

# COUNCIL MEETING

17 APRIL 2018

## PRESENT:

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M. A. Warfield (Chairman)  
R. J. Awty (Vice Chairman)

Bacon, Mrs N.	Greatorex, C.	Salter, D. F.
Baker, Mrs D. F.	Hassall, Miss E. A.	Shepherd, Miss O. J.
Bamborough, R. A. J.	Hoult, B. E.	Smith, A. F.
Banevicius, Mrs S. W.	Leytham, D. J.	Spruce, C. J.
Barnett, Mrs S. A.	Matthews, T. R.	Stanhope MBE, Mrs M.
Boyle, Mrs M. G.	Mosson, R. C.	Strachan, R. W.
Constable, Mrs B. L.	Marshall, T.	Tittley, M. C.
Cox, R. E.	O'Hagan, J. P.	Tranter, Mrs E. H.
Drinkwater, E. N.	Powell, J. J. R.	White, A. G.
Eadie, I. M.	Pritchard, I. M. P.	Wilcox, M. J.
Eagland, Mrs J. M.	Pullen, D. R.	Woodward, Mrs S. E.
Evans, Mrs C. D.	Ray, P.	Yeates, A.
Grange, Ms J. K.	Rayner, B. L.	Yeates, B. W.

## 252 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Constable, Miss Fisher, Mrs Fisher, Humphreys and Mrs Pullen.

## 253 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 254 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2018.

It was proposed and duly seconded "that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 February 2018 (Volume 45 Part 5 Minute Book) as printed and previously circulated be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the final sentence of Minute 219 (3) reading '*Councillor Leytham said that the £90,000 shortfall in GPs funding in addition to the national shortage of GPs would appear to be the reason.*'"

## 255 TO RECEIVE THE RETURNING OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR WARD NO. 20 (STOWE)

It was reported that Joanne Grange had been elected as a District Councillor for Stowe Ward at an election on 22 February 2018 and that her Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been completed. Councillors Wilcox and Mrs Woodward welcomed Councillor Ms Grange to the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Returning Officer's Certificate of Election for Councillor Ms Grange for Stowe Ward be received.

## **256 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) Councillor Mrs Jeanette Allsopp**

The Chairman said it was with great sadness that he had received news of the death of Councillor Mrs Jeanette Allsopp who had represented Curborough Ward from 1987–1995, Boley Park Ward from 1999–2014 and Curborough Ward from 2014 onwards.

Councillor Mrs Allsopp was dedicated to local issues and representing residents and had served on numerous Committees including Planning Committee and Leisure Parks and Waste Management (Overview and Scrutiny Committee). The Chairman said she would be greatly missed by all those that knew her.

The Council then stood in a minute's silence.

Councillor Wilcox recalled that Councillor Mrs Allsopp was always ready to serve the Council and used her role to facilitate and enable residents to access Council services. He said she would offer help without needing to be asked and was the epitome of a good Councillor. He said she would be greatly missed by the Council and the wider community.

Councillors White, Mrs Eagland, Greatorex, Marshall and Cox paid tribute to Councillor Mrs Allsopp recalling her community work, her involvement with charitable organisations in the District, her welcoming personality and humour and how her main priority was always to help residents. Councillor Mrs Woodward conveyed the condolences of the Labour Group.

### **(b) Visits and Events**

The Chairman said it had been a very busy few months and events had included a photo shoot to promote Lichfield for English Tourism week. He had also visited the Chase View Care Home to take part in their Easter celebrations and would be visiting the home again as part of the National Home Care Day.

Looking ahead, on 26 April he would have the pleasure of officially opening the new Screwfix distribution centre at Fradley.

### **(c) Chairman's Lunch**

The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended the curry lunch on Sunday 4 March at the Qmin Restaurant. He noted that the raffle had raised £180.00 for his chosen charity, the Lichfield and District Talking Newspaper.

### **(d) Beth Cobden**

The Chairman said he would like to congratulate Beth Cobden from Lichfield on winning a Gold Medal as a member of the England Ladies Netball Team at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth games.

