

AGM 2024 Meeting Minutes: Congleton Sustainability Group

Date: 4th June 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** The Old Saw Mill

In attendance: Heather Seddon (Chair), Cathy Dean, Patti Pinto, Kay Wesley, Linda Aston, Peter Aston, Ruth Benson

Apologies: Susie Akers Smith, Peter Hall, Jackie Kay.

Next AGM: June 2025

1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were accepted from 6th June 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</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>https://congletonpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CSG-signed-Accounts-2024.pdf</p> <p>£20.00 gift card as thanks to the auditor.</p> <p>The remaining balance assigned for Vale Allotments will be transferred as soon as the sale is complete. Once the process is complete a celebration event to be organised in recognition of saving this important community asset.</p> <p>Please note £4139 on the 15th of May 2024 has been returned to Cheshire East due to changes in the project for the cost of living grant.</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 Congleton Town Council for the organisation 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> <p>Congleton Hydro and Solar</p> <p>The group who created Archie the hydro-electric generator at Havannah Weir has raised another eye watering sum – this time over £450,000 to build solar panels, which was a fantastic achievement. Every year the group gives away around £4000 to community groups as grants. Projects should have an environmental theme that requires art, maths, engineering, technology or science of some kind. The team are also looking at raising funds to create another hydro-electric scheme at Congleton Park, which is ongoing.</p>

Congleton Town Council

The 4th Green Fayre is a big success; outside stalls from local environmental groups were busy talking to residents and Repair Cafe and Clothes swap events took place inside the town hall. The 'hedge people' also came who were a lot of fun!

Congleton's biodiversity project continues which has now been taken up by Congleton Town Council. Continuing work to design signs with children in mind will be initiated in the coming year.

Trees for Congleton

This year's tree planting season has added over 5000 more trees and hedgerow plants to those already planted, making a grand total of over 22,000 plants planted since 2019. The group also performs maintenance on the trees and hedgerows already planted, in the first few years, and then once established, the area is formally handed over to Congleton Town Council for future maintenance.

The group is now part of the wider Cheshire Tree Alliance which shares information (and plants!). Many trees have been donated to other groups, from Alsager and Sandbach, Dane Valley and Macclesfield, and swaps have been received too.

The group has also arranged corporate planting sessions where employees have planted trees on the land of 3 Congleton businesses.

Many Thanks go to Ruth Benson and Patti Pinto in particular for their incredible hard work in the planning and organisation of the new planting. The group is actively looking for more pieces of land where they 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!

Congleton Food4Free Group

The fairground carpark space is continuously being 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, and the War Memorial Hospital garden.

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 bike repair sessions twice a month.

Congleton Climate Action Group

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. They have had a very busy year. A massive congratulations to Jackie and the team!

	<p>Vale Allotment Association</p> <p>The new charity, the has raised the funds to purchase the Vale Allotment Site, to keep the site as allotments, in perpetuity. The sale is progressing and nearing completion. It is the intention that the Vale Allotment Association will purchase the site from CSG, and the land registry can then be updated.</p> <p>Many thanks to everyone who has supported the various environmental initiatives over the last year.</p> <p>I look forward to working with everyone in the year ahead.</p> <p>Many thanks for your support,</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Heather Seddon</p> <p>Chair, Congleton Sustainability Group</p>																
4.	<p><u>Election of Officers</u></p> <table data-bbox="164 936 1498 1106"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Chair</u></th> <th><u>Proposer</u></th> <th><u>Seconder</u></th> <th><u>Elected</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kay Wesley</td> <td>Margaret Gartside</td> <td>Heather Seddon</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Treasurer</u></td> <td>Margaret Gartside</td> <td>Patti Pinto</td> <td>Linda Aston</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Secretary</u></td> <td>Heather Seddon</td> <td>Peter Aston</td> <td>Cathy Dean (Partnership Officer)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>	<u>Elected</u>		Kay Wesley	Margaret Gartside	Heather Seddon	<u>Treasurer</u>	Margaret Gartside	Patti Pinto	Linda Aston	<u>Secretary</u>	Heather Seddon	Peter Aston	Cathy Dean (Partnership Officer)
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	<p><u>End of Meeting. 7:30pm</u></p>																