

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 6.30 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Eadie, Mrs J Eagland (CD), D Leytham, P Ray, A Smith and M Thompson.

87 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on a number of recent civic and other engagements attended; including the Service at St Peter & Paul's Roman Catholic Church on Sunday 22 January, a performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by My Inter Theatre Company at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday 25 January, and the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Lichfield Cathedral School on Friday 27 January.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

89 COUNCIL MINUTES

Cllr A Thompson proposed the addition of the following text to the end of the final paragraph of minute number 79 to read '...but it is essential that the footpath between Longbridge and Tamworth Roads be maintained'. The proposal was seconded by Councillor D Smedley and duly put to the vote, which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 December 2016 (Nos 72-86) as amended be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

90 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 23 November and 15 December 2016 be received.

91 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor M Warfield commended officers for an excellent report, noting in particular the very successful Mayor and Sheriff's Charity Dinner Dance; the high number of Schools visiting the Birthplace Museum, and the continued strong letting performance of the Guildhall. Councillor C Greatorex highlighted twinning activities and praised the excellent contribution made by the City Council's Twinning Officer.

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

92 FEES AND CHARGES 2017/18

Councillor D Smedley outlined the fees and charges proposals for Members. Namely, no increase to be levied on market stalls charges for the 2017/18 financial year in order to maintain the stability and appeal of the Markets; a 3% increase to be applied to Guildhall hire charges from 1 April 2017 as set out in agenda appendix B; the protected rates in respect of Friday bookings for existing hirers prior to the simplification of hire charges in 2014 be retained for a further year; and that no increase be applied to photocopying charges.

RESOLVED:

a) That no increase in charges for Market stalls be levied for the 2017/18 financial year.

- b) That with effect from 1 April 2017 Guildhall hire charges be as detailed in Agenda Appendix 2, but that the protected rates for the two Friday hirers continue for a further year with a 3% increase on their current Friday charges.*
- c) That no increase be applied to the charges for photocopying.*

93 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT FROM 1 APRIL 2017

Councillor D Smedley outlined the report and recommendations for Members, stating that the existing Service Agreement had been extremely effective and that the revised Agreement had been the subject of considerable work by Officers and Councillors to ensure it was appropriate for the City. Councillor J Brooks commended officers and Councillors for a thorough and carefully considered agreement.

RESOLVED: That the revised ongoing Service Agreement with Lichfield District Council Operational Service for grounds maintenance services, as contained in the draft Service Agreement circulated with the agenda, be adopted with effect from 1 April 2017.

94 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2016

Councillor D Smedley introduced the report at Agenda Appendix 4, summarising income and expenditure against budget for the period 1 April to 31 December 2016.

RESOLVED: That the nine month Financial Progress Report be noted.

95 BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017/18

Councillor D Smedley outlined the budget estimates as contained at Agenda Appendix 5 that recommended a 4% increase in the precept for 2017/18 (to £57.05 for an average Band D property) to reduce the impact of the forthcoming reduction in the local council tax support grant passed from Lichfield District Council to Lichfield City Council in 2017/18 (reducing by 18.5% against the 2016/17 figure); whilst allowing some improved grounds maintenance provision, and the continuation of repair and improvement works to the City Councils public buildings and property assets.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the Budget Estimate and Report for the 2017/18 financial year totalling £724,910 (including a contribution from reserves of (£24,209; and that the amount of precept plus council tax support grant for 2017/18 be set at £700,701 [based upon a precept of £672,917 plus £27,784 local council tax support grant].

96 REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROGRAMME 2017/18

Councillor D Smedley introduced the draft Repair and Renovation programme for 2017/18, emphasising that the items contained therein were either essential repairs or would have a positive impact upon the general public when utilising City Council owned buildings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the programme of works as set out in agenda appendix 6 be addressed.

97 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed for the periods;

- a) 1 October 2016 – 31 October 2016 in the sum of £149,023.63 General Account, and £842.99 Imprest Account.*
- b) 1 November 2016 – 30 November 2016 in the sum of £85,348.84 General Account, and £1,270.07 Imprest Account.*
- c) 1 December 2016 – 31 December 2016 in the sum of £66,197.29 General Account, and £853.10 Imprest Account.*

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.04 PM**

MAYOR