

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON
29.08.24**

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Agenda and Papers of the Community Committee on 29 August 2024](#)

PRESENT:

Committee members:

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

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

Non-Committee Members:

Officers: David McGifford, Chief Officer and Jackie MacArthur (DCO & Communities & Marketing Manager)

Also in attendance: Guest Speaker Dr Deborah Lawson, 3 members of the Public, 1 press

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received Cllr Susan Mead.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

CO/07/2425 resolved to approve and sign the [Community Committee minutes](#) held on 27 June 2024 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations were received by Cllr Dave Brown, Cllr Emma Hall and Cllr Sally Ann Holland concerning Cheshire East Council

4. Questions from Members of the Public

A request was made via a statement from the Congleton Climate Action Sustainable Travel Group for the Town Council to apply to Cheshire East Council to have a path from the Bus Station to the Police Station and Library to Market Square added to the Definitive

Map as a Right of Way. It was suggested that as it makes no difference to CEC who fills in the forms then in may be best for the Climate Action Group to do this. If not it would need to be a paper to Council to see if that Council wanted to apply to CEC to make this a recognised Right of Way. A copy of the [question and the response](#) can be downloaded here.

5. Urgent Items

Cllr Mark Edwardson, on behalf of Cllr Rob Moreton raised concerns about the Cheshire East Council consultation, launched on August 28, proposing to introduce car parking charges on a Sunday and extending charging until 10pm daily. He asked for CTC to call an emergency council meeting to discuss the proposals and prepare a united, all-party response.

6. Cheshire Police

Jackie MacArthur read a statement submitted by Sergeant James Bell. The Congleton Beat team apologised for not being able to attend. The [statement can be downloaded](#) here.

CO/08/2425 resolved to write to the Police Inspector to organise a meeting to discuss current ASB, crime and policing issues in Congleton and to encourage the Police to attend the next Community Committee.

Action: - Note 24 September in Councillors diaries at day of action

7. Updates from Previous Community Committee

CO/09/2425 resolved to note the updates from the previous Community Committee.

Action: - Thanks the Events team for the successful playdays – would like to see repeated in 2025.

Action: - Give feedback on the issues reported via the ‘Listening Tent’

8. Equal Access Action Plan and Updates

Councillors thanked Dr Deborah Lawson for her [presentation](#) and her ongoing work with the Equal Access Advisory group. **CO/10/2425 resolved to**

1. To confirm support for the Equal Access Advisory Group
2. Support to the group in implementing
 - Promotional Campaign for the Public (including social media and high-quality video) £1000
 - Disability Guide to Congleton £1000 Business (Shop/Pub) ‘Disability Welcome’ Scheme (certificates & stickers) £250
3. Include ongoing accessibility work in the Council’s forthcoming Business Plan
4. Support expenditure as outlined for the above

9. Health and Wellbeing Working Group Minutes

CO/11/2425 resolved to approve the notes from the Health & Wellbeing Working Group held on 11 July 2024 with an amendment change Helen Charlesworth to Helen Charlesworth-May

10. Community Safety Working Group Minutes

CO/12/2425 Resolved to receive the notes of the Community Safety Working Group meetings held on 11 July 2024 with an amendment to correct the East and West Neighbourhood Police Beat teams.

11. White Ribbon Working Group Minutes

CO/13/2425 Resolved to receive the notes of the White Ribbon Working Group meetings held on 28 May 2024

12. CEC Library Consultation

CO/14/2425 Resolved to respond to the Cheshire East Council consultation on library Strategy. Councillors agreed to use points 1-10 in the paper as the basis for the response, moving point 10 higher up the list, adding depriving many towns across the borough of an essential library service to point 2 and making it clear in the response about volunteers that volunteers should only be used to staff partnership style activities and the professional role of a librarian should always be paid.

13. Civic Awards

CO/15/2425 Resolved that the Chief Officer/Deputy Chief Officer works with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Community and Environment to help design the Annual Civic Awards Scheme and present this as a Policy for approval at the next Full Council meeting on the 3 October.

14. Town Crier

CO/16/2425 Resolved to note the information about appointing a Town Crier and continued to support the principle.

15. Communications Update

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

16. Speed Indication Devices

CO/17/2425 Resolved to add Speed Indication Devices to a list of items being taken into Business planning and budget setting activities.

Action: - More research is required into SIDs for Councillors to make a decision

Action: - See if the Congleton Repair Café can repair the SID purchased a few years ago. Understand what went wrong with this SID.

17. Mayor's Hospitality and Retail Service Awards

CO/18/2425 Resolved to approve the introduction of a Congleton Mayor's Retail Awards and Congleton Mayor's Hospitality awards

Action: Develop criteria, certificate and window sticker.

CO/19/2425 – Resolved that Councillors were happy to take the final item, although it would take the meeting over its two-hour limit.

18. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Item 19

CO/20/2425 Resolved to pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to commercial sensitivities.

19. Congleton Community Projects

CO/21/2425 Resolved that the Committee recognises the importance of the Food and Drink Festival for the town and the events team should bring options to bring to Council for consideration on its future. Congleton Community Projects SLA will discussed separately.

CLr Richard Walton
Chair of Community Committee

meeting finished 9.14