

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
3 August 2023**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 3 August 2023](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members

- **Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)**
- **Cllr Emma Hall (Vice Chair)**
- Cllr Dave Brown
- Cllr Mark Edwardson
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Arabella Holland (left item 10)
- Cllr Sally Ann Holland
- Cllr Susan Mead
- Cllr Glen Williams

Non-Committee Members: Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith

Officers: David McGifford CO, Jackie MacArthur DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager

Also in attendance: Two Police Office (until item 10), one press.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Rob Moreton (ex-officio)

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/11/2324 resolved to approve and sign the Community and Environment Committee minutes held on 29 June 2023 as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dave Brown, Cllr Emma Hall, Cllr Sally Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest as Cheshire East Councillors.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

None

5. Urgent Items

None

6. Safer Streets - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Update

Superintendent Claire Jesson from Cheshire Police gave a verbal presentation about the work that Cheshire Police is carrying out to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls. (VAWG) Cheshire Police has secured £1.5m for this initiative. From November to March Cheshire Police had more than 2,000 meaningful engagements between 12 midnight and 3am via the safety bus. The Safety Bus is used from midnight to 3am in high-footfall nighttime economy destinations to support getting people home safely.

Action: To arrange a visit for councillors to view the safety bus

Action: To find out about safety training in Congleton – article for Bear Necessities

Action: Promote the Holly Guard App via Bear Necessities.

Action: Add Community Safety Funding for parks to next Community Safety WG agenda

7. Cheshire Police

Sergeant John Roberts updated members on the paper issued with the agenda. Noted that Speedwatch is on hold whilst a potential revamp is considered by PCSOs.

Action: Councillor Martin asked for the Violence category of Crime Stats to be more detailed for future meetings.

8. Updates from Previous Community and Environment Committee

CO12/2324 resolved to note the updates from the Community and Environment Committee held on 29 June 2023. This included information on A Frames and Barriers, Accessibility action for the town centre, town crier recruitment, bear necessities and the Beer and Gin Festival

In line with item 11a vi in the Constitution, the committee took a vote to move agenda item 12 to be discussed before item 9.

CO/13/2324 resolved to approve a change in the agenda to take item 12 as the next agenda item.

12. Engaging with Congleton Youth

The Committee considered a paper on creating a stronger voice for young people in the town.

CO13/2324 resolved to approve that Councillor Arabella Holland works with the two high schools to start to develop a new scheme for greater youth engagement. Scheme to come back to a future Committee.

9. Approve the Notes of the Community Safety Working Group

CO14/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the Community Safety Working group held on 21 July 2023

10. White Ribbon group

There was nothing to discuss on this item.

11. Cheshire East Council Consultation on Criteria for Bus Support

CO15/2324 resolved to respond to the Cheshire East Council Bus Service Criteria consultation by the closing date of the 6 August 2023 using the 14 points in the paper and plus additional comments on the need for new routes to be considered to link housing with key centres and noting that that the current criteria would discriminate against bus services without current patronage.

13 Congleton Christmas Proposed Activities

The committee noted the plans for Christmas 2023

Action: Investigate safe areas for vulnerable attendees

Action: Contact Leek Town Council about their event set up.

14 Communications Update (enclosed)

The committee noted a report highlighting key performance figures for the Town Council's Communications Activities

Action: To make this a regular agenda item for this committee

Meeting closed 8.35pm

