

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday 25 January 2016 at 6.30 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Eadie and Mrs L Warfield.

87 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on some of the events attended over the festive period and the beginning of 2016, including Carol Services at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue and Lichfield Cathedral, as well as the Mayor's own Carol Service held at the Guildhall on 15 December. The Mayor also referred to the special meeting of the Council on 15th January where the Honorary Freedom of the City was bestowed upon Peter Young, and read a letter of thanks received from Mr Young.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

89 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 30 November 2015 (Nos 73-85) be confirmed as a correct record.*

90 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29 October, 19 November and 10 December 2015 (Nos 47-66) be received.*

91 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor B Awty commended officers for their informative report and commented that all of the staff changes over the previous few months had taken place with a seamless transition. Particular reference was made to the work of the Open Spaces Officer, Nick Burton. The Town Clerk confirmed that after further consideration the Shrove Tuesday pancake races would be held, but that the event would be reduced in scope as a result of the ongoing repaving of Conduit Street, Breadmarket Street and Market Street and the associated road closures.

RESOLVED: *That the Report as contained in Agenda Appendix 1 be received.*

92 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held on 8 January 2016 be adopted.*

93 NALC LARGER COUNCILS' CONFERENCE 2 DECEMBER 2015 – REPORT

RESOLVED: *That the conference report prepared by Councillor A Thompson be received.*

94 CHADSMEAD WARD VACANCY

The Council noted that the vacancy was created by the resignation of Mrs M Bland on 21 December 2015; and that a subsequent demand for an election had been received by Lichfield District Council's Returning Officer. If contested the election would be scheduled for Thursday 18 February 2016.

RESOLVED: *That the Report be noted.*

95 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Dr MILLEY’S HOSPITAL

The Council considered the appointment of a representative to fill the vacancy on Dr Milley’s Hospital following Mrs Bland’s resignation as a Councillor.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Miss J Marks be appointed to serve on Dr Milley’s Hospital.

96 HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Council noted that on 21 April 2016, in celebration of the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, Beacons will be lit that night across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had written to all member authorities to encourage their involvement in this historic celebratory event.

RESOLVED: That the City Council supports the principle of the celebratory Beacons, and that the Town Clerk discuss with other local organisations the potential for a joint approach in arranging involvement in the celebrations.

97 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

- a) 1 November 2015 to 30 November 2015 in the sum of £76,945.20 General Account, and £905.42 Imprest Account
- b) 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2015 in the sum of £94,606.91 General Account and £1,555.55 Imprest Account.

98 FEES AND CHARGES 2016/17

The Council considered the level of fees and charges to be levied for Markets, the Guildhall, photocopying and Pool Walk for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED: a) That charges for the Markets per 2.4 metre [8 foot] stall with effect from 1 April 2016 be increased as follows:

Friday market	-	£22.50	= £20.50 pitch, plus £2 (VAT inclusive) service charge
Saturday market	-	£23.50	= £21.50 pitch, plus £2 (VAT inclusive) service charge
Farmers’ market	-	£23.50	= £21.50 pitch, plus £2 (VAT inclusive) service charge
Tuesday market	-	£12.80 per 2.4 m. frontage stall x 2.1m. depth (minimum charge), plus £2.00 per 50cm extra frontage, and £1.10p per sq m. for additional depth of stall. Includes a £1 (VAT inc.) service charge.	

b) That with effect from 1 April 2016 Guildhall hire charges be as detailed in Agenda Appendix 6, but that the protected rates for the two Friday hirers continue for a further year with a 3% increase on their current Friday charges.

c) That no increase be applied to charges for photocopying for the 2016/17 financial year.

d) That no increase be applied to Pool Walk hire charges for the 2016/17 financial year.

99 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

The Council considered the financial progress report summarising the income and expenditure against budget for service areas for the first nine months of the year.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Progress Report 1 April to 31 December 2015 be noted.

100 BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016/17

The Council considered the Town Clerk's budget estimates and report, prepared on the basis of retaining existing services and service levels and maintaining the Council's public buildings; based on a Council Tax increase of 4% to £54.86 for an average Band 'D' property.

The Council also considered the likely impact of various scenarios of moving a small number of lower paid staff some way towards the "Living Wage" (Centre for Social Policy at Loughborough University), notwithstanding the introduction of the Government's National Living Wage (over 25's) from April 2016.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Council approve the Budget Estimates and report for 2016/17 financial year; and that the precept plus council tax support grant for 2016/17 be £674,763 [based on a precept of £640,693 plus £34,070 local council tax support grant]***
- 2. That the Council adopt 'Option 1' in relation to the 'Living Wage' proposals as presented in the Town Clerk's report, whereby the Council's lowest paid staff will be moved to one scale point above the Government's £7.20/hour Living Wage from 1 April 2016.***

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.58 PM**

MAYOR