

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Monday 9 March 2026 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors C Pinder-Smith (Mayor), H Ashton, D Baker, C Ball, R Bragger, J Christie, M Field, A Fox, R Harvey-Coggins, A Hughes, P Knight, A Lax, J Madden, P Ray, D Robertson, A Rushton, J Smith, B Watkins, and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Blackman, J Eagland, C Greatorex, P McDermott, S Schafer, E Strain, and M Warfield (medical advice).

88. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor noted how much she had enjoyed attending International Women's Day, the annual company of Smiths Court and Feast, the pancake races and Shrovetide Fair and the Charity Ceilidh dance which raised £1,800 for the Mayor and Sheriff's charities.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Several members declared in interests relating to the Grants Advisory Committee's recommendations (minute 93).

Cllr H Ashton declared an interest under Appendix A in relation to the grant request from Lichfield Fairtrade as he is a Steering Group member, and Churches Together as he is Lay Chair of the organisation.

Cllr Ashton also declared an interest in the following applications under Appendix B of the LCC Code of Conduct:

- LWMTS/Proms in the Park – Member of LDC's LWMTS Shareholder Advisory Board
- Games/Coffee Morning – Friend of the applicant
- Lichfield Twinning Association – LCC representative and member
- Lichfield Litter Legends – ward Cllr for event area
- Lichfield City of Sanctuary – LCC representative
- Lichfield & District over 60's Club – Suggested the grant application
- Lichfield Society of Artists – Spouse is a member

Cllr D Baker declared an interest under Appendix B in relation to the following applications:

- CASES – LCC Representative
- Voluntary Transport for the Disabled – Former Mayor's charity
- Lichfield Shrievally Association – Friend of applicant
- Lichfield City of Sanctuary – LCC representative
- Lichfield Sheriff's Ride Committee – Friend of applicant
- Lichfield Garrick – Former Trustee

Cllr C Ball declared an interest under Appendix A in relation to the grant request from Lichfield Fairtrade as he is a Steering Group member

Cllr Ball also declared an interest under Appendix B in relation to the following as he is acquainted with the applicants:

- Coffee Morning/Dereck Jones
- The Well
- Churches Together

- Big Red Bike
- Late Night Listeners
- Lichfield Shrievally Association
- Soroptimist International
- Lichfield Litter Legends
- Lichfield Sheriff's Ride Committee
- Lichfield Re:Cycle

Also in relation to:

- Lichfield City of Sanctuary – LCC representative and member
- CIL request – Christian Fields – ward member and involvement in site meetings and associated discussions

Cllr J Christie declared an interest under Appendix B regarding the following applications:

- The Well - Family member uses service
- Lichfield Festival - Children attend one of the schools which would benefit if awarded)
- Lichfield Discovered - Spouse is a volunteer

Cllr R Harvey-Coggins declared an interest in the application from Lichfield Fairtrade under Appendix B as a member of the organisation.

Cllr A Hughes declared an interest under Appendix B in the following applications:

- Lichfield Waterworks Trust – Member
- Big Red Bike – Friend of the applicant
- City of Sanctuary – Member of the organisation
- Lichfield Discovered – Supporter
- Lichfield Festival – Volunteer, friend of applicant
- The Well, Wade St Church – knows Members.

Cllr P Knight declared an interest in the application from Lichfield Litter Legends under Appendix B as a member of the organisation

Cllr J Marshall declared an interest in the application from Big Red Bike as a Governor of Saxon Hill school that is mentioned in the application

Cllr C Pinder-Smith declared an interest in the application from Lichfield Arts under Appendix B as the organisation is the Mayor's charity.

Cllr J Smith declared an interest under Appendix A in relation to the application from Lichfield Shrievally Association (being Treasurer of the Association) and Lichfield Sheriff's Ride Committee (Treasurer of the Committee)

Also in relation to Dovehouse Community Gardens – LCC representative and plot holder

Cllr R Yardley declared an interest under Appendix A in relation to the application from Lichfield Shrievally Association (being Chair of the Association) and Lichfield Sheriff's Ride Committee (Trustee)

90. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 January 2026 (No's 71-87) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

91. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor J Christie noted that his vote had not been recorded in the second named vote at the Council meeting on the 26 January 2026.

Councillor J Smith asked if a date had been agreed to present Sophie Capewell with the Freedom of the City. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had been asked and a response was awaited as to a convenient date.

92. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 16 January 2026 to 18 February 2026 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.

93. GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor C Ball noted how many voluntary organisations there were across the City and commended Officers for their hard work in administrating the applications.

RESOLVED: That the minutes and recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 February 2026 be adopted.

94. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor's A Fox and A Hughes commended Officers on an excellent internal audit report and took the opportunity to welcome the new RFO.

RESOLVED: That the minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 be adopted.

95. NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE 2026/27

a) Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor A Hughes, seconded by Councillor J Marshall

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rosie Harvey -Coggins be nominated Mayor Elect for the year 2026/26.

b) Deputy Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor C Ball, seconded by Councillor A Hughes

RESOLVED: That Councillor R Bragger be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2026/26.

c) Sheriff Elect

It was proposed by Councillor P Knight, seconded by Councillor R Bragger

RESOLVED: That Councillor A Fox be nominated Sheriff Elect for the year 2026/26.

96. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

RESOLVED: That the draft calendar of meetings be as follows:

Calendar of Meetings 2026/2027

DATE	TIME	MEETING
2026		
Wednesday, 13 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 20 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday 2 June	6.30pm	Audit Committee
Friday 5 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday 8 June	6.30pm	COUNCIL (year-end accounts)
Wednesday, 15 July	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday, 27 July	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 27 August	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday, 28 September	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Friday, 2 October	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Wednesday, 4 November	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Thursday, 5 November	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Thursday, 19 November	6.00pm	Staffing Committee
Tuesday, 1 December	6.30pm	Audit Committee
Monday, 7 December	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 10 December	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
2027		
Wednesday, 20 January	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday, 25 January	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Monday, 22 February	6.30pm	Grants Advisory Committee
Wednesday, 24 February	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Tuesday, 2 March	6.30pm	Audit Committee
Monday, 8 March	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 24 March	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Monday, 19 April	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 29 April	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)
Wednesday, 5 May	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Wednesday, 12 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 19 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, 3 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee (if called)

97. CONSULTATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Members considered the Town Clerks report provided at **AGENDA APPENDIX 4** with all parties supporting proposal 4.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to submit a response to MHCLG's LGR consultation in the name of Lichfield City Council and that the response to be an endorsement of proposal 4 of the consultation document [the option put forward by and favoured by Lichfield District Council amongst others]

98. GRANT REQUEST - LICHFIELD COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB CIC

Members considered the Agenda report noting that the application had already been circulated to the Grants committee for informal consideration and comment, with those who responded being in support of awarding the grant. Councillor A Hughes noted the impact report which had been provided by the club.

RESOLVED: That the Council award £3,000 to Lichfield Community Sports Club CIC to fund subsidised places at its Easter holiday sports camp.

99. OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor A Hughes commended all at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace museum on the public consultation on ways to improve the museum.

Councillor J Smith noted the lack of Councillor support at the various church services.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

100. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

- a) 1 December 2025 to 31 December 2025 in the sum of £165,599.03 General Account, and £395.50 Imprest Account.***
- b) 1 January 2026 to 31 January 2026 in the sum of £120,897.74 General Account, and £696.36 Imprest Account.***

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.01PM

MAYOR