

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	29 August 2024 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	14 Congleton Town Crier Update Paper – for discussion and noting		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	<p>This paper is to update the Committee on the recruitment of a Town Crier for Congleton.</p> <p><i>CO08/2324 resolved to appoint Cllr Suzy Firkin to be part of a small task and finish group with officers tasked with leading on the appointment of the Town Crier. A volunteer agreement was attached to the paper.</i></p> <p>As agreed previously, this is a voluntary role, part of Congleton’s rich tradition. The article in Bear Necessities has already attracted interest and the role has been further promoted to ensure knowledge of the post. We have also taken guidance from other towns that have recently been through the process.</p> <p>We are accepting applications until 24 September. Those shortlisted will be asked to perform a public cry at the Green Fayre on Saturday 29 September. We will then be in a position to offer the role.</p> <p>It is expected that the Town Council will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the outfit. We have one Town Crier outfit, but there is no guarantee that it will fit the appointed person. A local talented costume maker has agreed to help with creating the outfit – but it is still expected to require a budget of around £400. • Pay the Town Crier for out-of-pocket expenses when carrying out approved Civic events on behalf of the Town Council • Add the role of voluntary Town Crier to our annual insurance. We have been advised that there is no additional charge for this. • Arrange membership of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers and expenses to attend a regional and national competition if the Crier wishes to do so. <p>These costs will be met from the Community Development budget for this year and will need to be added to the Civic Budget in the future.</p>		
Environmental Considerations	The Town Council will re-use the costume if possible, or if not make best use of local skills to adapt a uniform befitting of the Town Crier.		

Equality Considerations	We aim to be as inclusive as possible in the recruitment. We are encouraging applications from people of all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as individuals with a disability or neurodiversity.
Financial Considerations	There will be some costs associated with this role, particularly in the first year if a new outfit is required, but believe this can be met within current budgets.
PROPOSAL	As the recruitment of this post was agreed at a previous Community Committee this paper is for any questions and noting.



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CiLCA

The Congleton Town Crier Application Form

Name:	
Address:	
Contact Number(s):	
Contact Email:	
Oyez, Oyez! Tell us why you want to be Congleton's Town Crier:	
<i>Continue on separate sheet if needed.</i>	
Due to the travel requirements for attendance at Town Crier events, a full driving licence is required or the ability to get to events independently. Do you have a current driving licence/ means to get to events.	Yes / No
Shortlisted applicants will be invited to compete at a public event to be held on Saturday, 29 September 2024. Please confirm you are available.	Yes / No
Please sign to confirm you have read and accept terms attached:	
Sign:	Date:

Please return completed forms to info@congleton-tc.gov.uk marked Town Crier Application

Congleton Town Crier - Terms & Conditions

- *It is desirable that applicants possess the following:*
 - *Strong ties to Congleton*
 - *Knowledge of Congleton (or ability to source information)*
 - *Full drivers licence or ability to get to locations independently*
 - *Ability to project voice*
 - *Outgoing personality*
- *All applicants must complete the application form. Congleton Town Council aims to be as inclusive as possible and encourages nominations from people of all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as individuals with a disability or neurodiversity.*
- *Shortlisted applicants will be provided with a Cry for public performance at the Green Fayre on Saturday 29 September. The decision made by the appointed judging panel at this event will be final.*
- *The successful applicant is encouraged to become a member of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers (information will be provided) and obtain support and guidance relating to the ancient calling and in order to maintain the highest standards of conduct and dress code.*
- *You are responsible for producing a relevant and suitable cry for each engagement. Guidance on theme and word count is provided by the event organiser (circa 100-125 words). Cries must be non-political, non-religious and in good taste; in the spirit of the role.*
- *All items of uniform purchased by the Town Council for the successful applicant will remain property of Congleton Town Council and must be returned at the end of appointment.*
- *The appointee represents Congleton and must maintain a high standard of appropriate behaviour and courtesy during attendance and participation at competitions.*
- *In discussion with the Council's Chief Officer, you will be asked to diarise and attend various local Civic and Community events.*
- *You will maintain your own diary of events and activities.*
- *The position is included within Congleton Town Council's Public Liability Insurance.*
- *The post is unpaid however the post holder will be able to claim expenses for travel and out of pocket expenses in line with the Council's employee handbook.*
- *Any person found by the Town Council to be in breach of the above conditions, or considered to have brought the position into disrepute, will be immediately removed from the role of Congleton Town Crier.*



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