

## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall at 10:30 am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

#### PRESENT:

Representing Lichfield City Council:

Councillors Cllr G Boyle (Chair) and Cllrs J Anketell D Dundas, J Eagland, C Rapley, C Spruce, and R Yardley.

#### In Attendance:

A Briggs (Town Clerk)  
Joanne Wilson (Museums & Heritage Officer)  
Lisa Hand (Museum Support Officer)  
J Winterton (Johnson Society representative)  
R Awty and T Thompson (Honorary Members)

#### Apologies:

P Jones, Cllr T Matthews.

#### 9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

#### 10. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.* [Minutes adopted by Council on 12 December 2022].

#### 11. MATTERS ARISING FROM JBAC MINUTES

Update on the Lomax Bust: funds have been raised by J. Oates via an appeal to residents, and local specialists have offered their services at reduced or zero cost to enable the installation to take place. The bust is soon to arrive at Donegal House for safekeeping while it is inspected and assessed prior to its installation. The bust should be installed over summer 2023.

#### 12. FORWARD PLAN: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2023-2026

The Committee considered the Aims and Objectives report. The committee discussed the goal of the Museum to have an average donation of 50p per person; the average donation per head for the last 2 financial years has been 39p pp.

Aim 1 on the report was addressed: The offer of staff and volunteer training & development is open to JBAC members.

Aim 3 on the report was addressed 'Work with the Johnson Society to support their exploration of fundraising for expansion into an adjacent building': J Winterton requested that the item be reworded to reflect the current position, i.e. that support for such expansion remained but there was no proactive work taking place by the Johnson Society currently as LCC has not committed to any such project. It was determined that the Town Clerk will investigate costs of a feasibility study regarding expansion to provide a working document that will enable more complete consideration of the costs and benefits of such a project should such an opportunity arise in the future.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the revised Forward Plan be adopted.**
- 2. The costs of a feasibility study into the potential expansion of the Museum be investigated and provided to the Committee.**

**13. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

The MHO provided a brief update, confirming the budget for the remaining phase one work had been approved by Council at its January meeting. Plans are being finalised for composition and installation of the toilet block; a demountable toilet block is no longer an option due to cost, however there is the alternative option of having a pre-constructed toilet block that can be lifted into position by crane. A contractor who specialises in such installations will review the site on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, and the architect is looking at costs. The new workroom will be installed before or after the toilets depending on the timeframe. It was mentioned that some committee members had not seen the reports for the work carried out in 2022. The MHO to send out the 2022 reports to the committee members.

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

**14. QUINQUENNIAL ARCHITECT INSPECTION**

The Quinquennial inspection of the Birthplace building was undertaken by Andrew Hayward of Brownhill Hayward Brown in March 2023. No significant identifiable issues were reported.

Three 'Priority A' items are recommended:

- 1) that access to inspect the hidden valley gutter between the Birthplace and Number 36 Market Street is investigated.
- 2) that small areas of some ceilings and walls are made good post re-wiring.
- 3) that the boiler is inspected and monitored regarding an area of apparent corrosion.

Item 2) is already budgeted in the development plans for 2023/2024 and item 3) addressed during annual boiler checks by CBS systems. Item 1) will be pursued with BHB, with a view to reporting on any resulting associated costs at the next JBAC meeting for inclusion, if required, in R&R budgets for 2024/2025. The full inspection report is available to members on request.

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

**15. COSTS AND CHARGES**

The Committee discussed concerns over the Cost of Living Crisis and the school charges increase; The MHO explained the tiered system which gives schools different options and that the Museum always offer a free option during holidays and half term for families who do not wish to participate in a paid trail or craft.

***RESOLVED: That the 2023/24 costs and charges be approved.***

**16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

In the Calendar of Meetings of 10:30am on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Following the adoption of the Minutes of the JBAC meeting of 6 November 2018, additional meetings may be called in the meantime if appropriate.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11:15am**