

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday, 15 March 2010 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor T J Thomas (Mayor), and Councillors Mrs J A Allsopp, R J Awty, B F Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, J R Bayliss, Mrs M P Bland, G Boyle, Mrs M G Boyle, B D Diggle, D P A Dundas, Mrs J M Eagland, Mrs D English, T V Finn, M J Fryers, C Greateorex, P L Hitchman, I A Jackson, D R R Prentis, Mrs E C Roe, D Smedley, J A Smith, C J Spruce, A D Thompson, J C Walker, M A Warfield, B S White and J N Wilks.

APOLOGIES: None (all members present).

MEMBERS STOOD IN SILENCE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BENNETT (FORMER SHERIFF AND COUNCILLOR) WHO DIED ON 7 MARCH 2010.

87 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent civic and other engagements he had attended, including his visit to the City's twin town of Limburg an der Lahn from 10 to 14 February to mark its 1100th anniversary; the opening of the Shrovetide Fair on 16 February; an RAF civic reception at Drayton Manor on 25 February; the Young Enterprise Fair at the Garrick Theatre on 27 February; and a very enjoyable District Council Chairman's Dinner Dance at Drayton Manor on 5 March.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk reported that the District Council's Standards Committee had granted a Dispensation to all City councillors who were also District councillors permitting them to speak and vote at City Council meetings on the Service Agreement for Grounds Maintenance, and Guildhall Complex. These councillors would otherwise be deemed to have a prejudicial interest at City Council meetings by reason of their membership of Lichfield District Council. The Dispensation applied to councillors Mrs J A Allsopp, B F Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs M P Bland, Mrs M G Boyle, B D Diggle, Mrs J M Eagland, Mrs D English, T V Finn, M J Fryers, C Greateorex, I A Jackson, D Smedley, J C Walker and J N Wilks.

Councillor J A Smith declared a personal interest in Minute 103 (Guildhall Complex) as he was the City Council's representative on the Lichfield & District Arts Association.

Those Councillors who declared interests under Minute 93 (Grants Advisory Committee) are listed under that Minute.

89 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 26 January 2010 (72 - 86) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

90 PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meetings held on 7 January 2010, 21 January 2010 and 10 February 2010 be received.*

91 QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 8(2)

Councillor A D Thompson submitted the following question under Standing Order 8(2)

High Speed 2 (HS2)

"The proposed new HS2 rail line would slice through Green Belt at Hints and Freeford before rising on a huge embankment to cross over the A38 at Cappers Lane, over the top of Enterprise Park Industrial Estate, and then over the road and two existing rail lines by Trent Valley station before joining up with the existing West Coast main line at Elmhurst. No facilities whatsoever are to be provided for Lichfield on the new line and indeed it is possible that Lichfield could lose existing services because they would be diverted on to the new line.

I support high speed rail in principle, but that the new line would not deliver what it was set up to do. Instead of the much needed high speed link between London and Birmingham what we would have is a line from London to Elmhurst, with a little branch line into a terminus at Birmingham which is not in the city centre but at Curzon Street - Birmingham's original station which closed in 1854 when a better location was found at New Street.

Will the Leader and the City Council use their best endeavours, in conjunction with others, to oppose this damaging scheme in so far as it affects Lichfield?"

Councillor David Smedley responded that he shared these concerns and would arrange for the matter to be placed on the agenda for the Council's next Planning Committee Meeting.

92 DARWIN HALL

The Council considered the agenda report detailing proposals for the establishment of a Darwin Hall Community Association, the legal status of which would be a Company limited by guarantee, together with the Articles of Association, and terms of the Lease of the building to the Association.

