

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guildhall, Lichfield, on Wednesday 26 July 2016 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs J Greaves (Deputy Mayor, in the Chair) Mrs J Allsopp, R Awty, B Bacon, Mrs N Bacon, Mrs D Baker, Mrs G Boyle, J Brooks, B Cocksey, D Dundas, C Greatorex, P Hitchman, B McMullan, P Ray, D Smedley, A Smith, A Thompson, M Thompson, M Warfield and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Eadie, Mrs J Eagland, Mrs S James, D Leytham, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, C Spruce and Mrs L Warfield.

At the commencement of the meeting the City Council conveyed its best wishes to Councillor T Matthews for a speedy recovery following his recent fall.

32 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor reported on a number of recent civic and other engagements attended by both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; including the Film Festival at the Garrick Theatre on 23 June; the traditional Swinfen Broun Bowls Match on 2 July; the Under 21's Football prize giving ceremony on 1 July; the popular Town Criers' Competition on 2 July; the very well attended Mayor at Home afternoon tea and entertainment at the Guildhall on 16 July; the Mercian Squadron Dinner on 22 July and the Magic of Milly Charity Ball on 23 July, both of which were held at Lichfield Cathedral.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

34 COUNCIL MINUTES

Councillor Mrs G Boyle asked that her name be included on the list of attendees at the Council meeting of 22 June 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 June 2016 (nos. 15-31) be confirmed and signed as a correct record following the addition of Cllr Mrs Boyle as being present.

35 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9 June and 30 June 2016 be received.

36 OFFICERS' REPORT

Councillor B Cocksey commended officers for a concise, informative and well-presented report, noting in particular the organisational skills of the City Council's Civic Officer, Sarah Wallace, which have played a pivotal role in the success of recent civic events. The efforts of Open Spaces Officer, Nick Burton were also commended.

Councillor Cocksey and Councillor D Smedley also expressed their thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk Tony Briggs, and Guildhall Bookings Officer Helen Winter, for their attendance outside normal office hours during the cleaning of the front elevation of the Guildhall, allowing the work to be completed with minimum inconvenience to the public.

Councillor C Greatorex emphasised the importance of Twinning despite the recent EU membership referendum result, noting that the new Prime Minister Theresa May has already visited both France and Germany.

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

37 GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE:

WAR MEMORIAL, GARDEN WALL, BALLUSTRADES AND GATE WITH PIERS

The Council was pleased to note the upgrading of the status of the War Memorial and other structures in the Garden of Remembrance from Grade II to **Grade II*** following a formal reassessment by Historic England, the body responsible for maintaining the register of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

38 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The City Council considered the appointments of appropriate representatives to vacancies on Michael Lowe and Associated Charities, and Citizens Advice South East Staffordshire (CASES).

RESOLVED:

a) That Councillor M Warfield be appointed as the Council's fifth named representative on Michael Lowe and Associated Charities and;

b) That Councillor B Cocksey be appointed to serve as the City Council's 'link' with Citizens Advice South East Staffordshire under its new arrangements for local authority representation.

39 INTER-CITY WEST COAST RAIL FRANCHISE CONSULTATION

The Council considered the responses made by the Lichfield Rail Alliance in respect of the consultation on the Inter-City West Coast Rail Franchise.

RESOLVED: That the Council endorse the responses made by the Lichfield Rail Alliance in respect of the consultation on the Inter-City West Coast Rail Franchise.

40 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Council considered the information report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan noting that the pre-submission consultation had now commenced and would continue until 9 September. Councillor A Thompson confirmed that arrangements would be made for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to convene soon after the close of the consultation period to carefully consider all responses received.

Following any amendments arising from the consultation, the Draft Plan will be submitted to the District Council for a further period of consultation and on to an independent examiner to ensure that it is in general conformity with strategic policies already included in the Local Plan. The final stage is the local referendum, where majority support from electors is required in order for the Plan to be adopted.

Some observations were raised and Councillors were encouraged to submit their own detailed responses for consideration. Councillor D Smedley praised the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and its Chair, Councillor A Thompson for their work to date.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

41 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

a) For the period 1 April 2016 to 30 April 2016 in the sum of £56,219.57 General Account, and £1,347.27 Imprest Account.

b) For the period 1 May 2016 to 31 May 2016 in the sum of £127,690.04 General Account, and £1,657.86 Imprest Account

42 EXCLUSION OF 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 press and public be excluded from the meeting.

43 SAMUEL JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM REPAIR WORKS

The Council considered the Town Clerk's confidential report relating to urgent and necessary repair works carried at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

44 DARWIN HALL

The Council considered the Town Clerk's confidential report relating to Darwin Hall.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the Town Clerk's confidential report be adopted.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE DEPUTY MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.15 PM**

MAYOR