

For Council: 23 July 2025 APPENDIX 1

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee on Thursday 26 2025 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors J Blackman (Chair), A Huges, A Lax, and E Strain.

APOLOGIES: Councillors R Harvey-Coggins 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 10 April 2025 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 14 April 2025].*

3. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

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

1. Habitat Havens

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on entries that had been received for the 'Bug Hotels' competition and the sponsorship for prizes. It was agreed that all entries be circulated to committee members via email for judging after the closing date of 14 July 2025. Members suggested that the Mayor /Deputy Mayor visit the winners to present prizes.

RESOLVED: *That the competition entries be circulated to Members via email for judging on 14 July 2025 and the Mayor/Deputy Mayor visit the winning entrants at a mutually convenient date.*

2. Wind Turbine on Market Square Toilet Block

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerks Agenda report, the costs of a feasibility study and the current usage of electricity on the market square.

RESOLVED: *That no further action regarding the installation of a wind turbine on the market square toilet block be taken at this time.*

3. Carbon Literacy Certification.

In Councillor A Rushton's absence Members requested he submit a written report on the content of the Carbon Literacy course attended.

RESOLVED: *That Councillor A Rushton submit a written report to Members on the outcomes of the Carbon Literacy Course attendee, for discussion at the next meeting.*

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE (ESG) POLICY

Members decided that an ESG policy for LCC would be too complex and difficult to implement for a parish authority. Instead, the Committee will draft a statement outlining what LCC is currently doing to reduce its carbon footprint and plans for the future. Once approved, this statement could be published on the LCC website. The Deputy Town Clerk was requested to circulate examples from LDC's website to provide Members with a starting point so that a draft statement could be agreed upon at the next meeting.

It was also suggested that the minutes from the CCBD meetings be shared with the relevant Officers at LDC to encourage further collaboration .

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that as an organisation LCC was looking at the use of more environmentally friendly consumables.

RESOLVED: That Members consider the information to be circulated by the Deputy Town Clerk from LDC'S website in readiness for preparing a draft statement on LCC's Carbon footprint.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF STAFFORDSHIRE BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (SBEN)

Councillor E Strain confirmed that he had not attended the SBEN Waste Workshop as the items on the Agenda were not relevant to a Parish authority.

RESOLVED: That in future Members only attend relevant SBEN workshops.

6. FAIRTRADE STATUS

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report at **Agenda Appendix 1** and Councillor R Harvey-Coggins briefing document at **Agenda Appendix 2** outlining the status of Lichfield's Fairtrade. The Committee agreed that an application to renew Lichfield's Fair Trade status [*Fairtrade Status having lapsed in 2022*] should be supported, the first step of which being to pass a Council resolution demonstrating this. Assuming Council passed this, Committee Members to then canvas support from various businesses and organisations.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL 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.

7. ACTION PLAN AND UPDATES

Members noted the update to the action plan.

RESOLVED: That the updated action plan be noted.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

The Deputy Town Clerk to circulate possible dates via email for the next in person meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor E. Strain raised concerns about information shared with members of the MWG regarding the potential removal of a Lime tree located on the market square. The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that the tree was obstructing the view of a City Centre CCTV camera, which both the Police and LDC considered a security risk. As an interim solution, it was proposed that the tree be reduced and crown-lifted to address these concerns. Councillor E. Strain requested that his objections to the tree's removal be formally recorded. However, the remainder of committee members agreed that, should security concerns persist after these measures, the removal of the tree would be deemed an unfortunate but necessary

action. The Deputy Town Clerk further confirmed that a replacement tree would be planted at another LCC site as compensation.

RESOLVED: That in the view of the Committee the removal of the Lime tree be permitted if deemed necessary.

Councillor A Hughes asked why the CCBD committee chose not to support the '*Great Imaging Project.*' Councillor J Blackman explained that LDC had already committed funds to the project, which LCC could not provide.

**THERE BEING
NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10pm**

ACTION PLAN

Version 4 Updated 01.07.25

ACTION	ACTIONED BY	COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
Habitat Havens	DTC Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to note that the Bug Hotels competition has been launched. The closing date is 14 July, one week before the end of the school term. The Deputy Town Clerk has secured sponsorship from Lichfield Co-Op, LCC's seed supplier and the two plant traders who stand on the market. After the closing date the Deputy Town Clerk will collate entries and circulate to Committee members to judge To date LCC has not been any requests for help with sourcing raw materials. 	Judging to be completed by 16 July
Wind Turbine on Market Square Toilet Block			No further action be taken
Carbon Literacy Certification	Cllr A Rushton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Councillor A Rushton update the Committee on the content of the recently attended Carbon Literacy course. 	Cllr A Rushton ne asked to submit a written report at the next meeting.
ESG Policy	Deputy Town Clerk Committee Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Deputy Town Clerk to circulate appropriate information from LDC'S website in readiness for preparing a draft statement on LCC's Carbon footprint. That Members consider the information circulated and prepare a draft statement on LCC's Carbon footprint. 	At the next meeting.

ACTION	ACTIONED BY	COMMENTS	TIMESCALE
Membership Of Staffordshire Business And Environment Network. (SBEN)	Cllr E Strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr E Strain updated Committee Members that he did not attend the Waste Workshop on 30 April, hosted by SBEN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action to be taken. Only relevant SBEN courses to be attended by Members in the future.
Fairtrade Status	Deputy Town Clerk Cllr R Harvey-Coggins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members considered the Deputy Town Clerks report and Cllr R Harvey -Coggins briefing document at Agenda Appendix 1 & 2 Members concluded that they wish to pursue regaining Fairtrade status and make the appropriate recommendation to Council 	<p><i>RECCOMENDATION TO COUNCIL</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>