

## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Monday 14 March 2022 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Yardley (Mayor), J Anketell, H Ashton, D Baker, C Ball, Mrs G Boyle, J Checkland, D Dundas, Mrs J Eagland, M Field, C Greatorex, Mrs J Greaves, R Harrison, I Jackson, P Jones, A Lax, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, C Rapley, P Ray, D Robertson, A Smith, J Smith, C Spruce, M Trent, and M Warfield.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors P McDermott, S Pritchard

**A MINUTES SILENCE WAS HELD IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE, AND  
IN MEMORY OF FORMER CITY COUNCILLOR VALERIE DIGGLE,  
WHO DIED ON 14 JANUARY 2022**

#### 92 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported the death of Pauline Duvall on 7 April and offered his condolences to friends and family. The Mayor then reported on the engagements he has attended in recent weeks including the Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony at Drayton Manor Park, the Cross Keys development ground-breaking ceremony, the celebration of Revd Ian Hayter's Ministry at Wade St Church, The Rotary Club of St Chad and Arthur Price of England inter-schools Speaking Competition, the Mayor and Sheriff's Charity events and the Shrovetide Pancake Races. The Mayor also reminded members that tickets were still available for the Sheriff's Show at the Friary School on Friday 1 April.

#### 93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillors R Harrison, M Warfield, D Robertson and D Baker declared an interest under Appendix A of the City Council's Code of Conduct in relation to agenda item 8 (minute 97) Grants Committee.

Councillors D Baker, P Jones, J Smith, Mrs G Boyle, D Robertson, C Ball, R Harrison, H Ashton, Miss J Marks, Mrs J Greaves, M Field and M Warfield declared an interest under Appendix B of the City Council's Code of Conduct in relation to agenda item 8 (minute 97) Grants Committee.

#### 94 COUNCIL MINUTES

Councillor C Ball requested his seconding of the proposal by Councillor Robertson regarding a 0% precept increase for 2022/23 be added to the minutes.

***RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 January 2022 (Nos 74-91), be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Colin Ball as seconder to the proposal made by Councillor D Robertson at Minute no.84.***

#### 95 MATTERS ARISING

None.

#### 96 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)

***RESOLVED: That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 24 December 2021 to 24 February 2022 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.***

**97 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Members considered the Minutes and recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee following their meeting of 1 February 2022. Councillor P Ray commented that it was good to see applications from a wider range of bodies and hoped that this would continue in the future.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee meeting held on 1 February 2022 be adopted.**

**98 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Members considered the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 10 March 2022; the Internal Audit report which was discussed at that meeting having been circulated to all members. Councillor C Spruce and Councillor D Robertson both stated that positive and robust debates had been held at the meeting. Councillor Robertson also highlighted the changes to the Reserves Policy that reduce the amount of general reserves that the Council would look to hold, and noted the timing was too late for any reconsideration of the 2022/23 precept. Councillor Spruce commented that this was the best Audit Committee he had ever sat on.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 March 2022 be adopted.**

**99 NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE**

**a) Mayor Elect**

It was proposed by Councillor Christopher Spruce, seconded by Councillor Mrs Janet Eagland and

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Jamie Checkland be nominated Mayor Elect for the year 2022/23.**

**b) Deputy Mayor Elect**

It was proposed by Councillor Mark Warfield, seconded by Councillor Tim Matthews and

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Paul Jones be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for 2022/23.**

**c) Sheriff Elect**

It was proposed by Councillor Andrew Smith, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gwyneth Boyle and

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Janice Greaves be nominated Sheriff Elect for the year 2022/23.**

**100 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

Consideration was given to the draft calendar of meetings.

