

Congleton Town Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Congleton Town Hall on 10th August 2023

Please note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of the Council.

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the
[Meeting Agenda of the Council 10th August 2023](#)

Councillors Present :

- Rob Moreton (Mayor and Chair)**
- Suzie Akers Smith
- Dawn Allen
- David Brown
- Charles Booth
- Robert Brittain
- Russell Chadwick
- Mark Edwardson
- Emma Louise Hall,
- Sally Ann Holland
- Amanda Martin
- Susan Mead
- Heather Pearce
- Shaun Radcliffe
- Richard Walton
- Liz Wardlaw
- Kay Wesley (Deputy Mayor)
- Glen Williams

Congleton Town Council Officers: David McGifford (Chief Officer)
and Jackie MacArthur, Communities and Marketing Manager and DCO

- There were no members of the press in attendance.
- 4 members of the public in attendance
- 1 Burgess Bob Edwards

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Robert Douglas, Suzy Firkin, Arabella Holland, Heather Seddon

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CTC/29/2324 Resolved to approve and sign the [minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15th and 29th June 2023](#)

3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Amanda Martin (Pecuniary) and Glen Williams (non-pecuniary) for item 10 on the agenda and from Cllrs David Brown, Russell Chadwick, Emma Hall, Sally Ann Holland and Liz Wardlaw as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

Questions were received from resident Olga Whitmore and are included in item 10 on the agenda.

5. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised by members.

6. Town Mayor's Announcements and Engagements

The Town Mayor drew attention to the various engagements that he had fulfilled

7. Outstanding Actions

There were no outstanding actions from previous meetings

8. Community Committee

CTC/30/2324 Resolved to receive the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on [29th June 2023](#)

9. Planning Committee

CTC/31/2324 Resolved to receive the [minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 22nd June 2023](#)

10. Vale Allotments grant application

A member of the public raised 2 questions with regard to this application

1. As the proposal involves the use of public money, could the Council please clarify the current ownership of Vale Allotments

Answer: I am of the understanding that the Vale Allotments land is owned by Congleton Sustainability Group

2. And where the owner's accounts can be seen.

Answer I would suggest you write directly to the chair of Congleton Sustainability Group for that information

CTC/32/2324 Resolved to award a grant of £2,000 to the Vale Allotment Association

11. Cheshire East Councillors' Reports -Standing Orders suspended

- Cllr Liz Wardlaw voted as Chair of CEC Scrutiny Committee, and on the joint scrutiny committee for Mersey and Cheshire ICS
- CEC are progressing with the charge for green bins
- Meeting with John Dwyer (PCC) discussing drug dealing and raised concerns about ASB notably the increase in the amount of windows being smashed in the town centre
- Highways are undertaking a review on car parking charge street lighting
- Looking into the wider use of the Flexi bus as they are currently under-utilised.

12. Policy Reviews

CTC/33/2324 Resolved to approve the updated Grants Criteria Policy

CTC/34/2324 Resolved to refer the ICT policy back to the Finance and Policy Committee / RFO to develop an updated policy for approval.

13. Use of Ukraine Earmarked Reserve

CTC/35/2324 Resolved to approve the use of the balance of funds held in the Ukraine Earmark Reserve for English lessons for Ukrainians

14. Councillor Attendance Records

CTC/36/2324 Resolved to reject the proposal for the publication of councillor attendance at Council and committee meetings on the council's website

15. Remote access to meetings

CTC/37/2324 Resolved to reject the proposal to use available technology to enable remote access to committee and Council meetings

16. Reassignment of Lease for Congleton Town FC Ground

CTC/38/2324 resolved to approve the proposal to open discussions with Cheshire East Council with regards to the re-assignment of the lease for Congleton Town Football Club

17. Congleton Library

CTC/39/2324 Resolved to accept Option 1. CEC's new proposed opening hours for the library. This sees the library opening hours reduced by 9 hours with no further action by CTC.

18. Christmas lights replacements

CTC/40/2324 Resolved to approve the funding requested for replacement Christmas lights with the Quadrille lights as the favoured option for Moody Street.

19. 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 private staffing matters and commercial sensitivities.

20. Congleton Market Quarter

CTC/41/2324 Resolved to approve the proposal for exploring a formal working arrangement with Congleton Market Quarter

21. Drug and Alcohol Policy

CTC/42/2324 Resolved to approve the proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy subject to the removal of random and routine testing from the policy

**Robert Moreton
(Town Mayor)**