

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Monday 20 September 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Yardley (Mayor), J Anketell, H Ashton, Mrs D Baker, C Ball, Mrs G Boyle, J Checkland, Mrs J Eagland, M Field, Mrs J Greaves, R Harrison, I Jackson, P Jones, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, S Pritchard, P Ray, D Robertson, J Smith, C Spruce, M Trent, and M Warfield.

APOLOGIES: Councillors C Greateorex, A Lax, P McDermott, C Rapley and A Smith.

**A MINUTES SILENCE WAS HELD IN MEMORY OF MR PETER BARRETT, FORMER COUNCILLOR,
MAYOR AND SHERIFF, WHO DIED ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2021**

45 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent engagements which included a visit to the Fuse Festival, the Mayor of Tamworth's Race Night, Presidents Day at Lichfield Cricket Club and attending the Shinning Stars Prom Night at St Johns House.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None received.

47 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 July 2021 (Nos 35-44) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

48 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

49 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)

RESOLVED: *That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 15 July 2021 to 8 September 2021 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.*

50 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8(2)

Councillor D Robertson asked the following question under Standing Order 8.(2)

Given the return of large-scale events to the city over the last month or so, after a long hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic; does the Mayor agree with me that this is something to be applauded, not just for the economic benefits that events bring to Lichfield, but also for their cultural importance and the positive effect that bringing people together to share an experience has on the wellbeing of many Lichfieldians?

Would he further agree that the annual events calendar is part of the fabric of our community and that City Councillors would be well advised to support festivals and events in our city, including those which cater for all age ranges?

The Mayor Councillor Robert Yardley responded

I am very pleased to see a return of something like normality to Lichfield, seeing busy streets and people out and about enjoying themselves has been much missed over the past 18 months or so. The return of large-scale events for all age ranges is welcomed, provided of course they are appropriately organised and run.

I do agree with Cllr Robertson that the events calendar is part of the fabric of our community – I take great pride in the involvement I have, both as Mayor and as a Lichfield resident in a good number of those events.

However, it is not appropriate as Councillor Robertson asks, for me as Mayor, to tell City Councillors in a blanket statement that they would well advised to support such events seemingly unconditionally. This could stifle debate. For example, such events may have a negative impact on those who the Council represents. Such impacts could conceivably lead to justified opposition to an event if the Councillor is to appropriately represent their constituents. Another example is that the electors should know the views of candidates on matters affecting the City .

51 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WORKING PARTY

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the NPIWP held on 1 September 2021, including the recommendation that £1,650 of CIL be allocated to the City Centre Plaques project

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the NPIWP meeting held on 1 September 2021 be adopted

52 SHERIFF'S RIDE WORKING PARTY

Members considered the Minutes and recommendations of the SRWP meeting held on 16 September 2021. Councillor C Spruce and Councillor Mrs J Eagland expressed concern that the Working Party was recommending that consultants were being approached to advise on how to gain sponsorship for the Sheriff's Ride. The Town Clerk confirmed that this initial approach was to confirm and develop an agreed brief to put to consultants; any additional cost required to progress recommendations from consultants further would require Council approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes and recommendations of the Sheriff's Ride Working Party meeting held on 16 September 202 be adopted.

53 OFFICERS REPORT

The Mayor commended officers for an excellent and informative report, noting in particular the progress at Cruck House and the new pathways at Curborough Community Centre.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

54 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Members considered the Financial Progress report. Councillor Spruce commented that this had been a difficult budget to set with so many unknowns to contend with in recent months and how pleased he was to see the progress that had been made.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

55 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr Spruce commended Officers for their diligent work and noted the excellent financial controls that were in place.

RESOLVED: That the financial progress report be noted.

56 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – SPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members considered the nomination of a City Council representative to Staffordshire Parish Councils Association. Cllr H Ashton had expressed an interest in the position by email to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hugh Ashton be nominated as the LCC representative on the SPCA Executive Committee

57 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES-DARWIN HALL

Following Councillor A Smith's notification of his intention to stand down as one of the City Council's representatives, members considered the appointment of a replacement.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of a City Council representative be left in abeyance until after the Darwin Hall Annual General Meeting had taken place

58 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

- ***1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021 in the sum of £92,308.76 General Account and £394.35 Imprest Account.***
- ***1 July 2021 to 31 July 2021 in the sum of £88,041.55 General Account and £20.47 Imprest Account.***

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.55PM

MAYOR