

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Wednesday 23 July 2025 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Harvey-Coggins (Deputy Mayor, in the Chair), H Ashton, C Ball, J Blackman, R Bragger, J Christie, M Field, A Fox, C Greateorex, A Hughes, A Lax, J Madden, P McDermott, P Ray, D Robertson, E Strain, B Watkins and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Anketell, D Baker, J Eagland, K Farrelly, P Knight, J Marshall, C Pinder-Smith, A Rushton, S Schafer, J Smith and M Warfield.

29 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor detailed the events and functions she had attended which included a Tower Tour of St Mary's, Forest Schools event and the opening of a shop.

The Deputy Mayor also reminded Members of the School Uniform Bank event on Friday 29 August and asked for volunteers to help the Civic Officer.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr J Blackman declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Minute 35) as he is a web designer, however as the creation of the two new micro sites are of no benefit to him or his company he remained in the room.

31 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 June 2025 (No.s 15-28) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

32 MATTERS ARISING

None.

33 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 30 May to 9 July 2025 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.

Councillor C Greateorex noted how efficient the planning consultation process has been for the last five years since in person meetings were replaced by the digital circulation of plans and recommendations and commended the Administrative Officer for her diligent work.

34 CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes and recommendations of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee meeting held on 26 June 2025. Cllrs A Hughes and J Blackman thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for facilitating the 'Bug Hotels' competition, the winner of which will be announced shortly.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Climate Change and Biodiversity

Committee meeting held on 26 June 2025 be adopted.

35 MARKETS WORKING GROUP

Members considered the minutes and recommendations of the Markets Working Group meeting held on 1 July 2025. The minutes included recommendations that the amended Terms of Reference be adopted and for the redesign of a new LCC website and creation of two micro sites for the Guildhall and Markets.

Cllr C Greateorex expressed concerns at the MWG being renamed the *Commercial Services Committee* and that this could preclude the attendance of Market Traders, commenting an additional sub committee should be set up instead.

Cllr A Hughes stated that the expansion of the committee to consider all commercial aspects of the Council was more effective and would be no additional burden on Officer time. Cllr R Bragger noted that during his year as Chair of the MWG no traders had ever attended the MWG. Cllr P McDermott added that the current Markets Officer had established a good dialogue with traders and any concerns raised were reported back to the committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Markets Working Group held on 1 July 2025 be adopted, with the exception of the recommendation to council at Minute no. 4.***
- 2) That Council [as per subsequent discussions to the meeting between the Council Leader and Chair of the Committee] instruct Vision ICT to prepare two microsites for the Guildhall and Markets, based on cost estimates received.***

36 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Following Cllr J Smith's request to step down from the MWG/Commercial Services Committee, Cllr H Ashton has been suggested to replace him.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoint Cllr H Ashton to replace Cllr J Smith on the Markets Working Group/Commercial Services Committee.

37 FAIRTRADE

Members considered the Agenda report to renew Lichfield's Fairtrade status which lapsed in 2006, noting that the first stage is for the Council to resolve its commitment to Fairtrade. Cllr H Ashton thanked Cllr R Harvey-Coggins for her commitment to revitalise Lichfield as a Fairtrade City. Cllr R Harvey-Coggins and Cllr A Hughes stated that they would be approaching local community groups to encourage the setting up of a steering committee to organise Fairtrade events etc. as this could not be a Council led initiative.

Cllr A Fox commented that he supported Fairtrade but queried if there would be any financial liability for the Council in using Fairtrade products.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the principles of Fairtrade and demonstrates its commitment by purchasing Fairtrade beverages and other products as appropriate for City Council functions.

38 OFFICERS' REPORT

Cllrs C Ball and A Hughes commended the Open Spaces Officer on how attractive the Council's public Open Spaces looked, in particular the wild flowering and Heather Gardens.

Cllr A Hughes commended the Museums and Heritage Officer for the fantastic range of activities at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace and the new ways of encouraging members of the public to visit.

Cllr A Hughes also commended the Civic Officer and asked all Members to support the School Uniform Bank event on Friday 29 August.

Cllrs C Greateorex and J Blackman asked if the LCC website and Facebook statistics could be reported more clearly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

39 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr A Hughes noted the Samuel Johnson Birthplace advertisement costing £90.00 in the WI yearbook and asked if other advertisements for Council activities would be possible.

Councillor C Greateorex queried the cost of security at Council meetings and asked if all Councillors could be advised of further training courses being run by the SPCA.

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

- a) 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025 in the sum of £202,808.55 General Account and £495.40 Imprest Account.***
- b) 1 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 in the sum of £105,444.47 General Account and £571.58 Imprest Account.***

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.05PM

MAYOR