

## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held remotely via 'Zoom' on Monday 25 January 2021 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, M Field, C Greatorex, Mrs J Greaves, P Jones, A Lax, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, P McDermott, C Rapley, P Ray, D Robertson, A Smith, J Smith, C Spruce, M Trent, M Warfield and R Yardley.

**APOLOGIES:** None

#### 76 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following events at the December meeting of the City Council during which Cllr Miles Trent did not receive the right of reply as the proposer of a motion, the Mayor clarified Standing Orders to confirm the 'right of reply' should have been given; apologies from the Mayor and Town Clerk were given to Cllr Trent shortly after the December meeting and the Mayor confirmed that the Town Clerk would further clarify the position in an email to all members. Cllr Trent responded and thanked both the Mayor and the Town Clerk for their clarification and efforts to protect the due processes and reputation of the Council.

The Mayor also reported on the successful Civic Service held at St Peter and St Pauls Church, her tour of the City Council's market and an upcoming meeting with the Scouts.

#### 77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

#### 78 COUNCIL MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 7 December 2020 (Nos 54-75), be confirmed, and signed as a correct record.*

#### 79 MATTERS ARISING

None

#### 80 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)

**RESOLVED:** *That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 5 November 2020 to 23 December 2020, and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority as agreed by Council on 11 May 2020, be received.*

#### 81 MARKETS WORKING GROUP

Members considered the Minutes and recommendations of the Markets Working Group meeting held on 16 December 2020.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes and recommendations of the Market Working Group meeting of 16 December 2020 be adopted.*

## 82 FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

Members considered fees and charges for 2021/22.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That no increase in charges for Market stalls or the associated service charge be levied at this time.**
- b) That with effect from 1 April 2021, Guildhall hire charges be as detailed in Agenda Appendix 2**
- c) That no increase be applied to the charges for photocopying.**

## 83 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Members considered the eight-month financial summary report. Cllr Ray noted the savings resulting from the switch to LED footpath lighting, citing this as an example where positive action had been taken by the Council in light of the climate emergency.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted**

## 84 BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021/22

Members considered the draft budget for the financial year 2021/22. Several members spoke on this matter. Cllr P Ray asked whether the large sums for repairs and renewals seen over the past few years would soon begin to reduce; the Town Clerk confirmed that the City Council's portfolio includes several listed buildings and structures, most of which have required considerable attention over the past few years, notably since the acquisition of the Guildhall and Donegal House. Many of the necessary projects had been completed and it was hoped the focus would be turning from relatively expensive essential repair to relatively low-cost maintenance in the near future.

Cllr C Rapley expressed concern that the Sheriff's Ride was included in the budget; while stating she was not against civic tradition, she did feel that given the current situation the budgeted funds could perhaps be put to better use. Cllr Robertson commended the decision to freeze the precept but noted that with the remaining unknowns of the COVID pandemic, there could be significant change as the year unfolds.

**RESOLVED: That the Council approve the Budget Estimates and Report for the 2021/22 financial year totalling £1,010,811; and that the amount of precept for 2021/22 be set at £816,400.**

## 85 REPAIR, RENOVATION AND SPECIFIC PROJECT PROGRAMME 2021/22

Members considered the proposals contained within agenda appendix 5.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

## 86 TENDERS COMMITTEE – DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report, seeking authorisation for the Tenders Committee to select preferred contractor/s for the proposed renovation of the Cruck House annexe in order to facilitate a potentially earlier commencement of pre contract discussions and resulting start on site.

**RESOLVED: That delegated authority be given to the City Council's Tenders Committee to select preferred Contractor/s for the renovation of the Cruck House toilet annexe.**

## 87 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor Mrs Boyle commended the Birthplace Museum staff for maintaining an active online presence despite the current closure of the Museum due to the pandemic. Cllr Ray thanked the Open Spaces Officer for his prompt action in placing new signage on 'The Windings' footpath following the SCC decision to close the right of way for a period of up to six months. Cllr Ray also thanked the Open Spaces Officer for arranging the swift clearance of leaves etc from the alternative route to allow easier and safer passage for residents. Cllr M Trent commended the actions of the Twinning Officer in organising the safe recycling of unused LCC computers via 'IT Schools Africa'. Cllr Miss Marks commended the Mayor's Christmas message and the Mayor's consort for designing the Christmas card. Cllr D Robertson thanked the Civic Officer and Deputy Town Clerk for their prompt work in arranging for the replacement of the market related signage across the City.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

## 88 SUBSIDY REVIEW – LICHFIELD ARTS AND LICHFIELD FESTIVAL

Further to Minute 99 of the City Council's meeting on 28 January 2019, the arrangements between the Council, Lichfield Arts and Lichfield Festival are to be reviewed annually by the City Council. Members considered the current position and proposals for 2021/22.

### **RESOLVED**

1. a) *The current charges associated with the separate licences to occupy remain appropriate given the stability in market rent valuations and the charitable nature, and positive impact on the City of both bodies.*  
  
b) *That existing arrangements in regard to glass collection and hire of the Ashmole Room be confirmed as appropriate*
2. *No inflationary increase be applied to prevailing rents for 2021/22*
3. *That the City Council reconsiders this matter at its meeting scheduled for January 2022.*

## 89 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

**RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed in the agenda for the periods:**

- *1 October 2020 to 31 October 2020 in the sum of £56,807.13 General Account, and £7.25 Imprest Account.*
- *1 November 2020 to 30 November 2020 in the sum of £133,067.71 General Account, and £377.78 Imprest Account.*

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.25 PM**

**MAYOR**