

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Lichfield City Council held in the Guild Room, Guildhall, Lichfield, on Monday 2 March 2020 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs D Baker (Mayor), J Anketell, H Ashton, C Ball, Mrs G Boyle, D Dundas, Mrs J Eagland, M Field, Mrs J Greaves, I Jackson, A Lax, Miss J Marks, T Matthews, S Pritchard, R Rathbone, P Ray, D Robertson, J Smith, C Spruce, M Trent, M Warfield and R Yardley.

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Checkland, C Greatorex, P Jones, P McDermott, C Rapley and A Smith.

112 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on a number of recent civic and other engagements attended, including the Air Cadets award ceremony, Burntwood Town Council film night, Shrovetide pancake races and Mayors Sunday service at Wade Street Church followed by charity Sunday lunch.

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillors J Anketell, Mrs D Baker, C Ball, Mrs G Boyle, D Dundas, Mrs J Eagland, I Jackson, Miss J Marks, D Robertson, C Spruce, M Warfield, and R Yardley declared an interest under Appendix B of the City Council Code of Conduct with respect to Minute 116 (Grants Advisory Committee). Cllr M Field declared an interest under Appendix A of the City Council's Code of Conduct, also with respect to Minute 116.

The Mayor declared an interest under Appendix A of the City Council Code of Conduct with respect to Minute 120 (Lease to Lichfield And Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust) and left the room during discussion and voting thereon.

114 COUNCIL MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Councillor D Robertson requested a correction to the error in the recording of his name (recorded as P Robertson rather than D Robertson).

Councillor C Ball asked for clarification as to why his proposal that a £1million reserve be created within the 2020/21 budgets was not recorded; the Town Clerk confirmed that the proposal was not carried.

Councillor D Robertson requested clarification as to why his proposal for a 5% increase in Guildhall hire rates rather than the agreed 3% was not recorded. The Town Clerk confirmed that it was his understanding that the proposal and subsequent discussions led to agreement that a higher percentage increase could be considered for 2021/22. Though this was not formally recorded, a general note had been made to this effect on the City Council files in readiness for the budget preparation process for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 January 2020 as amended (Nos 94-111) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.*

115 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 January 2020 be received.*

THE MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public addressed the Council regarding concerns as to the cessation of the Farmers' Market [as resolved at Council on 27 January 2020] and the lack of consultation with the remaining Farmers' Market Traders. The Leader of the Council confirmed that a written response would be provided as soon as was practicable.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED

116 GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes and recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 4 February 2020. Councillor C Spruce wished it to be recorded that as the vote was taken 'en bloc' his vote in favour of the recommendations was made with the exception of the grant proposed for the Erasmus Darwin Foundation – Cllr Spruce abstained from this vote due to his position as Treasurer of the Foundation.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 February 2020 be received, and that the recommendations therein be adopted.

117 NOMINATIONS FOR CIVIC OFFICE

a) Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor M Warfield, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Eagland and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Robert Yardley be nominated Mayor Elect for the year 2020/21.

b) Deputy Mayor Elect

It was proposed by Councillor T Matthews, seconded by Councillor Miss J Marks and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Deborah Baker be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for 2020/21.

c) Sheriff Elect

It was proposed by Councillor A Lax, seconded by Councillor M Warfield and

RESOLVED: That Mr Peter Hitchman be nominated Sheriff Elect for the year 2020/21.

118 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21

Members considered the draft calendar of meetings; the meeting of the Audit Committee scheduled for 4 June 2020 was rescheduled to 11 June 2020. The Town Clerk was asked to confirm whether an alternative date to the 10 December Planning Committee meeting could be identified, and clarity was sought on the date of the scheduled Planning Committee meeting of 3 June 2020.

RESOLVED: That the amended calendar of meetings for 2020/21 be as follows;

DATE	TIME	MEETING
2020		
Monday, 11 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 20 May Wednesday, 27 May	7.30pm 6.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Planning Committee
<i>Thursday, 11 June</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Audit Committee</i>
Monday, 15 June	6.30pm	COUNCIL (Year-end accounts)

Thursday, 25 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Thursday, 23 July	6.30pm	Planning Committee
TUESDAY, 28 July	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 20 August	6.30 pm	Planning Committee
Monday, 7 September	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 16 September	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Thursday, 15 October	6.30pm	Planning Committee
TUESDAY, 20 October	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Tuesday, 3 November</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee</i>
<i>Thursday, 5 November</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Staffing Committee</i>
Wednesday, 11 November	6.30pm	Planning Committee
<i>Thursday, 3 December</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Audit Committee</i>
Monday, 7 December	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Wednesday, 9 December	6.30pm	Planning Committee
2021		
Thursday, 7 January	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Monday, 25 January	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Monday, 1 February</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Grants Advisory Committee</i>
Thursday, 4 February	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Thursday, 4 March	6.30pm	Planning Committee
<i>Thursday, 11 March</i>	<i>6.30pm</i>	<i>Audit Committee</i>
TUESDAY, 16 March	6.30pm	COUNCIL
Thursday, 8 April	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Monday, 19 April	6.30pm	COUNCIL
<i>Tuesday, 27 April</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee</i>
Thursday, 6 May	6.30pm	Planning Committee
Monday, 17 May	6.30pm	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Wednesday, 26 May	7.30pm	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday, 3 June	6.30pm	Planning Committee

119 OFFICERS' REPORT

The Mayor took each section of the Officers' report in turn. Councillor Miss J Marks congratulated the Mayor on the excellent civic attendance at recent events, encompassing civic dignitaries from across the District and the County. Councillor M Trent commended the staff of the Birthplace Museum for their proactive approach to contacting local schools and other organisations to promote the guided tours and outreach talks offered by the Museum. The Mayor commended the City council's Open Spaces Officer Nick Burton for his efforts following the damage caused to City Council land and trees by storms Ciara and Dennis. Councillor Mrs G Boyle requested more detail on the cessation of the annual nursery nurse placement due to abolishment of the Erasmus sponsorship to the UK as reported by the Twinning Officer.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

THE MAYOR LEFT THE ROOM AT THIS POINT, THE DEPUTY MAYOR TOOK THE CHAIR

120 LEASE OF CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE TO LICHFIELD AND HATEHRTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST (LHCRT)

Members considered the Town Clerk's report at agenda appendix 4.

RESOLVED: *The City Council to grant a lease of Open Space 26c to LHCRT to enable phase 1a of the proposals for the site to be undertaken; the lease to expire in July 2058 in line with existing leases to the Trust and to incorporate the recommendations of Ward members arising from the meeting of 10 February 2020 as outlined below:*

- *The Heritage tow path from Cricket Lane to Gallows Wharf and phase 1a of the proposals for OS26c to be completed by the end of 2020 at the latest (subject to unknown variables such as archaeological discoveries etc that may extend timescales and are beyond the control of the Trust)*
- *Working hours not to exceed 9-5 and due regard to be had for the impact on residents while work is underway, and any representations made by those residents*
- *Trust volunteers/employees not to park on Long Bridge Road*
- *The tarmac path along the towpath to be cleared of mud and debris on a regular basis to ensure it remains as free from obstruction and debris as is reasonably practicable.*

THE MAYOR RETURNED AND TOOK THE CHAIR

121 GRANT APPLICATION – METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN, LICHFIELD

Members considered the grant application from the above organisation. Several members expressed concern that the organisation had not previously been aware of the City council's grants programme, the Town Clerk confirmed that additional advertising was proposed for the next grant round. Councillor A Lax advised all members that they too should advise groups of the availability of the funds when undertaking their duties.

RESOLVED: *That a grant of £359.95 be awarded to the Methodist Women in Britain group for the provision of five chairs with arms that will assist the most vulnerable and infirm members of various groups within the City to more safely raise and lower themselves, thereby reducing both the fear of falling and the likelihood of an actual occurrence.*

122 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: *That payment of accounts be approved and confirmed for 1 January 2020 to 31 January 2020 in the sum of £105,892.62 General Account and £886.60 Imprest Account.*

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.09 PM**

MAYOR