

# COUNCIL MEETING

10 DECEMBER 2013

## PRESENT:

D. J. Leytham (Chairman)  
D. S. Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Bacon, B. F.	Hogan, P.	Spruce, C. J.
Bacon, Mrs N.	Humphreys, K. P.	Strachan, R. W.
Barnett, Mrs S. A.	Marshall, T.	Taylor, S. D.
Constable, Mrs B. L.	Mosson, R. C.	Thomas, T. J.
Constable, D. H. J.	Mynott, G.	Tittley, M. C.
Cox, R. E.	Norman, S.G.	Tranter, Mrs H.
Derrick, B. W.	Perkins, Ms E. C.	Walker, MBE J. T.
Drinkwater, E. N.	Powell, J. J. R.	Warfield, M. A.
Eadie, I. M.	Pritchard, I. M. P.	White, A. G.
Eagland, Mrs J. M.	Pullen, D. R.	Wilcox, M. J.
Evans, Mrs. C. D.	Richards, Mrs. V.	Wilks, J. N.
Fisher, Mrs H. E.	Roberts, N. J.	Willis-Croft, K. A.
Greatorex, C.	Salter, D. F.	Wilson, B.
Hancocks, Mrs R.	Smedley, D.	Yeates, B. W.
Heath, H. R.	Smith, A. F.	

(**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors Mrs Allsopp, Mrs Arnold, Awty, Mrs Boyle, Mrs Flowith, Isaacs, Pearce, Mrs Stanhope MBE and Mrs Woodward)

## PRAYERS:

Prayers were said by Reverend P. R. Clark.

## 170 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Wilcox declared an interest in any items relating to the Lichfield Garrick Theatre as a Member of the Trust Board.

## 171 MINUTES – 8 OCTOBER 2013:

It was proposed and duly seconded “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 October 2013 (Volume 41 Part 3 Minute Book) as printed and previously circulated be taken as read approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### Arising on the Minutes

#### Minute No 120 – Report of the Leader of the Council on Cabinet Decisions and Cabinet Member Decisions

Councillor Mynott referred to Point 8 (Award of Contract for the Provision of Agency Staff) in the Minutes and stated that he had reminded Councillor Greatorex that according to the Cabinet Report the Council “required” the Agency “to engage all temporary workers on long time assignments via a Pay between assignment contract” which would mean that they would not be subject to the Agency Workers Regulations and not entitled to equal treatment on pay compared

to existing District Council staff and that details of this response were not provided in the minutes. It was agreed that the comments of Councillor Mynott should be noted.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:** That subject to the comments of Councillor Mynott being noted the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 October 2013 (Volume 41 Part 3 Minutes Book) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **172 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **(a) Councillor M. J. Fryers**

The Chairman reminded Members that Councillor Fryers had recently left the District Council and put on record the thanks of the District Council for his service over a 10 year period.

### **(b) Mrs R. Plant (Director of Operational Services)**

The Chairman informed Members that this would be the last meeting of the District Council that Mrs R. Plant would attend before leaving the Authority at the end of December 2013 after 10 years service and a total of 29 years Local Government Service. The best wishes of the Council to Mrs Plant were recorded.

### **(c) Joint Charity Event**

The Chairman informed Members that the Joint Charity Event with Lichfield City Council on 30 November 2013 entitled "The Twelve Days of Christmas" had been very successful and raised over £700 for Charity.

### **(d) Carol Service**

The Chairman informed Members that the Chairman's Carol Service due to be held on Friday 20 December 2013 at 6.30 pm at St Chad's Church Lichfield had been renamed as the Chairman's Members and Staff Carol Service and hoped that as many as possible could attend.

### **(e) Christmas Cards**

The Chairman asked Members who wished to do so to donate monies to the Chairman's Charities instead of giving Christmas Cards and thanked Councillors Derrick, Greatorex and Smedley for doing so already.

### **(f) Chairman's Annual Dinner**

The Chairman informed Members that the Chairman's Annual Dinner was due to be held on Friday 7 March 2014.

### **(g) Councillor J. N. Wilks**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Wilks to the Council Chamber following his recent illness.