In addition the minutes of the recent Darwin Hall Committee meetings held on 4 February 2010 and 4 March 2010 were considered.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Minutes of the Darwin Hall Committee meeting held on 4 February 2010 be received.**
- 2. That the Minutes and recommendations of the Darwin Hall Committee meeting held on 4 March 2010 be received and adopted.**
- 3. That the Council agree the Articles of Association [as circulated with the agenda] for the establishment of a Darwin Hall Community Association as a Company and gives delegated authority to the Town Clerk to finalise the establishment of the Company.**
- 4. That the Council agree the terms of the Lease of the Darwin Hall [as circulated with the agenda] from the Council to the Darwin Hall Community Association and gives delegated authority to the Town Clerk to finalise arrangements for the lease.**
- 5. That the Darwin Hall Community Association be granted an interest free loan of £1,000 from the Council for a period of up to 12 months.**
- 6. That the following four councillors be appointed as the first directors of the Darwin Hall Community Association (Company): Councillors R J Awty, T V Finn, I A Jackson and J A Smith.**
- 7. That the following three councillors be appointed as members of the Darwin Hall Committee to replace the councillors who appointed as a directors of the Darwin Hall Community Association in item 6 above, and who would therefore unable to participate in future Council business related to the Darwin Hall by reason of a Prejudicial Interest: councillors Mrs J A Allsopp, B F Bacon and J R Bayliss.**

93 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 11 February 2010.

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2010 be received, and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*

The following councillors declared a prejudicial interest in the applications from the undermentioned organisations:

<i>Curborough Community Association</i>	Mrs N Bacon, T V Finn
<i>Erasmus Darwin House</i>	Mrs M G Boyle
<i>Fairtrade Lichfield</i>	I A Jackson
<i>Friends of Johnson Birthplace</i>	B D Diggle
<i>Jack & Jill's Pre School</i>	T V Finn
<i>Lichfield Adventure Playground Association</i>	B F Bacon, J R Bayliss, T V Finn
<i>Lichfield & District Live at Home Scheme</i>	T V Finn
<i>Lichfield District Arts Association</i>	Mrs N Bacon
<i>Lichfield Greenhill Bower</i>	T V Finn
<i>Lichfield Rail Promotion Group</i>	I A Jackson
<i>Lichfield Shrievally Association</i>	Mrs D English, Mrs M G Boyle, J N Wilks
<i>Lichfield Twinning Association</i>	T V Finn
<i>Worshipful Company of Smiths</i>	T V Finn

The following councillors declared a personal interest in the applications from the undermentioned organisations:

<i>Beacon Street Area Residents Association</i>	M P Bland, Mrs E C Roe, T J Thomas
<i>City of Lichfield Concert Band</i>	J N Wilks
<i>Johnson Society</i>	Mrs D English, C Greatorex, TJ Thomas, JN Wilks
<i>Lichfield and District Anglo-German Club</i>	B S White
<i>Lichfield District Arts Association</i>	J A Smith
<i>Lichfield District Scout Council</i>	T J Thomas
<i>Lichfield Festival Association</i>	Mrs D English, J A Smith
<i>Lichfield Mysteries</i>	I A Jackson
<i>Lichfield Proms in the Park</i>	T V Finn
<i>Lichfield Twinning Association</i>	Mrs M G Boyle, Mrs D English, C Greatorex, Mrs E C Roe, J A Smith, T J Thomas, B S White
<i>St Michael's Church</i>	J N Wilks
<i>The Guild of St Mary's Centre</i>	J N Wilks
<i>Voluntary Transport for the Disabled</i>	J N Wilks

94 NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE 2010/11

a) Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor A D Thompson, seconded by Councillor T J Thomas and

RESOLVED: *That Councillor Christopher Spruce be nominated Mayor Elect for the year 2010/11.*

b) Deputy Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor T J Thomas, seconded by Councillor M A Warfield and

RESOLVED: *That Councillor Brian Bacon be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for the year 2010/11.*

c) Sheriff Elect

It was proposed by Councillor J N Wilks, seconded by Councillor Mrs D English and

RESOLVED: *That Councillor Colin Greatorex be nominated Sheriff Elect for the year 2010/11.*

95 REPORT OF THE MARKETS OFFICER

Consideration was given to the report of the Markets Officer and the Council was pleased to note the excellent conclusion of the recent 'Market Health Check' report carried out by the National Association of British Market Authorities.

