

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
27 June 2024**

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 27 June 2024](#)

**PRESENT:**

Committee members:

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

**Ex Officio:** Mayor Cllr Kay Wesley, Deputy Mayor Cllr Robert Brittain

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

**Officers:** Jackie MacArthur (DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager) and Ruth Burgess (Streetscape Development Manager)

**Also in attendance:** 1 member of the Public, no press

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Edwardson

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**CO/01/2425 resolved** to approve and sign the [Community Committee minutes](#) held on 29 February 2024 as a correct record.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Declarations were received by: Cllrs David Brown, Emma Hall, Sally Ann Holland and Robert Moreton on matters relating to Cheshire East Borough Council

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

John Whitelock asked a question about the effectiveness of the former Police and Crime Commissioner's Operation Park Safe in Congleton, whether there had been much uptake and whether it had been publicised well enough. The police via correspondence

confirmed that there had been a limited response in Congleton, that they would request that the scheme be publicised again and noted that parking issues had not been raised as a predominate community concern via the Resident's Voice Survey. The Town Council has received numerous complaints about inconsiderate parking and has a section on its website.

**Action:** Publish the Operation Park Safe link and instructions electronically and in the next Bear Necessities.

## 5. Urgent Items

Cllr Mead Urgent Items x 2 Caravans currently parked on or near Dale Crescent seeking support from CEC Councillors. Agreed to pick this up with item 13 – Community Safety Working Group.

## 6. Cheshire Police

A written report from Police Inspector Jim Adams was read out by the Deputy Chief Officer covering Operation Safe Street and additional patrols of Congleton Park. A further plea was given to report illegal activities by calling 101, reporting online or via Crime Stoppers.

A question was raised about a hate crime incident in the town centre, also concerns were raised about drug dealing around the town and in the town centre and the lack of visible police presence in the town. Further follow-up with the Police will be carried out on all items. Agreed to invite the new Police Crime Commissioner to a future meeting.

**Action:** Invite the Congleton Beat Inspector/ Sergeant to the next Community Safety Working Group working meeting to discuss dealing with Hate Crime, drug misuse and lack of policing in Congleton.

## 7. Updates from Previous Community Committee

The updates were received from the previous Community Committee.

## 8. Communications Update

Councillors received and noted a Communications update prepared by the Community and Marketing Officer, Debbie Coxon.

## 9. CEC Bus Consultation

**CO/02/2425 resolved** to approve the draft response circulated with the paper as the consultation response from Congleton Town Council's Community Committee. Add comments about

- a) Importance of flexilink being easy to book
- b) Making it easier for older people to renew their lapsed bus pass

- c) Importance of buses being able to cater for people with disabilities and particularly wheelchair users.
- d) Planning needs to be more proactive on travel plans and ensure that public transport adequately serviced new developments.

**Action:** Request from CEC Statistics on current bus use from different areas within Congleton including neighbouring parishes.

#### **10. Christmas 2024**

**CO/03/2425** resolved to receive and note report.

**Action:** The committee would like to see Christmas lights on West Street and Mill Street. Officers to work up a plan and follow the appropriate financial regulations to enable it to happen.

#### **11. Christmas Lights Contract**

**CO/04/2425** resolved to approve the request to extend the Christmas Lights contract for 1 year and for work to commence on a bid for the installation, removal, storage and testing of the Christmas Lights for Christmas 2025 – 2027.

**Action:** Councillors would like a full breakdown of the Christmas expenditure.

#### **12. Summer Play Days 2024**

Councillors welcomed and noted the report.

#### **13. Community Safety Working Group**

**CO/05/2425** Resolved to receive the notes from the Community Safety Working Group held on 14 May 2024.

#### **14. Health and Wellbeing Working Group**

**CO/06/2425** Resolved to receive the notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on 24 April 2024.

Cllr Richard Walton  
Chair of Community Committee

*meeting finished 8.48pm*