

For Council: 15 April 2024 APPENDIX 1

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Harvey-Coggins (Chair) and Councillors J Blackman, A Hughes, A Lax, A Rushton and E Strain.

APOLOGIES: None

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr E Strain declared an interest in agenda item 4 (3) (Minute 19 (3)) – Bicycle Repair Stations - as a Trustee of Lichfield Re:Cycle.

18. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 22 January 2024].*

19. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report detailing progress on identified priorities since the previous meeting:

1. Herb Garden Areas in LCC Open Spaces

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following site meetings at the preferred site at Leomansley View. It was agreed that support could be given by the council to local groups wishing to establish and maintain herb gardens in their area; such support including the provision of planters and plants. It was further agreed that a press release seeking engagement from Community Groups/local contacts be prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated to committee members for comment. Once finalised, the press release to be circulated to LCC members, community groups, community halls etc. Responses to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

2. Water Fountains/Refill Points

The Chair provided a verbal update following her meeting with 'City to Sea', which offered an all-encompassing solution, but it was agreed by all that the costs were too high. It was agreed that stickers in shop windows that clearly advertised the availability of free water was a much cheaper way of securing a similar provision. Cllr Blackman advised that environmentally friendly stickers were available and agreed to pass details to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk to draft a letter for local businesses and circulate to the Committee for comment, the intention being that the finalised letter to include a suitable sticker, with a request for the sticker to be displayed prominently in the shop window. The Town Clerk confirmed that hand delivery of these letters to city centre shops could be arranged.

3. Bicycle Repair Stations

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following various discussions with Network Rail, SCC and LDC regarding potential location/s for a cycle repair station. Cllr E Strain advised that Lichfield Re:Cycle would be willing to enter into an agreement with LCC

regarding monitoring/maintenance of the station once installed – the detail of such an agreement and its relative responsibilities to be discussed further at a later date. Both Cllr A Hughes and A Lax raised concern as to the costs of the selected station, and there were also questions as to the location and colour.

Mindful of the short timescale between this meeting and the meeting of the Grants Committee, and the detail and final costs yet to be agreed, it was decided that a recommendation be put to the Grants Committee as set out below to seek surety of funding and allow swift progress should funding be granted:

That the Grants Committee consider allocating up to £3,000 of CIL to facilitate the purchase and associated costs of a cycle repair station to be sited on LDC land adjacent to Pool Walk as identified by LDC's Conservation Officer. Should the Grants Committee approve the request in principle and be subsequently adopted by council, the final details of the location, installation, and specification to be agreed by the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee in consultation with LDC and other stakeholders.

It was agreed that Cllr Strain would prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee that provided options for some of the currently undecided matters (exact location within the Conservation Officer's preferred area, colour, final spec etc).

4. No Mow May/Wildflower Areas

Members considered the Town Clerk's update which confirmed 'no mow' provision being as it had been for 2023, focusing on nether Stowe and Festival Gardens. The report also confirmed that officers had progressed two additional wildflower areas for 2024 (Broad Lane and Eastern Avenue) and that work on these was ongoing. It was agreed that the signage used for the 'no mow' sites in 2023 would be used again in 2024 to advise residents and visitors of the actions being taken.

5. LCC Carbon Emissions

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following discussions with the Conservation Officer as to the possibility of solar panels being fixed to LCC owned buildings – such discussions being generally negative but not excluding the possibility, and the information requested from LDC regarding carbon reduction/sequestering, confirming that the main officer contact had now left LDC. It was agreed that any maintenance to the Guildhall roof should include discussion of the possibility of solar panels. Cllr J Blackman agreed to provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee regarding the possibility of solar tiles.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted and matters progressed as individually discussed.

20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed once the outcome of discussions at the Grants Committee are known, but likely to take place prior to the June meeting of Council; the Town Clerk to circulate updates in due course.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.55pm**