## **173 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS:**

Councillor Wilcox submitted his report as Leader on decisions made at the Cabinet Meetings held on 5 November and 3 December 2013 and on Portfolio Holder Decisions.

### **1 – The Creation of a Joint Committee for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership**

Councillor Drinkwater expressed concern about the Birmingham Spatial Strategy and the effect on house building in the District of Lichfield and sought assurances from the Development Services Cabinet Member that the interests of the District Council would be protected. Councillor Wilcox informed Councillor Drinkwater that this matter could be debated later in the meeting under Agenda Item 12.

Councillor Norman asked for a reassurance that there would be feedback to the Council on the work done by the Joint Scrutiny Committee and he was assured by Councillor Wilcox that regular feedback would be received and reminded Members that each Authority had one Member on the Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor Cox was due to be the representative of this District Council.

### **2 – The Use of Private Rented Accommodation to Discharge the Council's Homelessness Duty**

Councillor Mynott sought assurances that the quality of housing provided would be to a good standard, that rents charged would be affordable and that if a housing offer was turned down the people concerned would not lose their right to housing.

Councillor Greatorex in response confirmed that appropriate levels of quality were required but that it was for the market to determine what the rent levels should be. Councillor Greatorex stated that whilst the District Council retained a statutory duty to house the homeless it could not get involved in any disputes between landlords and tenants.

### **2 – Hi Speed 2 – Phases 1 and 2**

Councillor Cox expressed strong concern that the 54 days given to respond to the Environmental Statement published as part of the Hybrid Bill was far too short a time scale and felt that the Government was pursuing this scheme without any proper consideration to those affected. Councillor Cox added that residents in the District particularly in his Ward were very concerned about the future and felt that further letters of representation should be sent to the Members of Parliament for the area. Councillor White felt that the approach of Ministers was disappointing as, to him, they listened to what was said but took no action to mitigate issues.

Councillor Wilcox informed Members that he had been to a meeting in London and met the Under Secretary of State for Transport and the Chairman of HS2 and had the opportunity of putting forward his views on behalf of the District Council. Councillor Wilcox agreed that the consultation period was too short but that the District Council must use every opportunity to protect the residents of the area. Councillor Wilcox added that he was due to meet the Leader of Staffordshire County Council during the following week and that he would write to the Secretary of State for Transport following that meeting.

### **5 – Update on High Street Innovation Supported Projects in Burntwood and Lichfield**

Councillor Mrs Fisher informed Members that since money was made available traders in Burntwood had met on a monthly basis and significant progress had been made within the Burntwood Area. Certain specific projects had been identified including improvements to the car park at the Ryecroft Shopping Centre in Burntwood. Councillor Mrs Evans, in supporting Councillor Mrs Fisher, added that the difference between Burntwood and Lichfield was that

whilst Lichfield had a specific centre Burntwood did not. However the improvements to the Ryecroft Shopping Centre were to be welcomed particularly as the decision to fund that scheme was made by the traders themselves. Councillor Drinkwater added his thanks to the Officers involved in bringing the project forward and hoped that landlords would in future look to reduce the rents that they charged in order to assist businesses.

Councillor Pritchard informed Members that he was excited by the schemes in both Lichfield and Burntwood and felt that they were being done well with relatively small amounts of money available to work with. Councillor Wilcox was encouraged by the statements made by Burntwood Members and hoped that the schemes would grow in the future.

Councillor Norman mentioned the Autumn Statement from the Chancellor of Exchequer and asked how the Chancellors proposed 2% cap on business rates and other high street initiatives would affect the District Council. Councillor Wilcox informed Members that he understood that the District Council would be compensated for these Autumn Statement measures and Councillor Spruce added that the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee would be looking at the Financial Statement implications.

### **7 – Land at Burton Old Road Streethay**

Councillor Thomas asked if the plan referred to in Paragraph 7.3 was available and he was informed that it could be accessed through the Cabinet Report. Councillor White thanked the Cabinet for using the powers to unlock and create a development site and thanked the Development Cabinet Member for visiting one concerned elderly resident to personally discuss the implications with him.

## **174 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:**

Councillor Cox submitted his report on the matters considered by the Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 13 November 2013.

