

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda & Papers – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#)

In attendance:

Committee members: Cllrs

**Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair)**

Cllr David Brown

Cllr Susan Mead

Cllr Heather Seddon

Cllr Glen Williams

Cllr Charles Booth

Cllr Sally Ann Holland

Non-Committee Members : Cllrs

Cllr Kay Wesley

Congleton Town Council Officers:

- David McGifford – Chief Officer
- Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager
- No press
- One member of the public

### Minutes

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee Members: Cllrs Amanda Martin, Heather Pearce and Suzie Akers Smith

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**ENV/66/2324 Resolved to** approve and sign the [minutes of the Community and Environment Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024](#) as a correct record

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs David Brown, Cllr Sally Ann Holland and Heather Seddon, on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

#### **4. Outstanding Actions**

There was no outstanding action:

**ENV/67/2324 Resolved to** take item 6 before item 5

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

Seven questions were received from Barry Speed relating to the methodology, ideology, details of the Town Council's carbon footprint calculations as well as questions relating to future plans for carbon reduction and offsetting/sequestration. A full copy of the questions and answers are available by clicking on the link:

[Public Questions to Environment Committee 28.3.2024](#)

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

Councillors were informed that the Town Council has received a formal offer on the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation bid and this will be discussed at an Emergency Council Meeting on the 4.4.24.

#### **7. Congleton in Bloom Working Group**

**ENV/68/2324 resolved** to receive the minutes of the Congleton in Bloom Working Group from 22<sup>nd</sup> January and receive notification of RHS Garden Festival event on 7<sup>th</sup> July at Congleton Park

**Action 7a:** Thank all the volunteers who helped in 2023 and already helping in 2024.

#### **8. Congleton Green Working Group**

**ENV/69/2223** resolved to receive the notes of the Congleton Green Working Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

#### **9. Streetscape Trading Account**

**ENV/70/2324 Resolved to** receive the Streetscape Trading Account

#### **10. Streetscape Update**

**ENV/71/2324 Resolved to** receive the updates on matters relating to Streetscape

**Action 10a:** Circulate details of fly-tipping by areas and circulate to Councillors

**Action 10b:** Circulate lists of Streetscape staff training to Councillors

**Action 10c:** Thank Streetscape staff for all the support and extra work they carry out

## **11. Carbon Footprint Summary**

**ENV/72/2324 Resolved to** approve the updated methodology of calculating the carbon footprint and new way of showing the carbon footprint figures.

## **12. CEC Green Spaces consultation**

**ENV/73/2324 Resolved to** receive the options on next steps on Green Spaces and agree to go forward with Option B Low Mow Town for Congleton.

## **13. Paperless Council**

**ENV/74/2324 Resolved to** approve a pilot of ‘paperless’ meetings and, subject to the success of the pilot, to extend this approach to all Council and Committee meetings on a phased basis. Agreed committee papers will only be available for Councillors if requested in advance and a review should be carried out on the IT support available for councillors at home and at the meetings.

**Action 13a:** Publicise to Councillors the new arrangement with regard to committee papers and carry out a survey to establish IT hardware requirements.

## **14. Biodiversity Update**

**ENV/75/2324 Resolved to** receive the information on the Site Specific Biodiversity Plans and the works both Streetscape and the Volunteers have completed so far

## **15. Cheshire East Report**

**ENV/76/2324 Resolved to** receive the verbal update on items of interest from Cheshire East Environment and Communities Committee from Ward Councillor Cllr Heather Seddon.

### **To Note**

- Cheshire East Council has reached 54% carbon neutral and has extended the end date to 2027
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Solar Farm planned within CEC area, 1<sup>st</sup> farm nearly complete
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres – CEC will be temporarily closing Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton in the next three months
- New draft Highways Tree Policy will be completed soon

**Cllr Suzy Firkin  
(Chair)**