


AGM 2023 Meeting Minutes: Congleton Sustainability Group

Date: 6th June 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** The Old Saw Mill

In attendance: Heather Seddon (Chair), Patti Pinto, Kay Wesley, Linda Aston, Peter Aston.

Apologies: Cathy Dean, Ruth Benson, Margaret Gartside, Jackie Kay.

Next AGM: June 2024

1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Correction to the Minutes from the 2022 AGM, 7 June 2022, correction to Heather’s surname, which is ‘Seddon’</p>
2.	<p><u>Annual Report – Acting Treasurer</u></p> <p>Many Thanks to Linda for sending in the yearly accounts prior to the meeting, which have been audited.</p> <p> CSG Audited account sheet 2023.pdf</p> <p>Note, it was decided that small values remaining from grants which have not been claimed will be assimilated into the main CSG account, to tidy up the accounts. Action: Patti to send in invoices to Linda asap.</p>
3.	<p><u>Annual Report – Acting Chair</u></p> <p>It has been another eventful year for Congleton Sustainability Group.</p> <p>First, I would like to thank Linda Aston for her continued support as our treasurer. Another year has gone by and Linda has diligently produced monthly summaries of expenditure and income and has also arranged the annual end-of-year audit of our books. Thank You.</p> <p>I would also like to thank Cathy Dean, the Congleton Partnership Officer, who produces Agendas and Minutes – this support has been invaluable to the group in keeping things running smoothly. Thank You.</p> <p>Thanks also go to Jackie MacArthur, from Congleton Town Council for her continued support and in keeping us informed of town events and activities, and for the organization which goes into planning and hosting Congleton’s Annual Green Fayre.</p> <p>As CSG is an umbrella group, bringing other environmental groups together in the town, we have many successes to report on, and here are a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dane Valley Community Energy (DVCE), the hydro-energy project at Havannah Weir is now generating electricity. This has enabled £4000 to be donated to community projects. Volunteers at the site have worked hard to rewild the area, and planting continues. • DVCE-Congleton Park Ltd has been launched, which aims to produce renewable energy from solar panels mounted on commercial, industrial, or public sector roofing – and potentially another hydro scheme at Congleton Park Weir. There will be opportunities to become a shareholder in the solar panel scheme shortly, and for the Congleton Park hydro scheme too, which we will keep you informed about.

- June 22: **Plastic Free Congleton** volunteers receive certificates from Congleton Town Council to celebrate the group receiving Plastic Free Community status.
- July 22: The opening of the **Bee Garden** in Congleton Park which is now flourishing. Well Done to Patti Pinto who organised the planting and the 150 volunteers who helped.
- Sept 22: The 3rd **Green Fayre** is a big success; outside stalls from local environmental groups plus a Repair Cafe and Clothes swap event inside the town hall. Talks, walks and open days were arranged.
- The **Congleton Plant Swap and Gardening for Wildlife** group has arranged several successful plant swap events – Many Thanks to Lisa Miller and her group for organizing these events.
- Oct 22 to Mar 23: The **Trees for Congleton** Group has been extremely active in this year's tree planting season, adding over 2000 more trees and hedgerow plants. The group has also maintained the trees and hedges planted from previous seasons. Many Thanks go to Ruth Benson, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams and Margaret Gartside in particular for their incredible hard work in the planning and organization of the new planting.

We are actively looking for more pieces of land where we can plant more trees and hedges, so please do get in touch if you know of any farmers or land owners, or people with large gardens who would be happy to have trees planted on their land – The Trees for Congleton group would be delighted to hear from you! [Climate Change Emergency - Planting 30,000 trees in Congleton \(congletonpartnership.co.uk\)](https://congletonpartnership.co.uk)

- **Congleton Food4Free Group:** The fairground carpark space has been completely re-worked and edible plants have been transferred from the plot outside Congleton Library. Edible plants have also been included in the Bee Garden in Congleton Park.
- **Congleton Repair Café.** The Repair team have continued their monthly Repair Café events on the last Saturday of the month at The Old Saw Mill, and they now also have pop-up tool sharpening facilities. There are also regular bike repair sessions at Bromley Farm Community Centre, which tend to occur on the 2nd Saturday of the month – Well Done to everyone involved. Ben Casey has now handed over to Jenny Drew as the Repair Café contact.
- Thanks also go to Jackie Kay from the **Congleton Climate Action Group (CCAG)** who regularly attends CSG meetings to keep us informed of their activities. The group has had a very busy year with giving out free seeds, starting a food growing project at the United Reformed Church on Antrobus Street (the Haven Garden), campaigning for a replacement Household Waste and Recycling Centre and advising residents on insulation and keeping fuel costs down. A massive congratulations to Jackie and the team!
- Mar 23: As part of the CCAG, a new group, **Congleton Sustainable Travel**, has been launched which will be focused on increasing cycling and walking in the town.
- A new **Vale Allotment Association**, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been formed to raise funds to purchase the Vale Allotment Site. It is the intention that the Vale Allotment Association will purchase the site from CSG, and the land registry can then be updated.
- Apr 23: Congleton's **biodiversity project** was launched, sponsored by Congleton Town Council. Many Thanks to Ruth Benson for her expertise in designing site-specific biodiversity plans for 30 sites across Congleton. The launch event on 6 April on Stirling Close was a big success. Many thanks to everyone involved. [Biodiversity - Congleton Town Council \(congleton-tc.gov.uk\)](https://congleton-tc.gov.uk)

There is always more we can do, but I think everyone has had an amazing year, and we can all be really proud of Congleton's green credentials. We are getting more organized with delivering environmental messages to Congleton residents and ensuring events and opportunities for volunteering are well advertised and attended.

	<p>I look forward to working with everyone in the year ahead. Many thanks for your support, Heather Seddon</p>																		
4.	<p><u>Election of Officers</u></p> <table data-bbox="164 421 1497 658"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="164 421 363 454"></th> <th data-bbox="363 421 651 454"><u>Proposer</u></th> <th data-bbox="651 421 842 454"><u>Seconder</u></th> <th data-bbox="842 421 1497 454"><u>Elected</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="164 454 363 495"><u>Chair</u></td> <td data-bbox="363 454 651 495">Patti Pinto</td> <td data-bbox="651 454 842 495">Kay Wesley</td> <td data-bbox="842 454 1497 495">Heather Seddon</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="164 495 363 535"><u>Treasurer</u></td> <td data-bbox="363 495 651 535">Heather Seddon</td> <td data-bbox="651 495 842 535">Kay Wesley</td> <td data-bbox="842 495 1497 535">Linda Aston</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="164 535 363 658"><u>Secretary</u></td> <td data-bbox="363 535 651 658">Peter Aston</td> <td data-bbox="651 535 842 658">Linda Aston</td> <td data-bbox="842 535 1497 658">Cathy Dean (continuation of Congleton Town Council Partnership Officer providing secretarial support)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Chair</u>	Patti Pinto	Kay Wesley	Heather Seddon	<u>Treasurer</u>	Heather Seddon	Kay Wesley	Linda Aston	<u>Secretary</u>	Peter Aston	Linda Aston	Cathy Dean (continuation of Congleton Town Council Partnership Officer providing secretarial support)
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	<p><u>End of Meeting.</u></p>																		