### **5 – Lichfield District Council and The Local Enterprise Partnerships**

Councillor Mynott sought clarification of the position of the District Council on the Spatial Planning Plans of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, sought an assurance that it would not be used as an opportunity to offload housing and felt that a guarantee was needed. Councillor Cox referred to the final paragraph of point 5.3 of his report and he, together with Councillor Wilcox, reminded Members that the District Council was the Local Planning Authority and would determine such issues locally.

Councillor Pritchard informed Members that Birmingham were some 30,000 houses short of their requirements however some District Councils were offering land within their area to facilitate development.

## **175 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE:**

Councillor Eadie submitted his report on the matters considered by the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 26 November 2013.

## **176 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:**

### **(a) Planning Committee – 21 October 2013**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Fisher, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 October 2013 (Minutes Nod 133 – 139) be approved and adopted.

**(b) Planning Committee – 11 November 2013**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Fisher and duly seconded “That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 November 2013 (Minutes Nod 140 – 147) be approved and adopted.”

**Arising on the Minutes**

**Minute No. 143 – Burntwood – 13/00998/FUL – Retention of Detached Outbuilding 50 Springhill Road Burntwood for Mr R. Stretton**

Councillor Norman asked Councillor Mrs Fisher if pre Agenda Meetings were held in order to discuss applications such as this, as to him and other Members, it was obvious that the property proposed to be retained was a separate dwelling house. Councillor Norman added that if pre Agenda Meetings were held then issues such as this could be resolved.

Councillor Mrs Fisher stated that whilst meetings are not held before the Agenda was despatched meetings were held before the main Planning Committee in order that the content of the report might be discussed.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 November 2013 (Minutes Nod 140 – 147) be approved and adopted.

**(c) Employment Committee – 18 November 2013**

It was proposed by Councillor Powell and duly seconded “That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Committee held on 18 November 2013 (Minutes Nod 148 – 152) be approved and adopted.”

**Arising on the Minutes:**

Councillor Powell took the opportunity of thanking Councillor Mrs Tranter for her work as Vice Chairman of the Committee and urged Members to return the Training Questionnaires that had been circulated at the Council Meeting.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Committee held on 18 November 2013 (Minutes Nod 148 – 152) be approved and adopted.

**(d) Regulatory and Licensing Committee – 28 November 2013**

It was proposed by Councillor Derrick, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on 28 November 2013 (Minutes Nod 153 – 161) be approved and adopted.

**177 WARD NUMBER 16 (CHADSMEAD):**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the District Council records that Michael John Fryers had failed to attend meetings for six months and that as a consequence a Notice of Vacancy for Ward Number 16 (Chadsmead) be published.

**178 PROPOSALS FROM THE CABINET:**

No proposals from the Cabinet were submitted to the meeting.

**179 MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES:**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Spruce “that the proposed Cabinet Roles and Cabinet Members together with consequent changes to Committees as circulated be approved.”

In submitting the proposal Councillor Wilcox explained that he felt that it was necessary that there was a clear path of succession and that from time to time changes to Members holding office were needed to reflect that. Councillor Wilcox took the opportunity of paying tribute to Mrs R. Plant (Director of Operational Services) and to Councillors Mrs Flowith and Mrs Richards who were stepping down from their Cabinet Roles.

Councillor Drinkwater expressed concerns that the proposals meant that there would be no female Members of the Council on the Cabinet and considered that this was not good for the Authority and potentially a breach of the Equalities Acts. Councillor Mrs Evans added her concern that there appeared to be no consistency in changes and felt that Committees were not as robust as they could be without Members retaining their Chairmanships for an appropriate length of time. Councillor Mrs Evans was also concerned about the lack of women on the Cabinet.

Councillor Mrs Richards said that she was disappointed to hear the comments of Councillors Drinkwater and Mrs Evans as she felt that women who had held roles on the Cabinet and as Committee Chairmen were not there because of their gender but rather through their abilities. Councillor Wilcox reminded Members that the proposals included the appointment of women to Chairmen and Vice Chairmen positions on Committees.