RESOLVED:

1. *That the Markets Officer be thanked for her report and the report be received.*
2. *That a letter of appreciation be sent to the Markets Officer for her continuing excellent work in managing the Markets*

96 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2010/2011

RESOLVED: *That the Calendar of Meetings for 2010/2011 be as follows:*

Date	Time	Meeting
2010		
Wednesday, 5 May	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 17 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 26 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, 27 May	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
<i>Tuesday, 15 June</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Internal Control Working Party</i>
Thursday, 17 June	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 28 June	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6 July	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 26 July	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 29 July	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Thursday, 26 August	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Monday, 13 September	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 15 Sept	6.30pm	Planning Applications Committee
Tuesday, 5 October	<i>2.30pm</i>	Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee
Tuesday, 5 October	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Monday, 25 October	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Thursday, 28 October</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Wednesday, 10 November	<i>6.30pm</i>	Staffing Establishment Working Party
Thursday 11 November	<i>6.30pm</i>	Internal Control Working Party
<i>Thursday, 18 November</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Monday, 6 December	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 8 December	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>

2011		
<i>Thursday, 6 January</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Tuesday, 25 January	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Thursday, 27 January</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
<i>Thursday, 10 February</i>	6.30pm	<i>Grants Advisory Committee</i>
<i>Tuesday 15 February</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Mon 28 February	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Thursday, 10 March</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
<i>Wednesday 23 March</i>	6.30pm	<i>Internal Control Working Party</i>
<i>Thursday, 31 March</i>	2.30pm	<i>Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee</i>
<i>Thursday, 31 March</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Monday, 11 April	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Thursday, 21 April</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Wednesday, 11 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
<i>Thursday, 12 May</i>	6.30pm	<i>Planning Applications Committee</i>
Wednesday, 18 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

97 HIGHWAY DEDICATION – LAND AT FESTIVAL GARDENS, QUEEN STREET

Consideration was given to the agenda report which detailed a request from Staffordshire County Council to use a strip of City Council owned land at Festival Gardens on which to construct a widened footpath for a cycleway along the south side of Queen Street. The Council noted that the proposed route had already been considered by the Planning Applications Committee at its meeting on 7 January 2010 when it was supported by members.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the City Council freely dedicate as public highway some 224 sq m of land within the Festival Gardens on the south side of Queen Street as shown on the agenda plan CDC5251/R00/05, with the County Council meeting the City Council's legal costs involved.***
- 2. That the Council consent to Staffordshire County Council entering the Council land to construct the length of footway ahead of completion of the formal Highway Dedication Agreement.***
- 3. That the County Council be asked to address the poor provision for cycle parking within the City Centre.***

98 YOUTH CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Council considered the agenda report on a review of the role and operation of the Youth Consultative Group and proposals for its future operation and development.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

99 GUILDHALL WORKS – PROGRESS REPORT

The Council considered the agenda report on progress of works to install a new lift and CCTV system at the Guildhall.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

100 SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Council considered the agenda report detailing proposed terms for a Service Agreement with Lichfield District Council Operational Services for ongoing grounds maintenance of the Council's open space and footpaths with effect from 1 April 2010.

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders as to Contracts No 2 be waived in relation to the special circumstances applying, and that the Council enter into an ongoing Service Agreement with Lichfield District Council Operational Service for grounds maintenance services as contained in the draft Service Agreement.

101 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed:

- a) **1 January to 31 January 2010 in the sum of £123,343.04 General Account, and £420.34 Imprest Account.**
- b) **1 February to 28 February 2010 in the sum of £71,786.95 General Account, and £518.60 Imprest Account.**

102 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 public and press be excluded from the meeting.

103 GUILDHALL COMPLEX

Further to Minute 46 of the meeting of the Council on 14 September 2009 the Council considered the confidential agenda report which detailed progress since that date.

RESOLVED:

- i. **That the report be noted and the recommendations contained therein adopted.**
- ii. **That a Working Party be established to oversee and progress this matter and report back to the Council.**
- iii. **That the following six Councillors be appointed to serve on the Guildhall Complex Working Party: Councillors J R Bayliss, M J Fryers, D Smedley, J A Smith, M A Warfield and J N Wilks.**

104 GUILDHALL LIFT AND CCTV

The Council considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk on the tenders received for the two schemes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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