

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee Meeting held in Committee Room 1, Guildhall at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 17 March 2016

PRESENT:

Representing Lichfield City Council: Councillor R Awty, and Councillors Mrs G Boyle, C Spruce, A Thompson and R Yardley.

Representing Johnson Society Mr P Jones

In Attendance: Joanne Wilson (Museums & Heritage Officer)
Christopher Moulton (Town Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor J Brooks.

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.* [Minutes adopted by Council on 19 October 2015.]

26 FORWARD PLAN

Members considered the updated Forward Plan 2016-2019. This had been updated from the full 2015-2018 Forward Plan and contained details of the key strategic aims for the Museum during the period.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: *That the Forward Plan 2016-2019 be adopted.*

27 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Members considered the agenda report noting that the last full redisplay of the collections and building layout was undertaken in 1989/90 and that much had changed in the intervening 26 years, not least of which was the huge increase in annual visitor numbers (now at over 18,000 per year). The Committee agreed that consideration should be given to planning a redisplay, but understood that there would be a considerable lead-in time required to develop proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

1. That the principle of re-imagining and remodelling of the collections at the Museum be agreed.

2. That the Museums and Heritage Officer undertake necessary investigatory work to establish costings for the appointment of consultants to carry out a review of the Museum, with a view to this being included within the 2017/18 budget.

28 VOLUNTEER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

The Committee considered the agenda report which explained the benefits brought to the Museum by a dedicated and hard-working team of regular volunteers which between them were the equivalent of an additional full time member of staff. The Committee noted that to date no out of pocket expenses payments had been made to volunteers, but recognised that such arrangement were seen as best practice in the sector; and that if introduced at the Museum for parking and public transport costs the annual cost would be less than £1,000 per year.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: *That the City Council adopt a policy of offering limited reimbursement in respect of certain travel expenses, to volunteers working at the Museum and Guildhall Cells.*

29 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

In Calendar of Meetings as 10.30am on Tuesday, 4 October 2016.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.40 PM