

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in Guildhall, Lichfield on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Schafer (Mayor), J Anketell, H Ashton, C Ball, J Blackman, R Bragger, J Christie, K Farrelly, M Field, A Fox, C Greateorex, R Harvey-Coggins, A Hughes, P Knight, J Marshall, P McDermott, C Pinder-Smith, P Ray, A Rushton, J Smith, E Strain, B Watkins and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors, D Baker, J Eagland, S Hollingsworth, A Lax, D Robertson and M Warfield.

29 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor congratulated Cllr D Robertson on his recent election to Parliament as the Labour MP for Lichfield calling on other members to add their comments. Cllr C Ball said he was grateful for Cllr Robertson standing as a Member of Parliament and Cllr A Hughes paid tribute to his work on the City Council.

Cllr C Greateorex offered his congratulations on behalf of the Conservative group stating he had always found him to be fair and a good contributor to debate in the Council chamber.

Cllr P McDermott added his congratulations on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group as did Cllr P Ray.

The Mayor detailed functions that he had attended, including the Lichfield Cathedral School awards ceremony, Fuse Festival, the reopening of the Cathedral Spire and the annual Swinfen Broun Bowls match.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillor Robert Yardley declared an interest in agenda item 11 (minute 37), as Chairman of the Lichfield Shrievalty Association, and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor John Smith declared an interest in agenda item 11 (minute 37), as Treasurer of the Lichfield Shrievalty Association, and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

31 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 June 2024 (Nos 15-28) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

32 MATTERS ARISING

None.

33 PLANNING COMMITTEE (DELEGATED AUTHORITY)

RESOLVED: That comments submitted to Lichfield District Council for the period 6 June to 10 July 2024 and made in the name of LCC via delegated authority, be received.

34 CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE (CCBD)

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the CCBD Committee held on 26 June 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee meeting held on 26 June 2024 be adopted.

35 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 8 July 2024. The Minutes included recommendations to council for CIL contributions to Lichfield and District Allotments Society and Five Spires Academy, plus other CIL contributions to facilitate the provision of defibrillators in redundant telephone kiosks and a plaque to Daisy Shaw. A 'general grant' allocation to Churches Together to support the 'Christmas Day Together Event' was also recommended.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Grants Committee meeting held on 8 July 2024 be adopted.

[Town Clerks note: Following further discussions with British Telecom, the telephone boxes identified are no longer available for adoption due to the mobile signal strength in the area not being deemed sufficient]

36 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER

Members considered the appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader following the election of Cllr D Robertson to Parliament.

It was proposed by Cllr A Hughes and seconded by Cllr B Watkins that Cllr R Harvey-Coggins be appointed Leader of the Council. Cllr R Harvey-Coggins thanked members for their support.

It was proposed by Cllr J Blackman and seconded by Cllr K Farrelly that Cllr J Marshall be appointed Deputy Leader and

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor R Harvey-Coggins be appointed as Leader of the Council, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Council on 14 May 2025.

2. That Councillor J Marshall be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Council on 14 May 2025.

37 REQUEST FOR GUILDHALL FREE USE – LICHFIELD SHRIEVALTY ASSOCIATION

Members considered the request from Lichfield Shrievally Association for the free use of the Guildhall for the NACTSEW weekend in September 2025. Having declared an interest Cllr R Yardley and Cllr J Smith left the room and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Cllr A Hughes proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Cllr R Harvey-Coggins, and it was

RESOLVED: That given the long-standing practice of not granting free use of the Guildhall to outside bodies [confirmed by Council 5 February 2009] Council agrees that the equivalent value of the opportunity cost of this award be deemed a grant in kind to Lichfield Shrievally Association for the Shrievally Weekend scheduled for Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September 2025.

38 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor P McDermott welcomed the informative report. Councillor A Hughes appreciated the detail of the report and particularly praised the work done by the Museums and Heritage Officer. Councillor J Smith drew attention to the success of the wildflower bed at Eastern Avenue.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

39 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Councillor C Greatorex raised the following queries:

- 1) Whether three quotes were obtained for the work removing asbestos from the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the appointed architect dealt with this and followed correct procedures and that three quotes were obtained.
- 2) What the annual subscription to MODES was for. Councillor R Yardley explained that MODES provide a database for museum items and is used by museums nationwide.
- 3) Whether it is still worth having the franking machine given the quarterly costs. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that it is still more cost effective to have the franking machine rather than using stamps as there are still several items which need to be posted including some copies of the Council Agenda.

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

- ***1 April 2024 to 30 April 2024 in the sum of £150,225.60 General Account, and £979.66 Imprest Account.***
- ***1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024 in the sum of £110,909.65 General Account, and £337.78 Imprest Account.***

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.04PM

MAYOR