

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J M Eagland (Mayor), and Councillors Mrs J A Allsopp, R J Awty, B F Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs M P Bland, Mrs M G Boyle, J R Brooks, B D Diggle, Mrs V A Diggle, D P A Dundas, T V Finn, C P Greateorex, P L Hitchman, I A Jackson, Mrs S A James, D Smedley, C J Spruce, Mrs S A Strachan, M N Taylor, T J Thomas, A D Thompson, M A Warfield and J N Wilks.

APOLOGIES: Councillors I M Eadie, Mrs J A Greaves and A F Smith.

79 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) The Mayor reported on engagements she had attended; including the traditional Shrovetide Pancake Races on 12 February; the Smith's Service and Feast on 24 and 26 February; the Annual School Speaking Competition held at the Guildhall on 8 March and the Mayor and Sheriff's charity concert by Staffordshire Performing Arts at the Cathedral on 9 March.
- b) The Mayor welcomed Mrs Sophie Bishop, the Council's recently appointed Twinning Officer and introduced her to councillors.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS

Councillor M N Taylor declared an interest in under Appendix A of the City Council Code of Conduct with respect to Minute 83 (Grants Advisory Committee) in respect of the grant to Lichfield Mysteries and left the room during the consideration and decision on this item.

Councillors Mrs M G Boyle, Mrs N Bacon, D P A Dundas, P L Hitchman, I A Jackson, M N Taylor, A D Thompson, M A Warfield and J N Wilks declared an interest under Appendix B of the City Council Code of Conduct with respect to Minute 83 (Grants Advisory Committee).

81 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 23 January 2013 (69 – 78) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

82 PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meetings held on 3 January 2013, 24 January 2013 and 13 February 2013 be received.*

83 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 28 February 2013.

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28 February 2013 be received, and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*

84 NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE 2013/14

a) Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor J N Wilks, seconded by Councillor C J Spruce and

RESOLVED: *That Councillor Robert Awty be nominated Mayor Elect for the year 2013/14.*

b) Deputy Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor D PA Dundas, seconded by Councillor Mrs J A Allsopp and

RESOLVED: *That Councillor Mrs Norma Bacon be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2013/14.*

c) Sheriff Elect

It was proposed by Councillor B F Bacon, seconded by Councillor D P A Dundas and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Terence Thomas be nominated Sheriff Elect for the year 2013/14.

85 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2013/2014

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/2014 be as follows:

DATE	TIME	MEETING
Monday, 13 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 16 May	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Wednesday, 22 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, 6 June	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Thursday, 13 June	6.30pm	Internal Control Working Party
Tuesday, 25 June	6.30pm	COUNCIL (Year end accounts)
Thursday, 27 June	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Wednesday, 17 July	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Tuesday, 23 July	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 8 August	6.30 pm	Planning Applications Committee
Thursday, 5 September	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Tuesday, 10 September	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 25 September	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Tuesday, 1 October	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Monday, 14 October	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 16 October	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Thursday, 7 November	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Tuesday, 12 November	6.30pm	Internal Control Working Party
Thursday, 14 November	6.30pm	Staffing Establishment Working Party
Monday, 25 November	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 4 December	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee

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Thursday, 2 January	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 20 January	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 23 January	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Wednesday, 5 February	6.30 pm	Grants Advisory Committee
Thursday, 13 February	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 3 March	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 6 March	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Thursday, 13 March	6.30pm	Internal Control Working Party
Thursday, 20 March	10.30am	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Thursday, 27 March	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 7 April	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 24 April	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 12 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 15 May	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Wednesday, 21 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

86 REDUCTION IN COUNCIL TAX BASE

Further to the decision of the meeting on 23 January 2013 Minute 75(3) the Council noted the contents of the reply from the Secretary of State to its letter criticising the reduction on the Council Tax Base. The Council was pleased to note that as a consequence of this correspondence the Town Clerk had been invited by NALC to address the All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Democracy at the House of Commons on 24 April 2013.

87 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Further to Minute 102 of the meeting held on 5 March 2012 the Council considered the Town Clerk's report on Neighbourhood Plans, and the procedures, stages, incentives, benefits and issues to consider when deciding to proceed with the production of a Plan.

RESOLVED: *a) That further investigation be undertaken on producing a theme-based Plan based on employment issues, for the whole of the City.*

b) That initial discussions be held with the District Council for guidance and support.

c) That initial contact be made with local residents groups to identify whether there would be support for a city-wide theme-based plan.

d) That more detailed estimates be obtained of the costs involved in producing such a Plan.

e) That a further report be presented to Council following responses to items b-d above.

88 LICHFIELD ARTS ASSOCIATION USE OF DONEGAL HOUSE

The Council considered the agenda report outlining suggested arrangements and terms for the continuing occupancy of rooms in Donegal House by Lichfield Arts Association during the current year up to 16 December 2013.

RESOLVED: *That for the year commencing 17 December 2012, Lichfield Arts pay a contribution of £3,500 towards the operating costs of Donegal House in return for their use of two rooms on the first floor of Donegal House; the charge to be deducted from the grant which the Council pays to Lichfield Arts*

89 ALLOTMENTS LEASE

The Council considered the agenda report proposing the renewal of the existing 7 year lease of 12.6 acres of allotments in the City to the Lichfield and District Allotments and Homes Gardens Society when the current lease expired on 30 September 2013.

RESOLVED: *1. That the Council offer a new 7 year lease to the Lichfield and District Allotments and Homes Gardens Society on exactly the same terms as the current lease.*

2. That subject to the agreement of the Allotments Society to the proposed terms, the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make all necessary arrangements for the grant of the new lease.

90 DR JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE TRUST – BANK ACCOUNT

The Council considered the agenda report on the setting up of a new Bank Account for the Trust, to be totally separate from the City Council's accounts in line with the recommendations of the Internal Control Working Party meeting on 16 November 2011.

RESOLVED: 1. That the City Council as sole trustee of the Dr Johnson Birthplace Trust authorise the opening of a bank account with the Co-operative Bank in the name of the Dr Johnson Birthplace Trust, and that the signatories to the account be:

First signatory: Until the Annual Meeting in May 2013 the Deputy Mayor or the Leader of Lichfield City Council; and thereafter the Mayor or the Leader of Lichfield City Council

Second signatory: The Town Clerk or Museums and Heritage Officer.

2. That proceeds from the sale of 'Friends' books be deposited into the new Dr Johnson Birthplace Trust account.

91 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 January 2013 in the sum of £78,046.29 General Account, and £838.28 Imprest Account.

92 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 19(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

93 TENDER OPENING COMMITTEE – WADE STREET DILAPIDATIONS WORKS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Tenders Committee meeting held on 11 February 2013 be received.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.17PM