

## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Monday 24 July 2023 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Hughes (Mayor), J Anketell, D Baker, C Ball, J Blackman, R Bragger, J Christie, J Eagland, K Farrelly, M Field, A Fox, C Greatorex, R Harvey-Coggins, S Hollingsworth, P Knight, A Lax, J Marshall, P McDermott, C Pinder- Smith, D Robertson, A Rushton, S Schafer, J Smith, E Strain, B Watkins and R Yardley.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors P Ray and M Warfield.

#### **36 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor detailed the events and functions that she had attended, covering a wide variety of educational, cultural and sporting activities including Lichfield's first Pride march and the Mayor's Bowls match. The Mayor also informed members that the Mayor at Home event had been substituted for a back to school uniform exchange on 25 August and thanked all those Councillors who had agreed to help on the day.

#### **37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Councillor P Knight declared an interest under Appendix B of the City Council's code of conduct in relation to agenda item 14, Curborough Community Centre.

#### **38 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 June 2023 (Nos 17-35) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

#### **39 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

#### **40 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)**

**RESOLVED:** *That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 26 May to 12 July 2023 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.*

*The meeting was adjourned for Public Forum*

A member of the public offered the following statement:

### A “Fresher” day for the City!

I would like to invite Lichfield City Council to consider allowing at least one day each year for all, and any, local organisations to come into the Guildhall space to publicise their activities, and thus invite new members to join. It would not be for commercial organisations.

The loss of the *Lichfield Mercury* has marginalised a great many people who do not have access to an efficient means of knowing what is available for recreation in the city. Staying physically and socially active is acknowledged as being crucial for mental and physical well-being. It helps knit society together. *And it is FUN.*

There are so many fringe groups that could overlap: choirs, allotment holders, local bands, charities, U3A, art groups, walking and cycling groups, Transition Lichfield, Re-cycle, the Repair Cafe, Friends of Lichfield City Station, yoga practitioners, W.I., Housewives Register, play-groups, Morris dancers, contemporary dancers, the Litter Legends, Cat Protection League, Shakespeare in the Park, theatre groups, The Lichfield Players, The Pathway Project, The Operatic Society, the Civic Society, the Johnson Society, Darwin House, Volunteers in the Parks, and supporters of so many and varied charities and fitness groups. People with hobbies and interests who want to take part and be included in new and interesting things.

All kinds of organisations and groups if invited to put up a stall to advertise and show what they do, could encourage membership and opportunities to make new contacts and friends.

It would be opportunity for Lichfield to get to know itself, for people to develop skills and interests and to form mutually supportive groups.

The day could invite choirs and bands to do 10 minute slots, and groups have a slot to talk about their particular activity. Everyone can find something of interest or entertainment.

*And it would be FUN and at no cost.*

Councillor D Roberston responded to confirm that the Council was already doing this by holding Community days on the Market square where there is a high footfall. These days allow local charitable and voluntary groups to highlight their activities. He continued that Lichfield Cathedral also holds volunteer fairs and the City Council works closely with many community groups throughout the City.

*The meeting was reconvened*

#### **41 MARKETS WORKING GROUP**

Members considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Markets Working Group held on 13 July 2023. Members particular attention was drawn to the recommendation to Council at Minute 15c, which detailed the imposition of a 'double hire fee' on any hirer of Pool Walk who did not comply with an agreed layout for Pool Walk.

***RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Markets Working Group meeting held on 13 July 2023 be adopted.***

#### **42 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Members considered the minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 13 July 2023. The Minutes included recommendations to council regarding terms of reference, delegated authority to agree free or reduced cost use of Council facilities within certain parameters, and the allocation of up to £10,000 of the Grants Reserve to support summer holiday activities for families and children, plus an allocation of up to £12,000 of CIL to provide an extension to the existing pathway along Eastern Avenue towards the Sports Club.

***RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Grants Committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 be adopted.***

#### **43 CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

Members considered the draft Terms of Reference for this Committee, together with proposed membership.

***RESOLVED: That the draft Terms of Reference be adopted and that membership be; Cllr R Harvey Coggins (Chair), and Cllrs E Strain (Vice Chair), J Blackman, A Hughes, a Lax and A Rushton.***

#### **44 OFFICERS' REPORT**

Councillor C Greatorex noted the increase in followers on the Markets Facebook page and congratulated officers in facilitating a successful Twinning Weekend in Limburg.

Councillor J Smith commented that the pictures of the wildflowers at St Chads did not do them justice.

Councillor A Lax added that the retention of hanging baskets in the city would increase biodiversity.

Councillor D Robertson thanked the Council for providing funding to Lichfield Pride enabling the first ever march to take place, noting that the event was attended by approximately 200-300 people.

***RESOLVED: That the Report be noted***

**45 POOL WALK – REQUEST FOR FREE USE**

Members considered the agenda report following a request from Lichfield District Council for free use of Pool Walk for the Velodrome event held on 24 June 2023.

***RESOLVED: That Council approve the free use of Minster Pool Walk to support the Velodrome event held on 24 June 2023***

**46 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered the agenda report detailing the vacancy that had arisen for an LCC representative to Dr Milley's Hospital.

***RESOLVED: That Cllr R Harvey Coggins be nominated as LCC's representative to Dr Milley's Hospital until the expiry of the current period of office in March 2027.***

**47 SOLAR PANELS AND BATTERIES – CURBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members considered the request to install solar panels and batteries at Curborough Community Centre, the request being made by Curborough Community Association who manage the centre on behalf of the Council.

***RESOLVED: Lichfield City Council grant permission for the installation of solar panels and associated batteries at Curborough Community Centre, on the conditions that such installation is based upon the recommendations of a survey of the roof to ensure structural stability, the location of the batteries is also appropriate and does not adversely affect the accessibility or functionality of the hall or its grounds, and that the liability for repair and maintenance of the installation and its ancillaries remain with Curborough Community Association.***

**48 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Councillor C Greatorex queried the payment for an inspection programme. The Town Clerk confirmed this was the inspection programme for the Guildhall lift which is required by law and for insurance purposes.

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

- 1 April 2023 to 30 April 2023 in the sum of £146,969.59 General Account, and £584.59 Imprest Account.***
- 1 May 2023 to 31 May 2023 in the sum of £106,870.46 General Account, and £1,220.42 Imprest Account***

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10PM**

**MAYOR**