

CONGLETON TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2022

Congleton Town Hall

PRESENT Cllr Margaret Gartside (Mayor), David McGifford (Chief Officer)

Speakers: Cllr Robert Douglas, Andrew Thompson, David McGifford, Paul Nixon

Panel Mayor, Chief Officer, Speakers plus Cllr Suzy Firkin and Cllr Kay Wesley

Plus 31 members of the public

1. **Welcome** by Congleton Town Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gartside who chaired the meeting and introduced the speakers.

2. **Noted** the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting from 8 April 2021

3. Presentation 1

Update on the Household Waste Recycling Plant by Cllr Robert Douglas – Congleton site due to close September 2021. Campaign to ensure a new site is found by Cheshire East Council and examples of recently opened sites.

3a Statement asking all Town Councillors to campaign for a new site. (all involved)

4. Presentation 2

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan – Andrew Thompson, Planning Consultant

Highlighted the issues and changes and modifications that are being made to the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan.

4a Question raised about the idea of Street Votes for Planning Applications – no-one sure how this would work in practice.

4b) Questions about timescales - intention to go out to regulation 14 early in 2023.

4c) Could a policy be added about allotments – ask NP team to address.

5. Presentation 3

Community Governance - David McGifford, Chief Officer

Discussing the issue of the Boundary review – CTC would like to see CEC return to the plan where all new houses inside the link road would be considered part of Congleton. This was CEC opinion in two documents, but now think the houses should remain part of the rural parishes.

5a) Chair of a Parish commented very important that the town and parishes develop much closer working relationships and work and plan together for the benefit of residents.

6. Presentation 4

Supporting people fleeing war in Ukraine - Paul Nixon

Spoke about the recent formation of a Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network which has set up to help make it easier to match potential hosts with people wishing to escape from Ukraine. Urging more people to come forward who may be interested in helping. Currently 76 hosts, 50% matched. 50 Ukrainians have arrived and another 80 are in caught up in processing.

No questions

Submitted Questions:

Susie Mead: Raised a question about Bromley Farm Community Development Trust and stated that the Steering Group was ineffective and seeking CTC's help in organising a meeting to help move the situation on. Action: agreed to get back to Susie on how CTC may be able to assist. Sub-question on who would be invited – which was to be agreed.

Dennis Wood - raised a question about what was happening with the Capital Walk Toilets and when would they be reopened. Action: Officers to meet with the owners of Capital Walk and update.

Emily Hurwitz – Cycling accident – raised a concern about a recent accident in the pedestrian area where her 2-year-old daughter was knocked over by a cyclist – asked what could be done. Action: to send details to Cheshire East Highways for them to investigate.

Open Floor

Question about Congleton War Memorial Hospital and that the Minor Injuries Unit isn't yet up and running post-COVID. Action: agreed that CTC would be looking to address this with the NHS Trust as we come out of the COVID time.

Question about vehicles parking in Moody Street - What can be done to stop people parking on both sides of the road and close to junctions? The bin lorry is not able to get through. Answer; Limited what the Town Council can do, we do have posters that the public can download from the website or pick up from the Congleton Information Centre to place on cars. Police can get involved if there is an obstruction. Double yellow lines are via Cheshire East Highways and it is a lengthy and expensive process that needs consent from the residents. Agreed to a site visit.

Question about Congleton Market - can the Town Council help to restore the market that is currently run by Cheshire East Council. – Answer: ongoing and long issue, but there are plans for the area which hopefully will improve the market too.

Finished 8.15pm