

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Tuesday 9 September 2019 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs D Baker (Mayor), J Anketell, H Ashton, C Ball, Mrs G Boyle, J Checkland, D Dundas, M Field, C Greateorex, Mrs J Greaves, P Jones, Mrs A Lax, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, P McDermott, Mrs S Pritchard, C Rapley, R Rathbone, P Ray, D Robertson, A Smith, C Spruce, M Trent, M Warfield and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs J Eagland, I Jackson & J Smith.

48 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on several recent engagements which she had attended including the Sheriff's Ride, the Allotments Society Annual show and the awards ceremony for Britain in Bloom. She also thanked all those who attended the recent charity barn dance in the Guildhall.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillors J Checkland and A Smith declared an interest under Appendix B of the City Council Code of Conduct with respect to agenda item 11, Darwin Hall Lease renewal.

50 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 July 2019 (Nos 34-47) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

51 MATTERS ARISING

None

52 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 July 2019 be received.*

53 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8(2)

None

54 OFFICERS REPORT

The Mayor took each item from the Officers' Report in turn. Cllr Greateorex commended the Open Spaces Officer for his hard work in helping the City attain a Gold award for Britain in Bloom.

RESOLVED: *That the Report as contained in Agenda Appendix 1 be noted.*

55 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT – 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE

Members discussed the Financial progress report and in particular the performance of the markets. It was suggested that Members may wish to form a small working group to discuss the markets, and it was agreed that this proposal would be taken forward and discussed further with the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: *That the Financial Progress Report as detailed in Agenda Appendix 2 for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019 be noted.*

56 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19

Councillor Spruce commended the Town Clerk, Accounts Officer and Internal Auditor for their hard work and diligence in the preparation of the audit of accounts which was completed by the external auditor on 16 August 2019 for the year ending 31 March 2019.

RESOLVED: That the report received from the external auditors, Mazars be noted.

57 DARWIN HALL LEASE RENEWAL

Members were informed that the lease for Darwin Hall Community Centre which is owned by the City Council is due for renewal. The proposed new lease is for 7 years and will require updating to reflect changes to the land exchange in 2018 which resulted in a new outdoor play area.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to renew the lease of Darwin Hall Community Centre for a further period of seven years, based on a revised lease as recommended by the City Council's solicitors.

58 PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report relating to two new proposed Direct Debit agreements.

RESOLVED: That the City Council resolve to enter into a Direct Debit arrangement with Sage Accounts and Nat West Bank and that these new accounts be added to the list of Direct Debits that will be reconsidered at the June 2020 meeting of the Council.

59 MARKET TRADERS LIAISON MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr Miss Jayne Marks and seconded by Cllr Mrs Janice Greaves that Cllr J Checkland be appointed as the Chairman of the Market Traders Liaison Committee. It was then proposed by Cllr P Ray and seconded by Cllr M Trent that Cllr P McDermott be appointed as Chairman. It was put to the vote and carried that Cllr J Checkland be appointed to the position.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Checkland be appointed as Chairman of the Market Traders Liaison Committee.

60 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed in Agenda Appendix 3 For the period 1 June 2019 to 30 June 2019 in the sum of £84,435.89 General Account, and £414.60 Imprest Account.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10PM

MAYOR