

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday 19 October 2015 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors A Smith (Mayor), Mrs J Allsopp, R Awty, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs M Bland, J Brooks, B Cocksey, D Dundas, Mrs J Eagland, C Greatorex, Mrs J Greaves, P Hitchman, Mrs S James, Miss J Marks, B McMullan, D Smedley, C Spruce, A Thompson, M Thompson, Mrs L Warfield, M Warfield and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs D Baker, Mrs G Boyle, I Eadie, and T Matthews.

MEMBERS STOOD IN SILENCE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO FORMER CITY COUNCILLOR GERALD BOYLE WHO DIED ON 3 OCTOBER 2015

59 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on recent civic and other engagements attended, including the 'Samuel Johnson Birthday celebrations' on 19 September, the '75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain' commemorations at Fradley on 20 September, the 'Macmillan Coffee Morning' at the Guildhall on 23 September, the unveiling of the Whittington Tapestry at DMS Whittington on 7 October, and the 21st birthday of the 'University of the Third Age' held at the Guildhall on 14 October.

The Mayor advised that he had written on behalf of the Council to the retiring Bishop of Lichfield Jonathan Gledhill, wishing him well for the future.

The Mayor reported that the Mayoress had completed the Birmingham half marathon on 18 October in a time of two hours three minutes, and raised £689.00 for charity.

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

61 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 14 September 2015 (Nos 47-58) be confirmed as a correct record.*

62 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20 August and 22 September 2015 be received.*

63 JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 6 October 2015 be noted and adopted.*

64 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor M Warfield commended officers for a clear and concise report. Councillor A Thompson drew the Council's particular attention to new regular bookings at the Guildhall; that Ken Knowles the Town Crier had won the recent World Championship in Otago, New Zealand; and the discovery of a visit by associates of J R R Tolkien to the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum in 1915.

Councillor R Awty requested that in future officer's names be added to the relevant sections of the report to help inform Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Report as contained in Agenda Appendix 1 be received, and that officers be commended for their thorough and informative report.

65 STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (SPCA) AGM

RESOLVED: It was noted that the SPCA AGM would be held on Monday 7 December 2015 at Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford.

66 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Council considered the report detailing progress on the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – DARWIN HALL

Following the resignation of Councillor R Awty as Chairman, and as a Trustee and Director of the Darwin Hall Community Association, the Council considered an appropriate replacement.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs D Baker be appointed as a Darwin Hall Community Association Director to replace Councillor R Awty.

68 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

The Council noted the completion of the Audit of Accounts for 2014/15 and the unqualified opinion of the external auditor, Grant Thornton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

69 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT – 1 APRIL to 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Council considered the half year Financial Progress Report. Councillor J Brooks requested clarification on the seemingly low spend against three budget areas: Parks and Footpaths; Community Centres; and Democratic Services. Councillor D Smedley responded.

Councillor C Spruce commended the City Council's Officers and Members expressed their support for the revised format of the Financial Progress Report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that a further progress report be provided at the meeting of the City Council on 25 January 2016.

70 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed as listed: 1 August 2015 to 31 August 2015 in the sum of £61,308.13 General Account, and £944.60 Imprest Account.

71 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 1(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.

72 DONEGAL HOUSE CLOCK

The Council considered the Town Clerk's confidential report relating to the Donegal House Clock.

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be waived to allow the repair, refurbishment and re-installation of the Donegal House clock to be carried out by Smith of Derby in line with their detailed scheme and quotation.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10 PM**

MAYOR