Councillor Norman asked that an amendment to the proposal be made to the effect that Councillors Isaacs and Mynott swap the Scrutiny Committees that they currently served on so that Councillor Isaacs would be on Operational Services, Leisure, Tourism and Communications (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee and Councillor Mynott would be on Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet Roles, Cabinet Members and consequent changes to Committees be agreed subject to Councillor Isaacs being appointed to Operational Services, Leisure, Tourism and Communications (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee in place of Councillor Mynott and to Councillor Mynott being appointed to Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee in place of Councillor Isaacs.

**180 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP:**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Pritchard “that the following proposals be agreed:-

- (a) To agree to the establishment of a Joint Committee with the Local Authorities within the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership for the purposes of acting as a Supervisory Board for the Local Enterprise Partnership and its consideration of matters relating to the devolution of powers and funding under the proposed Growth Deal and its associated Local Growth Fund.
- (b) To accept the proposed Terms of Reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee as submitted.
- (c) That Councillor Cox be appointed as the representative of the District Council on the Joint Scrutiny Committee.”

In submitting the proposal Councillor Wilcox explained the background to how the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership would work and emphasised that accountability was needed particularly with the distribution of money available. Councillor Norman sought clarification of the Terms of Reference particularly with reference to the ability to call in decisions. Councillor Wilcox undertook to let Councillor Norman have the details and stated that Councillor Cox would work hard for the benefit of the Council.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:** (a) To agree to the establishment of a Joint Committee with the Local Authorities within the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership for the purposes of acting as a Supervisory Board for the Local Enterprise Partnership and its consideration of matters relating to the devolution of powers and funding under the proposed Growth Deal and its associated Local Growth Fund.

(b) To accept the proposed Terms of Reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee as submitted.

(c) That Councillor Cox be appointed as the representative of the District Council on the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

**181 CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS:**

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard seconded by Councillor Greatorex and

**RESOLVED:** That the Haunton, Hints, Fradley Junction Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans as submitted be approved.

**182 NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATIONS:**

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Greatorex and

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Lichfield be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing Neighbourhood Plans under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

## 183 MOTIONS ON NOTICE:

It was proposed by Councillor Drinkwater and seconded by Councillor Mynott that "This Council notes and supports the national campaign to stamp out the deplorable practice of 'blacklisting' of individuals because of their affiliation and association to a trade union. Blacklisting is a national scandal and too many workers, particular in construction, have had their lives ruined just because they had legitimate concerns over health and safety and other issues because they belonged to a trade union.

The Council expects our own organisation or any contractor working with or on behalf of the Council to have a zero tolerance policy towards this practice and will take every legitimate step necessary to ensure that the Council never knowingly engages or contracts with a company that operates a blacklist or has been found to operate a blacklist.

The Council acknowledges that the practise of blacklisting is against the Human Rights of an Individual and also contravenes the Data Protection Act."

In submitting the proposal Councillor Drinkwater gave Members details of Prime Ministers Question Time on 27 November 2013 during which Mr S. McPartland (the Member of Parliament for Stevenage) referred to a Cross Party Campaign that he had launched with the support of the GMB Union to provide justice for workers and their families who had been blacklisted by 44 construction companies. Councillor Drinkwater stated that the Prime Minister had agreed to join Mr McPartland in his campaign and felt that the District Council should also support it.

Councillor Pritchard in opposing the proposal stated that the wording of the motion gave an expectation that the District Council and its Contractors would have a zero tolerance towards the practice of blacklisting and would take every legitimate step to ensure that the District Council never knowingly engaged or contracted with a company that operated a blacklist or has been found to operate one. Councillor Pritchard was concerned that if the District Council agreed to the motion there would be cost, resource and legal implications for the District Council which needed to be taken into account and the procurement on contracts was currently undertaken by Staffordshire County Council on behalf of the District Council and thus rules and procedures employed by that Council would have to be influenced. Councillor Pritchard considered that as it was the duty of a responsible Council to ensure that Contractors with whom it works operated within the law he proposed that the following amendment be agreed:-

"This Council deplores illegal and unethical behaviour in any organisation, including blacklisting, and reaffirms its commitment to work with responsible and considerate partners and encourage them to affirm appropriate Codes of Practice."

Councillor Strachan seconded the amended proposal and informed Members that he listened carefully to the debate and felt that the amendment put forward represented a practical solution to a difficult problem. Councillor Strachan added that whilst the motion put forward by Councillor Drinkwater was a worthy one it needed to be moulded to make it workable rather than rejecting it out of hand. Councillor Strachan emphasised that there was no intention to support any practice of blacklisting but was concerned about the wording of the motion which could place the District Council at the mercy of any organisation who required overreaching, intrusive and costly investigations to be undertaken with any scheme put forward.

Councillor Norman did not consider that the motion put forward would mean that the District Council would be faced with unnecessary costs as all policies adopted by the District Council had cost implications but rather felt that the District Council should take a stance against blacklisting. Councillor Wilson added that the District Council were bound by Procurement Regulations and it could not just withdraw from a Contract without expecting a challenge to follow. Councillor Spruce in supporting the amendment felt that the District Council should protect itself against the possibility of being open to challenge and Councillor Hogan agreed with that view.

Councillor Mynott speaking in opposition to the amendment reminded Members that his Group



were trying to put something into place to protect those who had suffered from blacklisting and felt that information needed to be sought from companies before contracts were entered into.

Councillor White considered that Councillor Mynott did not seem to appreciate how contractors worked and stated that the key issue was that blacklisting is against the law and thus could not be supported in any way.

It was proposed by Councillor Hogan and duly seconded that the question be put and it was then:

**RESOLVED:** That this Council deplores illegal and unethical behaviour in any organisation including blacklisting and reaffirms its commitment to work with responsible and considerate partners and encourage them to affirm appropriate Codes of Practice.

## 184 QUESTIONS:

Question 1

Question from Councillor Mynott to the Cabinet Member for Community, Housing and Health:

“As of 17 October, according to Bromford, 76 of the 99 families who were at that time under occupying social rented homes in Lichfield District had requested re-housing in smaller accommodation. How many of these have now been re-housed in smaller properties as they requested and how many residents are currently waiting to be re-housed in smaller accommodation.?”

Response from Councillor Greatorex:

“The District Council does not collect the information being requested and therefore enquiries have been made of Bromford. The question refers to a situation as of 17th October and to search records based on cases as at that date, Bromford has responded that the information is not readily available and would take some time to compile.

However, Bromford has informed me that since April 2013 up to today’s date, there have been 11 under occupation transfers in Lichfield District which have obviously freed up a number of properties for ongoing movements.

In addition, there have been 7 mutual exchanges that have gone ahead in Lichfield District which have enabled 14 households to be more suitably accommodated having regard to their family size.”

Councillor Mynott asked the following supplementary question:

“Will the Cabinet Member consider allowing those trying to move to smaller accommodation to be exempt from Bedroom Tax?”

Councillor Greatorex responded:

“I consider that the number of people who have moved to accommodation of a more appropriate size to be a success and congratulate the Coalition Government on their Legislation on the Under Occupation Surcharge as it works and families can make better use of property available. Accordingly I do not support an exception from the surcharge.”

## Question 2

Question from Councillor Mynott to the Leader of the Council:

“How many employees of Lichfield District Council are earning less than the Living Wage of £7.65 per hour?”

Response from Councillor Wilcox:

“At present the position is that we have 62 permanent members of staff and 102 casual staff on rates less than the Living Wage of £7.65 per hour; a total of 164. 38 of these are on £7.64 per hour.”

Councillor Mynott asked the following supplementary question:

“Does Councillor Wilcox consider that there is an opportunity to recognise the hard work of our employees and recognise the Living Wage?”

Councillor Wilcox responded:

“I would invite Councillor Mynott to refer to the decision of the Council on 19 February 2013.”

## Question 3

Question from Councillor Norman to the Leader of the Council:

“Will the Leader of the Council and Conservative Group join with me and the Labour Group in asking the Chairman of the Council to write to Dr Zola Skweyiya, the South African High Commissioner, with our condolences to the family and the people of the Republic of South Africa over the death of Nelson Mandela whose integrity, compassion, sense of justice and above all leadership should be an inspiration to all of us who seek election and claim to represent the interests of our ward, our district or our country?”

