same time last year 10 incidents

*Note of these 28, 10 were historical. 11 were youth/school related reflecting the work being done in this area.

Drug Related Incidents 28 incidents same time for 2021 -26 incidents

The recreation of the Congleton Policing Unit is having a positive effect on the local area with more positive action being taken along with a problem-solving approach to reducing demand and tackling Anti-Social behaviour.