

**Lichfield City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield,**  
**on Tuesday 21 January 2014 at 6.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Awty (Mayor), and Councillors Mrs J Allsopp, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, J Bayliss, Mrs M Bland, Mrs G Boyle, J Brooks, B Diggle, Mrs J Eagland, T Finn, C Greatorex, Mrs J Greaves, P Hitchman, I Jackson, Mrs S James, A Smith, C Spruce, M Taylor, T Thomas and A Thompson.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Mrs V Diggle, D Dundas, D Smedley, M Warfield and J Wilks

**75 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on recent civic and other engagements he had attended, including the Love Lichfield Award ceremony at Darnford Moors on 26 November; the Twelve Days of Christmas event on 30 November; and a number of very enjoyable Carol Services during December.

**76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Greatorex, A Smith and C Spruce declared an interest under Part B of the Council's Code of Conduct with respect to Minute 84 (Budget Estimates 2014/2015), in that they were Cabinet Members for Lichfield District Council which would be allocating the level of 'mitigation' grant payable to the City Council, and left the meeting during the discussion and voting on that item. The Town Clerk advised that all District Councillors who were also City Councillors had been granted a general dispensation permitting them to speak on financial matters between the two authorities, but that members could choose to withdraw if they so wished.

**77 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 25 November 2013 (63 - 74) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

**78 PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meeting held on 7 November 2013 and 4 December 2013 be received.*

**79 OFFICERS' REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report from Officers containing information on recent activities.

**RESOLVED:** *That the report be received.*

**80 NALC LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS' CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Council received a report from Councillor A D Thompson from his attendance at the NALC Larger Councils Conference held on 27 November 2013.

**RESOLVED:** *That Councillor Thompson be thanked for his report and the report be noted.*

**81 LICHFIELD CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – AREA DESIGNATION**

The Council noted that Lichfield District Council had accepted the civil parish of Lichfield as the designated area of the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan; and the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would be held in late February.

**RESOLVED:** *That the report be noted.*

## **82 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LICHFIELD DISTRICT**

Consideration was given to the agenda report concerning the review of the electoral arrangements for Lichfield District Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the first stage of which had proposed a reduction in the numbers of district councillors from 56 to 47. The next stage of the review would propose ward boundaries and this would have implications for the City Council wards as these have to be wholly within district council wards. The consultation period for this stage was anticipated to run until 3 March 2014.

***RESOLVED: That the report be noted, and a further report be considered at a future date to allow a submission to be made by the closing date.***

## **83 FEES AND CHARGES 2014/2015**

The Council considered the level of fees and charges to be levied for Markets, the Guildhall and photocopying for 2014/2015.

***RESOLVED:***

- 1. That charges for the Markets per 2.4 metre [8 foot] stall with effect from 1 April 2014 be increased as follows:***

***Friday market - £21.50 = £19.50 pitch, plus £2.00 (VAT inclusive) service charge***

***Saturday market - £22.50 = £20.50 pitch, plus £2.00 (VAT inclusive) service charge***

***Farmers' market - £22.50 = £20.50 pitch, plus £2.00 (VAT inclusive) service charge***

***Tuesday market - £12.20 per 2.4 m. frontage stall x 2.1m. depth, plus £1.90 per 50cm extra frontage, and £1.10p per sq m. for additional depth of stall. Includes a £1.00 (VAT inclusive) service charge.***

- 3. That the Guildhall hire charges with effect from 1 April 2014 be as detailed in Appendix 2 to the agenda.***

- 4. That no change be applied to the current charges for photocopying.***

## **84 BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014/2015**

**(INCLUDING FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2013)**

Consideration was given to the agenda report which explained the potential impact of uncertainties over what level of Government mitigation grant to billing authorities would be passed on to parish councils, and the effect that this could have on the precept. The Council also noted that since publication of the agenda the District Council had indicated that the mitigation grant should be greater than originally anticipated, but this was to be confirmed by the District Council on 24 February. The Council budget (incorporating the revised level of mitigation grant) would result in a Band D council tax of £52.75 an increase of 0.2% (11pence a year) on the current council tax.

Consideration was then given to:

- Financial Progress Report for the period 1 April to 31 December 2013.
- Budget estimates for 2014/2015 financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor T V Finn, and seconded by Councillor B Diggle:

- 1. That the Financial Progress Report 1 April to 31 December 2013 be noted.***
- 2. That subject to item 3 below the Council approve the Budget Estimates and Report for the 2014/2015 financial year.***

3. *That a provisional precept of £638,600 be set for 2014/15 which is the same amount as for 2013/14, and that this become the precept if the parish support grant awarded by Lichfield District Council does not result in the Council Tax increasing by an amount that could require a referendum. In the event that the resultant increase is an amount that could require a referendum, then the City Council will hold a Special Meeting between 25 and 28 February to reconsider its budget and precept for 2014/15.*

An amendment was proposed by Councillor J Brooks, seconded by Councillor M Taylor: *"that the proposed funding to the North Lichfield Initiative be increased by £5,000 and that this amount be taken from general reserves."*

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost**. It was then

**RESOLVED:**

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2. *That subject to item 3 below the Council approve the Budget Estimates and Report for the 2014/2015 financial year.*
3. *That a provisional precept of £638,600 be set for 2014/15 which is the same amount as for 2013/14, and that this become the precept if the parish support grant awarded by Lichfield District Council does not result in the Council Tax increasing by an amount that could require a referendum. In the event that the resultant increase is an amount that could require a referendum, then the City Council will hold a Special Meeting between 25 and 28 February to reconsider its budget and precept for 2014/15.*

**85 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

- a) *1 November 2013 to 30 November 2013 in the sum of £108,060.90 General Account, and £810.28 Imprest Account.*
- b) *1 December 2013 to 31 December 2013 in the sum of £90,978.48 General Account, and £866.66 Imprest Account.*

**86 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 press and public be excluded from the meeting.*

**87 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** *That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 10 December 2013 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*

**88 LAND AT WHARF CLOSE**

Consideration was given to the Town Clerk's confidential report.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Report be accepted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.*

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.20 PM**