

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>29 June 20223 7.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall, Bridestones</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and DCO</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>14. Recruiting a Voluntary Town Crier (voluntary agreement attached)</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>Congleton Town Council has a long tradition of having a Town Crier. The Town Crier Bell dates back to 1732 and many Town Criers have been in post for many years. Douglas Parker MBE retired from the role in 2019 having served for 34 years. A brief history of Town Criers in Congleton can be viewed on the <a href="#">Congleton Heritage and Antique Festival Website</a>.</p> <p>Since the resignation of Douglas Parker, Paul Bates, Rob Moreton and Paul Duffy have all performed the role, with the role being approved at the Annual Town Council Meeting (mayor-making).</p> <p>At an informal meeting of the Council in May this year it was agreed that rather than the Councillors electing a fellow councillor to be the Town Crier, as they do with appointments to outside groups, the Council would open the role up to the community to apply for the role on a minimum of a 4-year period.</p> <p>A Town Crier adds a sense of place. It adds to the historic nature of our town and can help create interest in the town. It is a voluntary role.</p> <p>It is believed having the role for at least four years will enable the person taking on the role to opportunity to establish themselves in the role, give the opportunity to join the guild of Town Criers and also make it worth the commitment to getting a proper fitting costume for the Crier.</p> <p>Local towns with a Town Crier include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbach</li> <li>• Leek</li> <li>• Macclesfield</li> <li>• Biddulph</li> </ul> <p>Sandbach, Biddulph and Leek have long-standing Town Criers. Macclesfield was appointed in 2017.</p> <p>If Councillors are minded to recruit a voluntary Town Crier the suggested process would be:</p>		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form a small task and finish group to work with the Communities and Marketing Team on the recruitment of the post.</li> <li>2. Advertise the post through July and August to interview in early September</li> <li>3. The Information Centre to keep their diary.</li> </ol> <p>Suggested Voluntary Agreement Attached.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	To recommend that the Town Council starts the process to recruit a voluntary Town Crier from the community of Congleton.
<b>Financial Implications</b>	As a Volunteer representing the Town Council, the Town Council should pay for travel expenses for approved events. The Town Council should also be prepared to provide a costume, insurance and membership of the Guild of Town Criers.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	This will be a local role, so the Carbon Footprint will be minimal. Every effort will be made to recycle the costume.
<b>Equality and Diversity Impact</b>	The role will be open to all local people, increasing the opportunity for more people to engage in civic roles in Congleton.
<b>PROPOSALS</b>	That the Committee appoints ***** (to be agreed at Committee) to be part of a small task and finish group tasked with taking the project to the appointment of the Town Crier.