

For Council: 24 July 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 26 June 2024 at 6.00pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Farrelly, A Lax and A Rushton.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 15 April 2024].*

3. 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

The Town Clerk confirmed a request for community groups interested in working with LCC to provide this or similar benefits to its open spaces to come forward was included in the most recent issue of LCC's 'City View' supplement in City Life magazine. Lichfield Litter Legends have planted bulbs and plants around LCC's entrance to the City signs as part of an ongoing collaboration. It was agreed this item would be left in abeyance pending further discussion later in the year.

2. Water Fountains/Refill Points

It was agreed that, following the Town Clerk's work to establish the proliferation of sites affiliated with the 'refill' app in the City Centre, there was little justification in further pursuing the Committee's emerging (and similar) proposals. It was suggested that the 'Refill' logo be added to the LCC website with the permission of the copyright owners.

3. Bicycle Repair Stations

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following various discussions and developments that had taken place since the last meeting. It was agreed the station would be located adjacent to Speakers Corner as approximately shown in the agenda report, be coloured in RAL 6005 and have the LCC and Lichfield Re:Cycle logos (the latter to be provided to the Town Clerk by Cllr Strain). To accommodate this, one of the benches and a litter bin will be re-sited on Minster Pool Walk. It was also agreed that the station should feature a cycle, pram and wheelchair symbol. A set of spares to also be ordered.

4. No Mow May/Wildflower Areas

The Town Clerk confirmed the signage used for the 'no mow' sites had been installed to advise residents and visitors of the actions being taken.

5. LCC Carbon Emissions

Cllr Blackman provided information on solar tiles and matting, plus various options for installation. It was agreed that officers would discuss all options on LCC buildings with the Conservation Officer to establish what, in general terms, could be acceptable and where. The roof of Donegal house was suggested as a possible site for a solar installation that would not be visible to the public. The Committee to further consider the matter once feedback/options had been received from the Conservation Officer.

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

4. OTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Harvey-Coggins raised the issue of pesticide use on LCC open spaces. The Town Clerk confirmed that LCC does not itself use any pesticides, but that they are used on LCC open spaces by LDC as part of the Grounds Maintenance contract, with such use declining significantly in the past few years. Cllr Harvey-Coggins stated she would raise the matter with the LDC Cabinet member responsible.

Councillor Blackman raised the possibility of carbon sequestering and possible locations for the planting of additional trees on LCC Open Spaces. The Town Clerk suggested officers could discuss this with LDC's Ecologist/Diversity Net Gain Specialist to establish next steps/viability of sites etc.

Following attendance at a NALC Climate webinar, Cllr Blackman raised the following points:

1. EPC mapping via 'Parish Online' – The Town Clerk confirmed LCC subscribes to 'Parish Online' and that this mapping tool could seemingly be accessed as a result.
2. Carbon Literacy Certification for members/officers – Cllr Blackman to carry out further research regarding costs/provision.
3. Collaboration with Woodlands Trust – officers to make contact with the Trust to gather further information regarding the provision of advice, guidance etc.

5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 11 September at 6.00pm in the Moulton Room, Guildhall

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.35pm**