**RESOLVED: That the calendar of meetings for 2021/22 be as follows;**

DATE	TIME	MEETING
<b>2022</b>		
Monday, 16 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 25 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, 2 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)

Thursday, 9 June	6.30pm	Audit Committee
<b>Monday, 13 June</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL (Year-end accounts)</b>
Thursday, 23 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>Monday, 25 July</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
Thursday, 18 August	6.30 pm	Planning Committee (if called)
WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>TUESDAY, 27 September</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
Thursday, 13 October	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Tuesday, 1 November	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Thursday, 3 November	6.30pm	Staffing Committee
Thursday, 10 November	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Thursday, 8 December	6.30pm	Audit Committee
<b>Monday, 12 December</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
WEDNESDAY, 14 December	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>2023</b>		
Thursday, 12 January	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>Monday, 23 January</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday 13 February	6.30pm	Grants Advisory Committee
Thursday, 2 March	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Thursday, 9 March	6.30pm	Audit Committee
<b>Monday 13 March</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
Thursday, 6 April	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>Monday 17 April</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
Tuesday, 25 April	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
<b>Monday, 15 May</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ANNUAL COUNCIL</b>
<b>Wednesday, 24 May</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</b>
Thursday, 1 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)

## 101 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members noted the Town Clerk's agenda report on the ongoing Community Governance Review being conducted by Lichfield District Council and the request for a formal response from LCC. The Leader's proposal included the outcomes from discussions with Councillor P McDermott, namely that the proposal include specific reference to the housing developments taking place in the South of the City and the resulting effect on the electors/councillor ratio in St John's ward in particular.

Councillor C Greatorex spoke about the potential confusion that such specific comments could have at this stage of the consultation process. Councillor D Robertson highlighted that only two City wards were within 10% of mean member/resident balance. It was proposed by Councillor A Lax and seconded by Councillor C Greatorex that the council adopt the recommendation as written on the agenda, rather than the proposal by the Leader. Councillor Warfield withdrew the original proposal and the recommendation as written on the agenda papers was put to the vote and declared passed.

**RESOLVED: Delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk to respond to the CGR consultation in the name of the City Council. The response to reflect:**

- a) The view expressed by Council over the past several years - that Garrick Road ward should be incorporated into Chadsmead, Burton Old Road ward into Stowe and Pentire Road ward into Boley Park, thereby creating coterminous parish and district boundaries.*
- b) The City Council would support Streethay Ward becoming part of the Lichfield City Parish, but any decision to drive this proposal should be initially subject to the view of Streethay residents.*
- c) When assessing future options, LDC is asked to have regard to the current unequal allocation of councillors which results in a significant variation in the ratio of electors to councillors across LCC wards.*
- d) To confirm the Council's desire for the recommendations of the review to be implemented in time for the 2023 local elections.*

## **102 OFFICERS' REPORT**

Councillor C Greatorex noted how useful it was to see before and after pictures of work undertaken on the Open Spaces report in particular at the Clock Tower and noted the use of CIL monies for new cycle stands at the City Council's community centres. Councillor Trent also welcomed the addition of new cycle racks and commented that the recent article in CityLife magazine inviting suggestions for CIL spend had led to several enquiries from organisations within his Ward and urged members to spread the word within their community. Councillor R Harrison commended the work of the Open Spaces Officer for the desilting of the brook at Netherstowe however noted that some rubbish still remained on the banks, the Town Clerk to investigate further. Councillor C Ball welcomed the installation of the new rubbish bins at Curborough Community Centre stating that they were a vast improvement.

**RESOLVED:** *That the report be noted.*

## **103 LICHFIELD DISTRICT CITY OF SANCTUARY**

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report and the request for specific LCC members to be appointed as representatives on this outside body. Councillor C Ball spoke in favour of the group, confirming his involvement for the past two or three years and thanking the Council for proposing him to act as a representative on this body. Councillor A Lax expressed her strong support for the group and asked that representatives report back to Council if it was felt that LCC could assist further in the future.

**RESOLVED:**

*a) The City Council declares its support for the vision and principles of Lichfield District City of Sanctuary*

*b) The Council appoints Councillors H Ashton, D Baker and C Ball as LCC representatives on this outside body for a period of three years.*

## **104 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** *That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed in the agenda for the period 1 December 2021 to 31 December 2021 in the sum of £89,206.41 General Account, and £453.23 Imprest Account.*

## **105 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** *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.*

**106 DARWIN HALL**

Members considered the Town Clerk's confidential report. Several members spoke on this matter, with the general view being that the appropriate process was being followed and that it was essential for expert advice to be sought and received throughout.

***RESOLVED: Delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk to progress matters as set out in the agenda report, with further reports to Council to be provided as the situation evolves.***

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.26PM**

**MAYOR**

DRAFT