

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday 23 October 2017 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs J Greaves (Mayor), Mrs J Allsopp, R Awty, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs G Boyle, B Cocksey, D Dundas, C Greatorex, P Hitchman, Mrs S James, D Leytham, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, B McMullan, D Smedley, A Smith, C Spruce, Mrs L Warfield, M Warfield and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs D Baker, J Brooks, I Eadie, Mrs J Eagland, P Ray and A Thompson.

A MINUTE'S SILENCE WAS HELD IN MEMORY OF BARRY DIGGLE, FORMER MAYOR, SHERIFF AND COUNCILLOR, WHO DIED ON 11 OCTOBER.

47 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor firstly offered congratulations to the Town Clerk on his appointment. She then reported on a number of recent civic and other engagements attended including; the Heart of England Gold Award; Johnson Birthday celebrations; rescheduled Bowls Match and the Twinning Weekend which celebrated 25 years of ring twinning.

Councillor D Smedley reiterated the congratulations of Councillors on the appointment of the Town Clerk, and informed members that Councillor D Dundas had resigned as a Conservative Councillor and would now be standing as an Independent Councillor.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs G Boyle declared an interest under Appendix 'A' in Item 14, land south of Wordsworth Close as she resides on London Road. Councillor Mrs Boyle left the meeting during the discussion of this item and voting thereon. Councillor C Spruce declared an interest under Appendix 'B' in item 13.

49 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 September 2017 (Nos 36-46) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

50 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17 August and 14 September 2017 be received.*

51 JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the Minutes and recommendations of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee held on 3 October 2017.

RESOLVED:

- a) *That the Minutes and recommendations of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee meeting held on 3 October 2017 be approved.***
- b) *That the Town Clerk writes to the two retiring attendants to thank them on behalf of the City Council for their outstanding contribution to the Birthplace museum.***

52 OFFICERS' REPORT

The Mayor took each item from the Officers' Report in turn. Councillor C Greateorex stated that the Sheriff's Ride was the envy of other Sheriffs and added his thanks to all volunteers who helped with the event. He also mentioned the attendance of the Sheriff at the Shrievalty Weekend. Councillor R Awty noted that the visitor numbers were again increasing at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum and thanked the Museum and Heritage Officer for her efforts. Councillor Mrs G Boyle stated that the Mayor gave a remarkable speech during the Twinning Weekend and represented the City with aplomb. Councillor C Greateorex highlighted the professional advice that is enlisted to ensure that the City Council makes every effort to carry out the most appropriate maintenance work to trees in its ownership.

RESOLVED: That the Report as contained in Agenda Appendix 1 be received, and that officers be commended for their informative report.

53 3rd BATTALION THE MERCIAN REGIMENT (STAFFORDS) - OLD COLOURS PARADE 13 JANUARY 2018

A request from Captain DSH Maddock on behalf of the Mercian Regiment to parade 3 Mercian (The Staffords) old colours through the City of Lichfield on 13 January 2018 prior to laying them up in Lichfield Cathedral was considered.

RESOLVED: That the request to parade through the City be approved; that the City Council welcomes the long association between the City and this Regiment, and confirms its strong support for and appreciation of its dedicated and distinguished service.

54 REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROGRAMME 2017/18 – PROGRESS REPORT

Members considered the Town Clerk's report on the progress of the 2017/18 The 2017/18 Repair and Renovation programme (**Agenda Appendix 2**).

RESOLVED: That the Repair and Renovation Progress Report be noted.

55 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The audit of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 was completed on 27 September 2017. The external auditor, Grant Thornton, issued an unqualified report confirming that there are **no** matters which it wishes to draw to the attention of the Council. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has consequently been published.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted, and that the thanks of the City Council be passed to Alison James and Graham Keatley for their efforts in this matter.

56 PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT (LCTSG) - 2018/19

Members considered the changes to LCTSG, confirmation that it was to be withdrawn by Lichfield District Council having been received and circulated following the publication of the agenda.

RESEOLVED: That Lichfield District Council's decision to remove the LCTSG allocation to Parish Councils from 2018/19 be noted.

57 SAMUEL JOHNSON MOSAIC – BIRD STREET

Consideration was given to the Civic Society request for grant funding from the City Council to enable the repairs to the Samuel Johnson mosaic in Bird Street to proceed.

RESOLVED: *That subject to confirmation that the appropriate public liability insurance is in place for the removal and reinstallation of the mosaic, and that the City Council accepts no liability in the matter, a grant of £400 be made available from the City Council's Grant Aid/Partnerships budget to fund the repairs to the Samuel Johnson mosaic located on the corner of Bird Street.*

58 ANNUAL UPDATE OF CITY COUNCIL POLICIES

Consideration was given to the review from a local solicitor in matters relating to employment law. Following this year's review, amendments have been suggested to the City Council's Grievance Procedure, Disciplinary Procedure, Maternity Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

RESOLVED: *That the draft revised Grievance Procedure, Disciplinary Procedure, Maternity Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy be adopted.*

59 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The District Council advised that the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan should take between two and three months and that further updates will follow in due course. The final stage of the Neighbourhood Plan is the referendum, where it must obtain majority support from electors if it is to be adopted. The Plan then becomes part of the formal Development Plan for the area, with legal force, and helps shape the direction of future employment development in the City.

RESOLVED: *That the Neighbourhood Plan update be noted.*

60 LAND SOUTH OF WORDSWORTH CLOSE, LICHFIELD

Further to the City Council advertising its proposals to dispose of land South of Wordsworth Close, consideration was given to the objections received and the next steps were discussed.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor D Dundas, but this was not seconded.

A request for a named vote was made by Councillor D Smedley. The vote was recorded as follows:

For the motion: Councillors Mrs J Allsopp, R Awty, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs G Boyle, B Cocksey, C Greatorex, Mrs J Greaves, P Hitchman, Mrs S James, D Leytham, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, B McMullan, D Smedley, A Smith, C Spruce, Mrs L Warfield, M Warfield and R Yardley.

Against the motion: None.

Abstentions: Councillor D Dundas.

RESOLVED:

- a) Following consideration of the correspondence received, the City Council decision to enter in to an option agreement for the disposal of the land (as detailed in the Town Clerk's confidential report to Council of 11 September 2017) be formalised**
- b) That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, to instruct legal advisors to proceed to 'heads of terms', with finalised agreements to be prepared.**

61 STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (SPCA) AGM

Members were advised that the SPCA AGM will this year be held on the evening of **Monday, 4th December 2017** at Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford, commencing at 6.45pm. This will be the 78th AGM of the Association.

RESOLVED: *That the information be noted.*

62 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: *That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed in Agenda Appendix 3 for the periods 1 August 2017 to 31 August 2017 in the sum of £61,899.33 General Account, and £1,418.99 Imprest Account.*

63 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To Resolve: that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting.

64 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Members considered the minutes of the meetings of the Interview Panel appointed by the Staffing Committee to appoint a new Town Clerk (Agenda Appendix 6 and 7).

RESOLVED:

a) To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Interview Panel appointed by the Staffing Committee held on Tuesday 12 September 2017

b) To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Interview Panel appointed by the Staffing Committee held on 29 September 2017

c) That the thanks of the City Council be passed to the new Town Clerk and City Council staff who had worked so well in such difficult circumstances following the death of the previous Town Clerk.

65 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes and recommendations of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 October 2017 (Agenda Appendix 8).

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes and Recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 October 2017 be adopted.*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.15 PM

MAYOR