

## Congleton Town Council

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Congleton Town Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the  
[Meeting Agenda of the Council 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023](#)

**Councillors Present:**

- Rob Moreton (Mayor)
- Suzie Akers Smith
- Dawn Allen
- David Brown
- Robert Brittain
- Russell Chadwick
- Robert Douglas
- Mark Edwardson
- Suzy Firkin
- Emma Hall
- Arabella Holland
- Sally Ann Holland
- Amanda Martin
- Susan Mead
- Heather Pearce
- Heather Seddon
- 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

- 1 member of the public in attendance

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charles Booth and Shaun Radcliffe,

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

**CTC/60/2324 Resolved to** approve and sign the [minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 and the Emergency Council Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.](#)

#### 3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs David Brown, Emma Hall, Sally Ann Holland, Rob Moreton (Mayor), Russell Chadwick, Heather Seddon, Liz Wardlaw declared non-pecuniary interests on matters relating to Cheshire East Council

#### **4. Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public

#### **5. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items

#### **6. Town Mayor's Announcements and Engagements**

The Town Mayor gave particular thanks to the town council staff for the Christmas lights switch on

#### **7. Outstanding Actions**

There were no outstanding actions .

#### **8. Community Committee**

**CTC/61/2324 Resolved to** receive the [minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023](#)

#### **9. Grant Award**

**CTC/62/2324 Resolved to** note Congleton Town Council's award of UK Shared Prosperity Funding – Abstention Sally Ann Holland

#### **10. Finance and Policy Committee**

**CTC/63/2324 Resolved to** receive the [minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023](#)

#### **11. Annual Pay Award 2023-24**

1. To note the Annual Pay Agreement award for 2023-2024 in accordance with the NJC agreement.
2. To note that the back pay due from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 will be paid in December 2023 payroll.

**CTC/64/2324 Resolved to** note both the annual pay agreement(1) and the back pay (2)  
Abstention Sally Ann Holland

#### **12. Investment Policy and Strategy Review**

1. To approve the updates to the Investment Policy and Investment Strategy for 2023-2024 and adopt into the Constitution, as recommended by Finance and Policy at their meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023
2. **CTC/65/2324 Resolved to** approve the Investment Policy inclusive of the objectives to assess the ethical and environmental credentials
3. **CTC/66/2324 Resolved to** approve the re-investment with Cambridge & Counties
4. **CTC/67/2324 Resolved to** approve the delegation of the movement of the funds between RBS account and CCLA Public Sector Bond to the RFO in accordance with the Strategy. With regular updates via Finance and Policy.

### **13. Planning Committee**

**CTC/68/2324 Resolved to** receive the [minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023](#)

Abstentions from Cllrs Sally Ann Holland and Heather Seddon

### **14. Astbury Place Bridge Consultation proposal**

**CTC/69/2324 Resolved to** request that the Chief Officer arranges a meeting with CEC's Head of Planning for councillors to

1. Understand the detail, status and value of the Section 106 agreement
2. Clear understanding of any engineering issues as to why the bridge cannot be built
3. Agree deliverable Highway options to improve access to the park should the bridge not be deemed to be viable
4. Material to be prepared for a public consultation on the bridge, if viable, or other options if not, geographic area for consultation to be agreed

### **15. Town Hall Assets and Services Committee**

**CTC/70/2324 Resolved to** receive the [minutes of the Town Hall Assets and Services Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023](#)

### **16. Environment Committee**

**CTC/71/2324 Resolved to** receive the [minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023](#)

### **17. Mankind**

**CTC/72/2324 Resolved to**

1. Encourage men in Congleton affected by domestic abuse to seek help and promote the services of the three available helplines – the local 24/7 Hub, the national Men’s Advice Line, and the Mankind Initiative Charity. Article in next Bear Necessities.
2. Arrange for the Mankind Initiative to present a seminar for the Councillors, either in person or remotely, to provide them with more information about the problem of male domestic abuse.
- 3 Recognise Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Day on November 2nd every year.

#### **18. Response to Cheshire East Council Green Space Consultation**

**CTC/73/2324 Resolved to** approve the response to Cheshire East Council Green Space Consultation as presented with the inclusion of the area of Hillary Avenue reference 387253 - 36282

#### **19. Cheshire East Councillors’ Reports**

To Suspend Standing Orders to allow Councillors from the principal authority to report on matters relating to or impacting on Congleton.

Cllr Sally-Ann Holland reported on NHS Home first, Free holiday activities, Grants for EV charging points and news about the Family Hub.

Cllr Heather Seddon reported on the Leisure Review and answered a questions about what section 114 could mean for Congleton.

**Cllr Robert Moreton**

**Town Mayor**