

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday, 16 April 2012 at 6.33 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors R J Awty, Mrs S E Strachan and A D Thompson.

107 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent civic and other engagements he had attended including the very successful Mayor and Sheriff's St Patrick's Day Ball at the Guildhall on 17 March; the ever popular Mayor and Sheriff's Entertainment and Tea held at Curborough Community Centre on 21 March; the Edward Wightman memorial service and re-opening of the refurbished Guildhall cells on 11 April; the Easter Sunday Communion Service at the Cathedral on 8 April 2012; and Titanic memorial service at Beacon Park on 15 April.

108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Greateorex declared a personal interest in respect of Minute 114 (Proposed Allotments – Christchurch) by virtue of his position as a Cabinet member of Lichfield District Council.

109 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 5 March 2012 (93 – 106) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meetings held on 15 February 2012 and 8 March 2012 be received.*

111 INTERNAL CONTROL WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED:

- 1.** *That the Minutes of the Internal Control Working Party held on 15 March 2012 be received, and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*
- 2.** *That the report of the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2012 be received and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*

112 JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee held on 29 March 2012 be received, and the recommendations contained therein, which included the Museum's Forward Plan 2012-2015, be adopted.*

113 REPORT OF THE MUSEUMS & HERITAGE OFFICER

Consideration was given to the report of the Museums & Heritage Officer.

RESOLVED: That the Museums & Heritage Officer be thanked for her report and the report be received.

114 PROPOSED ALLOTMENTS - CHRISTCHURCH

Consideration was given to the Town Clerk's report which detailed the history behind attempts to secure additional land for allotment use to the south of the present Christchurch allotments. This land was owned by Lichfield District Council but all approaches to secure either a lease, or a purchase at less than market value, had failed.

The Town Clerk indicated that since the preparation of the agenda report the option for a possible lease of an alternative allotment site from a private landowner had emerged, and that he would investigate the feasibility of this new site and report back to Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and no further action be taken at the present time to acquire the land at Christchurch as allotments.

115 LOCALISM ACT UPDATE

The Council considered the Town Clerk's report on the Strictly Localism Summit on 22 March 2012 attended by himself and Councillor I A Jackson; and the introduction of various elements of the Act, in particular the General Power of Competence which was scheduled for April 2012. For a Council to be eligible to use this power the Clerk would require appropriate training.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Town Clerk seek to obtain the General Power of Competence training qualification at the earliest opportunity.

116 PORTAS PILOTS

Consideration was given to the Town Clerk's report which explained the work that had taken place by a team of organisations representing the City to prepare a bid for funding under the Government's scheme to revitalise town centres.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

117 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed for the period 1 February 2012 to 29 February 2012 in the sum of £58,056.28 General Account, and £931.64 Imprest Account.

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