

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
30.01.25**

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 30 January 2025](#)

**PRESENT:** Committee members:

- Cllr Richard Walton (Chair)
- Cllr Glen Williams (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Dave Brown
- Cllr Suzy Firkin
- Cllr Emma Hall
- Cllr Sally Ann Holland
- Cllr Susan Mead
- Cllr Shaun Radcliffe

**Ex Officio:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Mayor),

**Non-Committee Members:** Cllr Robert Douglas

**Officers:** David McGifford, Chief Officer

Members of Press 0

Members of Public 2

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cllr Mark Edwardson

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**CO/32/2425 resolved** to approve and sign the [Community Committee minutes](#) held on 11 November 2024 as a correct record.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Declarations were received by Cllrs Emma Hall and Sally Ann Holland on matters relating to Cheshire East Council, Glen Williams on item 14 and Richard Walton 13.2 Pride Flag proposal

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

There was a question and a statement read out by a member of the public, see Appx 1

**5. Urgent Items**

Cllr Mead raised an urgent item relating to the fatalities at Congleton railway station

## **6. Cheshire Police**

Sergeant James Bell provided explanations for councillors against the statistics provided within the meeting. Discussions took place with regard to -

- A more proactive approach to reduce the use of drugs including the use of drug sniffer dogs
- An overall increase in police presence
- Shoplifting
- Impact in the loss of funding for My CWA
- PCSO's not being replaced when they leave (not currently impacting on Congleton)

## **7. White Ribbon Working Group**

**CO/33/2425 resolved to** receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meeting held on 15th January 2025 and note the report about White Ribbon Day 2024.

### **7.1 Drink Spiking Test Kits**

**CO/34/2425 resolved** to note the report and that comments were made about the very quick impact spiking can have on an individual.

Also commented that publican awareness training of spiking should become mandatory and a requirement when being granted their Licence.

#### **Actions**

- Further investigation is required into making spiking training mandatory.

## **8. Committee updates**

**CO/35/2425 resolved** to note the community updates which also included a verbal update on the legalities required for Pedlars to sell merchandise at events.

## **9. Community Safety Working Group**

**CO/36/2425 resolved** to receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 5th December 2024 and note the report from the Chair.

## **10. Communications Update**

**CO/37/2425 resolved** to receive the report from the Town Council's Communications and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon, highlighting the Town Council's Communications activities for the last 90 days (25 Oct-22 Jan).

## **11. Congleton Community Projects**

## **12. VE Day 80th Anniversary Event**

## Actions

- ### 13. Town Centre

## Actions

- CO/40/2425 resolved** to approve the extension of the meeting beyond 21.00 hrs

## 14. Congleton Partnership Updates

Meeting finished 21.15

## Appendix 1

[illegible]

### § ١٣/٤

Could this committee consider promoting the role of the town council to schoolchildren? As civics is not taught per se in schools, the result is that many residents are unaware of how local government works. This leads to a lot of frustration and perception of lack of voice, resulting in lack of engagement. Instead there is misinformed and toxic exchanges on social media. Could the council work with schools, perhaps with 8 year olds and upwards, to engage and inform them? Perhaps school visits to the town hall, mini council-style meetings, informing how decisions are made, who makes them and who implements them, how the council is governed and what dictates this.

### • ١٣/٤

9. The Town Council is pleased to welcome you to our Town Hall and educated about the work of the Town Council. We have been

- The Group is greeted by the Town Mayor and Town Crier.
- The story of Congleton Town and the Charter, plus 'Beartown' explanation and a couple of prominent Congleton historic figures (Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy and John Bradshaw), in the Bridestones Suite, with a team quiz.
- Description of the Town Council today, who is on it and what it is for, again in quiz format.
- Close-up look at the Town Treasures including the Congleton Royal Mace, the Town Charter and the Regalia, with video.
- Short Tour of the Town Hall, learn about the secret tunnels, the display cabinet and the Great Hall balcony
- Downstairs to the Great Hall for refreshments, photos 'in the Mayor's robes' and have a go at ringing the Town Crier's bell!

The Town Council is pleased to welcome you to our Town Hall and educated about the work of the Town Council. We have been

Congleton Sustainable Travel, Congleton Climate Action Group, is pleased to give an

update regarding barriers to people with disabilities on the Biddulph Valley Way. We've been told by Cheshire East Council's Green Infrastructure Team that those on the level section will be removed by spring 2025. Unfortunately the problematic Bromley Rd access point cannot be improved until funding is obtained for a new design and its implementation.

We'd like to thank councillors and officers for their support in this.