

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday, 17 October 2011 at 6.30 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors J R Bayliss, Mrs M G Boyle, T V Finn, M J Fryers (Snr), M J Fryers (Jnr), C Greatorex and A F Smith.

50 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent civic and other engagements he had attended including the Johnson Birthday celebrations on 17 September, St John Ambulance presentation evening on 20 September; the MacMillan Nurses Big Coffee Morning at the Guildhall on 30 September which raised £260; and the visit by a delegation from the City's French twin town of Sainte Foy on 7-9 October.

The Mayor also reminded members of the arrangements for this year's Remembrance Day Service and urged as many as possible to attend this important event in the civic calendar.

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk reported that the District Council's Standards Committee had granted a Dispensation to those City Councillors who were also District Councillors, and who had made application, permitting them to speak and vote at the City Council meeting on the Allotment Provision item (Minute 60). 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, R J Awty, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, I M Eadie, D Smedley, C J Spruce, T J Thomas, M A Warfield and J N Wilks.

Councillor Mrs J M Eagland declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 60 (Allotment Provision) by virtue of her position as a member of Lichfield District Council, and left the meeting during the discussion and decision on this item.

52 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 12 September 2011 (40 – 49) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

53 PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meetings held on 25 August 2011 and 15 September 2011 be received.*

54 JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee held on 27 September 2011 be received, and the recommendations contained therein, which included the report of the Museums and Heritage Officer, be adopted.*

55 THE CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON DATA TRANSPARENCY

Consideration was given to the agenda report referring to the provisions of the Code, and the minimum data which was required to be published by public bodies with income/expenditure in excess of £200,000 per annum.

RESOLVED: *That the Council adopt the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.*

56 LOCALISM BILL AND THE OPEN PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER

The Council considered the agenda report which highlighted the key provisions and current progress of the Government's Localism Bill, and its impact on town and parish councils.

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

57 REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS AND POLLING DISTRICTS

The Council considered the agenda report which explained that the District Council was currently consulting on its four-yearly review of polling stations and places.

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

58 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

- a) *1 August 2011 to 31 August 2011 in the sum of £78,862.16 General Account, and £427.31 Imprest Account.*
- b) *1 September 2011 to 30 September 2011 in the sum of £65,242.41 General Account, and £1,170.53 Imprest Account.*

59 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.*

60 ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Council considered the confidential agenda report and the options available for pursuing the transfer of land at Christchurch from the District Council to the City Council for allotments and public open space.

RESOLVED: *That the Council seek the transfer of land at Christchurch, Lichfield, for use as allotments and public open space, at either:*

- a. *a nil consideration or*
- b. *on a long term lease of 50 or more years at a peppercorn rent*

with the City Council meeting the District Council's reasonable legal costs.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.13PM