

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
29 February 2024**

**Please Note – These are draft minutes and will not be ratified until the next meeting of
this Committee**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 29 February 2024](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members

- **Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair)**
- **Cllr Emma Hall (Vice Chair)** (arrived 7.20 item 7)
- Cllr Mark Edwardson
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Sally Holland
- Cllr Susan Mead
- Cllr Shaun Radcliffe
- Cllr Glen Williams

Non-Committee Members: Cllr Richard Walton

Officers: David McGifford, Chief Officer, Jackie MacArthur DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager and Debbie Coxon, Marketing and Communications Officer.

Also in attendance: 2 members of the Public, 0 members of the press, 2 guest presenters

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor David Brown, Councillor Arabella Holland and Ex-Officio, Cllr Rob Moreton, Mayor

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/32/2324 resolved to approve and sign the Community Committee minutes held on 4 January 2024 as a correct record – with a correction to item 2 apologies which should note that due to the late change of the committee date, apologies would not be marked as absences on the Councillor monitoring forms.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Emma Hall and Sally Holland declared a non-pecuniary interest as Cheshire East Councillors. (Cllr Emma Hall declared her interest on arrival at 7.20)

4. Questions from Members of the Public

A question was raised by John Whitelock questioning the scale of the community response to the Police Crime Commissioner's Operation Park Safe initiative, how well it had been publicised and the Police's ability to deal with reports submitted. The Chair responded that the Town Council was aware of Operation Park Safe following an article in the Congleton Chronicle on 8 February. The operation was discussed at the Community Safety Working Group – and our understanding is that the roll-out is underway across the Cheshire Force and but still early days for Congleton. Congleton Town Council will investigate further and feedback to Mr Whitelock.

Action to promote the scheme when rolled out in Congleton.

Since the meeting the local Beat Inspector has sent CTC the link for [Operation Park Safe](#) which explains more about the project.

5. Urgent Items

No items were raised.

6. Cheshire Police

PC Andy Cornell delivered the report written by Sergeant John Roberts, who has now left the Congleton Beat Team. For the report see [the agenda item](#).

Action: To encourage all shops and businesses to report crime

Action: Asked if there is a specific campaign in operation can the Town Council receive feedback on the effectiveness with the Police report.

7. 100th Anniversary of Congleton War Memorial Hospital

Councillors received a presentation from Rachel Wallace, Head of Community Engagement and Communications for the Cheshire East NHS Trust about plans to celebrate 100 years of the War Memorial Hospital in Congleton.

Suggested that the War Memorial Hospital may want to become an RHS It's Your Neighbourhood for 2025.

Suggested that the Trust should make it very clear where funds raised by the trust will be spent (Garden for the War Memorial Hospital)

Thanked Rachel Wallace for her presenting to the committee.

8. Updates from Previous Community Committee

The updates were received from the previous Community Committee. It was agreed to remove the dog agility from the updates and place on hold in the Action Log subject to CEC funding.

9. Communications Update

Councillors received and noted a Communications Update from the Community and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon.

Action: To check Nub News's new way of publishing news

10. Service Level Agreement with Congleton Community Projects

CO/33/2324 resolved to approve the Service Level Agreement between Congleton Community Projects and Congleton Town Council and to authorise officers to carry out actions within the SLA.

Action: Suggest that the Councillor approved at the Annual Town Council Meeting to be CTC representative on CCP should be a trustee – in the same way that our representative on Astbury Mere Trust, Congleton Museum etc are trustees.

11. Approve the Notes of the Community Safety Working Group

CO/34/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [Community Safety Working Group](#) held on 13 February 2024. The Committee received a brief update from the chair of the working group, Cllr Kay Wesley.

Action: Add an article about Spiking in the next edition of Bear Necessities.

12. Health and Wellbeing Working Group

CO/35/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [Health and Wellbeing Working Group](#) held on 13 February 2024 and received a short report from the Chair of the group, Cllr Suzy Firkin.

13. CEC Crossing Strategy

CO/36/2324 resolved to approve the Deputy Chief Officer writing a response to the Cheshire East Council Consultation on Crossing Points using the points raised in the paper before 10 March 2024.

Action: Note that Mossley School spoke at CEC Meeting about the need for a crossing on Leek Road and asked that this is added to the list of crossings needed for Congleton.

14. White Ribbon Working Group

CO/37/2324 resolved to accept the notes of the [White Ribbon Working Group](#) held on 18 January 2024 and received a short report from the Chair of the Working Group Cllr Richard Walton, in which he highlighted that the group is presenting to Astbury St Mary Primary School Years 5 and 6 in March.

The meeting finished 8.29pm

Cllr Kay Wesley
Chair of Community Committee