

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held remotely via 'Zoom' on Tuesday 28 July 2020 at 6.30pm

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr I Jackson

30 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor emphasised the disruption caused to the usual Civic calendar by COVID-19, but confirmed that opportunities for remote engagements were being pursued.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

32 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 June 2020 (Nos 16-29), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

33 MATTERS ARISING

None

34 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)

RESOLVED: That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 27 May 2020 to 18 June 2020, and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority as agreed by Council on 11 May 2020, be received.

35 MARKETS WORKING GROUP

Members considered the decisions made by the Markets Working Group under delegated authority and the recommendations to council contained within the minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2020 (agenda appendix 1).

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Markets Working Group held on 17 July 2020 be adopted.

36 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION

Members considered the Town Clerk's draft response to the LGA's Code of Conduct consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk submit the draft consultation response (agenda appendix 2) to the LGA in the name of the City Council.

37 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor D Robertson highlighted the work of the Open Spaces Officer during the recent incident involving Travellers at Netherstowe open space within the ownership of LCC. Cllr A Lax echoed those comments, wishing the thanks from residents to officers and the Police to be recorded in these minutes. In agreeing with these points, Councillor C Greatorox also emphasised the significant contribution made by Lichfield District Council staff in resolving the situation and also clearing the debris that remained. Cllr C Spruce agreed with previous comments and suggested that the prompt response by all concerned would have contributed positively to the outcome.

Cllr Mrs J Eagland praised the quality of the report and confirmed it would be provided to Talking Newspapers for the Blind, and encouraged Members to contact her if they had any further documentation they wished to be made available to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

38 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – FULL COUNCIL

Members considered the agenda report concerning the frequency of full council meetings. An amendment to the calendar of meetings that would result in the September and October council meetings being combined in to one meeting was proposed by Cllr M Warfield who cited Standing Order 18 as an appropriate backstop [this standing order allows meetings of the council to be called in emergency situations].

An amendment was proposed by Cllr H Ashton and seconded by Cllr M Trent that due to the currently evolving situation in relation to COVID-19 and the possibility for local and national lockdowns, together with the potential for the need to make decisions at short notice, the matter should be deferred for a period of 12 months. Members discussed the amendment in detail, with Cllr Robertson stating that it could be wise to reinforce the provisions under Standing Order 18, especially in regard to timescales, as a result of any reduction in the number of scheduled meetings and highlighting that Lichfield District Council only holds six full council meetings per year, despite its far larger remit and budget when compared to the City Council. Cllr C Rapley expressed surprise that reducing the frequency of meetings would be discussed in the current situation where decisions may need to be taken quickly for the benefit of residents. Several other members spoke, both in favour and against the amendment. On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.

The original proposal was then voted upon, declared carried and it was:

RESOLVED: That the City Council meetings scheduled to take place in September and October of each year be amalgamated into one meeting to be held in the latter part of September (22 September 2020 being the first date of the newly combined meeting).

39 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed in Agenda Appendix 4 for the periods

- ***1 April 2020 to 30 April 2020 in the sum of £213,707.07 General Account, and £27.77 Imprest Account.***
- ***1 May 2020 to 31 May 2020 in the sum of £48,095.95 General Account, and £141.00 Imprest Account.***

40 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting.

41 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Members considered the confidential Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the City Council's Staffing Committee.

RESOLVED: The Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 9 July 2020 be adopted.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.19 PM

MAYOR