Following the Chairman's announcements Councillor Drinkwater requested that Ward Members be notified prior to visits taking place.

**257 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 MARCH, 27 MARCH AND 10 APRIL 2018 AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS.**

**3 – Local Plan Review (2020 – 2036) Scope, Issues & Options Consultation**

Councillor Mrs Woodward said this was a complex issue and asked if a summary of the implications could be provided.

Councillor Pritchard agreed that it could be a very technical and said a simplified version would be provided.

**4 – Funding the Community and Voluntary Sector**

In response to questions from Councillor Mrs Banevicius, Councillor Pullen confirmed that the 'Places of Welcome Plus' was not a Cathedral initiative and the MHA Live at Home funding covered both Burntwood and Lichfield and was not split between the two.

Councillor Ray welcomed the funding for the community and voluntary sector and asked for reassurance that it would remain in place for three years. Councillor Pullen advised that the funding would be awarded annually over three years, he said he was proud that the budget had been protected and where budgets could be protected in the future they would be.

Councillor Mrs Woodward said she would like to know the extent of the homelessness activities undertaken by CASES since Councillors needed to know how to direct rough sleepers to get support. She asked for the annual figure for the number of rough sleepers in the District and Councillor Pullen said this would be provided.

(COUNCILLOR MRS EVANS DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS ITEM AS A TRUSTEE OF CASES)

**258 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE.**

Councillor Cox submitted his report on the items considered by the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 14 March 2018.

**2 – Local Plan Update**

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Evans about whether Birmingham overspill allocations had been included in the Plan, Councillor Cox advised that these figures were not currently available. Councillor Pritchard confirmed that the allocations document used existing figures.

**4 – Review of 2017 Festivals and Events Programme and Review of 2018 Programme**

Councillor Drinkwater asked for an update on the progress made in connection with events in Burntwood.

Councillor Eadie said the Council was conscious of the need to serve all residents equally however a number of the events referred to in the report were organised and operated by third parties. He said the Council would continue to press for events be spread across the District.

Councillor Mrs Woodward questioned the financial implications of festival and event organisation. Noting that Chase Terrace Park was no longer being locked to save money, she said it was important to have an overview of what was being spent to ensure that resources were being spread equitably.

Councillor Eadie advised that an objective of the Commercialisation Agenda was to increase the income raised through events. He said parks were public assets and organisers must meet the cost of staging events.

Councillor Pritchard reported that the Council had recently appointed an Economic Development Officer and a Tourism Manager, noting that the Tourism Manager had already been on a number of visits to Burntwood. It was suggested that she should meet with local Members in Burntwood.

## **5 – Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Cox thanked his Vice-Chairmen and the Council's Scrutiny Officer for their work.

## **259 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE.**

Councillor Strachan submitted his report on the items considered by the Strategic (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on 21 March 2018.

### **1 – Lichfield District Council Constitution**

Councillor Mrs Evans said that sometimes attendance was not particularly good, especially for training sessions and questioned when attendance figures would be made public. It was confirmed that the figures would be in the public domain soon.

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked about the value of the Parish Forum, noting that in theory it was a good idea but there appeared to be limited buy-in. She said parishes were ideally placed to take on responsibilities for their communities but the current membership of the Forum may not be appropriate. Councillor Mrs Woodward suggested that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with the Chairman of the Parish Forum commence the review of the Forum straight away rather than wait to the end of the Council term.

Councillor Mrs Eagland said she would like to see the Parish Forum continue since it provided an opportunity for parishes to learn from other parishes and was a place that they could seek information and assistance.

Councillor Strachan said the Parish Forum had not fulfilled its potential over a number of years although the energy of the current Parish Forum Chairman was clear to see. He noted that some excellent ideas had been discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting and emphasised the importance of District Councillors consulting with their Parishes.

### **2 – Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Strachan thanked his Vice-Chairmen and the Council's Scrutiny Officer for their work.