Response from Councillor Wilcox:

“Mr Chairman we were all saddened last week to hear of the death of Nelson Mandela and many tributes have rightly been paid to this man who brought black and white South Africans together as equal partners in a new democracy.

The man jailed for over 27 years was able to rise above personal animosity and revenge to become revered across the World.

Nelson Mandela will stand for future generations as an inspiration to us all.

I support the Leader of the Oppositions request that the Chairman writes on behalf of this Council to Dr Zola Skweyiya the South African High Commissioner with our condolences.”

## Question 4

Question from Councillor Willis-Croft to the Cabinet Member for Leisure Services and Parks:

“Why is Lichfield District Council continuing to fund the Garrick Theatre at such high levels of £750,000 (This Year) given the current state of its turnover?”

Response from Councillor A. F. Smith:

“The Lichfield Garrick is an important cultural and economic asset for the district. But, as Members will know, for the first ten years of its existence, it was managed and operated by

the Council until we transferred the responsibility to the Lichfield Garrick Trust.

We knew that an independent theatre would have more opportunity to attract investment, sponsorship and external funding that is not available to a council.

The Garrick Trust took control of the theatre on 1 February 2013 but prior to that there had been at least two years of planning and negotiation. As part of that process, the council entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Trust, which identified that the Trust could expect support from the council to help it get established and to support it through its formative years.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement was endorsed by the Council's cross-party Garrick Panel and agreed by Cabinet.

The council's financial contribution to the Garrick for the first three financial years was confirmed in the agreement, as was the level of support services that the Garrick would buy back.

The contribution in 2015/16 was agreed with the Garrick in February 2013 and was informed by the council's financial position and the Fit for the Future programme.

Over the next few years, the cost to the Council will reduce significantly.

In 2013/14, the subsidy paid to the Garrick will be £663,000 with the Garrick buying back support services worth £147,500.

In addition, the council has incurred costs, in this financial year, of £26,000 for one-off legal fees in finalising the transfer and one-off costs of £16,000 for replacing part of the passenger lift.

In 2014/15, including the costs of support services, the subsidy paid to the Garrick will be £610,350.

In 2015/16, including the costs of support services, the subsidy paid to the Garrick will be £460,000 – a reduction of 31% over two years.

The subsidy paid in 2016/17 will be agreed with the Garrick in February 2014. I expect that it will be significantly lower than it is in 15/16.

The funding provided to the Garrick by the council was calculated and based both upon the previous financial performance of the Garrick when it was managed by the Council, and on expected additional costs and savings that would affect the Trust.

Directors of both the Council and of the Trust discuss matters regularly, particularly about finance. The Trust is fully aware of the council's financial position and has been advised to expect that subsidy in future years will be significantly lower than it is now.

The Trust is led by a talented Board of Trustees, which is working hard to reduce its costs and to increase its income and to make the Garrick more financially robust and sustainable.

The Garrick Panel of this Council will meet with the Trust again in January, where it is expected that the Trust will share its revised business plan which will help inform the level of subsidy that might be required from the council in future years.

Finally, the council is working with both the Trust and with Staffordshire University on preparing a robust socio-economic impact appraisal which will identify the value of the Garrick to the local economy and to our communities. The survey of audiences starts this week at the pantomime and will continue over the next few months. We expect the report to be issued in early summer next year."

Councillor Willis-Croft asked the following supplementary question:

“Can the Legal Agreement be renegotiated?”

Councillor A. F. Smith responded:

“No it cannot.”

During the questions Councillor White raised a Point of Order to the effect that Councillor Norman was tweeting an inaccurate statement about the item on blacklisting and felt that this was a deplorable action. Councillor Norman responded by saying that the tweet was his view of the amendment agreed by Council.

**185 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS:**

**RESOLVED:** That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

**IN PRIVATE**

**186 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor Wilcox submitted his confidential report as Leader on the decision made at the Cabinet Meeting held on 3 December 2013.

**1 – Friarsgate – Future Actions**

Councillor Wilcox informed Members that since the meeting on 3 December 2013 Development Securities Limited had indicated that they were hopeful that in the New Year there would be good news as far as the anchor tenant was concerned and that the documentation could then be signed up.

(The Meeting closed at 7.55 pm)

CHAIRMAN