**260 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE.**

**4 – Health and Wellbeing in Lichfield District – Our Emerging Strategy 2018-2020**

Councillor Mrs Woodward welcomed the integration of health and wellbeing into the Council's policies and activities and asked how the strategy would be disseminated across the organisation.

Councillor Mrs Woodward said that although health needs in Burntwood had been evidenced in the document they were not specifically addressed in the plans going forward and she questioned how the areas of greatest need would be targeted.

Councillor Eadie said the Health and Wellbeing Strategy avoided a silo approach and noted that the next Leisure, Parks and Waste Management (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee would look at the role leisure could play.

Councillor White referred to discussions with the Chief Executive of Public Health England and noted that many of the wider determinants of health including leisure, housing, parks and open spaces were within the remit of district councils and they had a vital role to play. He said the action plan presented the right approach.

Councillor Pullen said this was not just another policy but a lens through which all decisions would be taken. He advised that it was an emerging strategy that would develop and gave assurance that it would be disseminated effectively.

**7- Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman thanked his Vice-Chairmen and the Council's Scrutiny Officer for their work.

**261 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**(a) Planning Committee – 12 March 2018**

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall "that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 March 2018 be approved and adopted."

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 March 2018 be approved and adopted.

**(b) Audit and Member Standards Committee – 22 March 2018**

It was proposed by Councillor Tittley "that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Member Standards Committee held on 22 March 2018 be approved and adopted."

Councillor Tittley thanked the Audit Manager and the Head of Finance and Procurement for their work and confirmed that he would be providing an answer to Councillor Mrs Evans regarding the question she had previously asked about Members' Attendance.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Member Standards Committee held on 22 March 2018 be approved and adopted.

**(c) Planning Committee – 9 April 2018**

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9 April 2018 be approved and adopted.”

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9 April 2018 be approved and adopted.

**262 PROPOSALS FROM THE CABINET**

**(a) Local Plan Review (2020-2036) Scope, Issues and Options Consultation**

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and duly

**Resolved: (1)** That the Local Plan Review Scope, Issues and Options document be approved for the purposes of undertaking the Regulation 18 public consultation.

**(2)** That the consultation responses received as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report be noted and the officer responses set out in the report submitted to Cabinet on 27 March 2018 be approved.

**(3)** That the Sustainability Appraisal and Non-technical Summary and Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment which accompany the Local Plan Review be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

**(4)** That the consultation periods and methods proposed in the report submitted to Cabinet on 27 March 2018 be approved for the purposes of the Local Plan Review Scope, Issues & Options consultation.

**(b) Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan and Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan Final Decision Statements**

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and duly

**Resolved:** That the decision by Cabinet on 27 March 2018 to agree to the making of the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan and Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan be noted.

**263 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Pritchard and duly

**Resolved:** That Councillor Ms Grange be appointed to the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee and to the Employment Committee.

**264 QUESTIONS**

**Question from Councillor Mrs Woodward to the Leader of the Council:**

“The County Council’s recently published Strategic Plan includes housing as one of its five priorities. Can the Leader tell me please what discussions have been held since

May 2017 between the County Council and Lichfield District Council, as the housing authority, and set out dates, times and attendees of such meetings?”

**Response from the Leader of the Council:**

“On 12 April 2018 a Conference Call was organised by Staffordshire County Council involving Districts throughout Staffordshire.

The County Council organised the Call to inform Districts about the County Council’s intention to focus on accelerated housing delivery across Staffordshire as a key strategic ambition.

The Council’s Head of Economic Growth represented Lichfield District Council on the Conference call.

No meetings have taken place, but the County Council is intending to visit District Authorities to outline in more detail their vision.”

**265 EXCLUSION OF 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**IN PRIVATE**

**266 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 MARCH AND 10 APRIL 2018**

The report of the Leader of the Council was noted.

**267 PROPOSAL FROM THE CABINET**

**(a) Acquisition of Land at Birmingham Road**

Consideration was given to a proposal from the Cabinet regarding the acquisition of land at Birmingham Road (Confidential Minute).

(The Meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN