

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

26 September 2023

TOWN CLERK'S OPEN REPORT

1) Town Twinning

- **To consider a request of Town Twinning**

The Town Council has been approached by Santa María de Cayón, a town in the north of Spain (region of Cantabria), to ask whether the Town Council is interested in a twinning opportunity. They consider that Stratford-upon-Avon is similar in size and infrastructure to their own town and have expressed an interest to twin with us to broaden their ties with the UK and enable young people to experience our culture.

Stratford-upon-Avon is not officially twinned with any other towns although it does enjoy being part of 'Stratfords of the World' and since the 1980's has links with these other Stratfords located in the United States, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. Reunions regularly take place, most recently in Ontario in August 2023. The Mayor of Stratford in Ontario, Canada, made a visit to the Town Hall on 25 August 2023 to meet the Mayor on a private visit to the UK. In addition, an unofficial link with L'isle Adam, France had been formed but this has since expired.

The Town Council has no direct administrative involvement in 'Stratfords of the World', although Councillor Cleeve is the Town Council's representative. The Town Council, however, would always make every effort to promote the alliance and any reunions that might take place in the community.

Historically, it is understood that as Stratford-upon-Avon is a unique town, the Town Council has always been mindful of its popularity and has chosen not to twin with anyone.

If Councillors consider there were merits in proceeding with this request and opening up dialogue with Santa María de Cayón or other towns, there are a number of factors to be considered:

- Twinning should provide the citizens of two communities with an opportunity to come to know and understand each other, to develop friendships and arrange exchanges, ideally set up with community involvement;
- Most effective twinning arrangements are set up with either a local authority or a recognised twinning association, perhaps with financial support, or support in kind from the local authority; and
- Noting that there are cultural ties and friendships to be made, there may also be criticism of 'civic junketing' and therefore much care must be taken if civic funds are used with any visits having a sound and reasonable purpose.

2) Resignation from Stratford-upon-Avon Business Improvement District (BID)

- **To note the update.**

Councillor Rolfe was appointed as the Town Council representative on the BID Board at the Annual Council meeting 2023. Councillor Rolfe recently resigned from the BID Board, along with the District and County Council representatives. In addition, Officers of these Councils are no longer observers on the BID Board.

The Town Council will continue to collaborate with the BID, wherever possible, as part of our support to the local economy of the town.

As a result of this resignation, Councillor Rolfe will re-take her position on the Market Forum, which she resigned from earlier in the month.

3) **Warwickshire Association of Local Councils – AGM**

- **To appoint one voting member for the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils AGM**

All Councillors and officers are invited to attend the afternoon event on Wednesday 15th November 2023, commencing at 1.00pm.

In addition to the AGM, there will be presentations, as well as a market place where key suppliers to the Town/Parish Council sector will be on hand to chat to delegates about their services. Market place stall holders will be available to meet delegates throughout the afternoon and evening.

For their annual general meeting, the Town Council must appoint one voting member (officer or councillor).

4) **Statutory 5 year Polling Place and Polling District Review**

- **To consider the Town Council's response to the initial Consultation**

In advance of the public consultation to commence on 2 October 2023, the Town Council have been consulted on the initial proposals. Town Councillors have all been forwarded the invitation to comment. Councillor MacDonald has commented on the change to the Brookside Parish Ward as unfortunately Foundation House, Masons Road is no longer available to hire. His observations have been forwarded to the District Council who will consider the suggestions.

Stratford-upon-Avon Polling Stations – *Appendix 1*

5) **UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Christmas Light Switch-on**

- **To authorise the Mayor and one other Councillor to sign the Agreement between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the Town Council to secure payments from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in anticipation of grants being approved by the District Council's Cabinet**

The Town Council have applied to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, being administered by the District Council, for funds to assist with the delivery of free entertainment and activities which include accessible options for the Christmas Light Switch-on later this year. This will be considered at a meeting of the District Council's Cabinet on 2 October 2023. The festival is put on for the enjoyment of the people of Stratford-upon-Avon and visitors and is done in partnership, with Stratford-upon-Avon BID amongst others. The aim of the grant application this year is to provide experiences that some may not be able to afford privately such as, a sleigh ride photo opportunity, snow globe experience and other family friendly activities. The increased footfall expected with the all-day event has the additional benefit of attracting customers to local businesses and increase footfall throughout the Town Centre.

Given the rising costs and more stringent measures to be in place for the event this year, which now includes an Entertainment Licence, the budget for free entertainment is limited. A request, therefore, for funding of approximately £12,000 has been submitted for the free entertainment aspect. This includes the purchase of; an accessible sleigh for photo opportunities £5,500 (second hand purchase), Christmas Themed Bench for photo opportunities £1,300 (second hand purchase) and the hire of a giant Snow Globe for photo opportunities £1,600 per day. If the Town Council was successful in its bid for funding, we could then negotiate with BID in respect of our overall financial contribution already earmarked.

Accordingly, due to the tight timescale involved, we are required to pre-authorise the Agreement, which of course would be null and void if we were not successful.

6) **Aims and Objectives / Mission Statement**

- **To consider whether the Town Council's current Mission Statement requires refreshing and to consider the most appropriate format to address the Town Council's Corporate objectives and aims for the current administration**

The Town Council's last Mission Statement was visited in 2019 and is attached for ease of reference - *Appendix 2*

With new Councillors in place since May 2023 and having had time to settle in, now is an ideal time to start considering any update required to this Statement and a refreshed approach to the Aims and Objectives for the Council to help drive the Council forward over the next four years.

Town Clerk
19 September 2023

Polling District	Parish	Constituency	County Division	Polling Places (and stations)	Electorate	Accessibility	Electoral Office Comments	Initial Recommendation
Stratford Avenue Ward – Single Member Ward								
DKA	Avenue Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford North	Avenue Sports and Social Club, Avenue Farm Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	2471	Accessible building with ramp to assist with step up at access – Adequate parking shared with Venture House with a designated disabled parking bay.	The Sports and Social Club is on a well known road and there is adequate parking on site. However, the Council following previous low turnouts (at local elections), placed better signage with better social media output to improve voter turnout from 27.81% (2019) to 33.92% (2023)	To adopt Sports and Social Club, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Bishopton Ward – Single Member Ward								
DJA	Bishopton Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	The Community Centre, Drayton Avenue, Stratford-upon-Avon	2457	Accessible building - Very limited on-site parking, however, the majority of voters would walk to the venue.	The Community Centre is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt the Community Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Clopton Ward - Single Member Ward								
DG & DK	Clopton Parish Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford North	Ken Kennett Centre, Justin's Avenue, Stratford-upon-Avon	1788	Accessible building with adequate car parking, however, no designated disabled parking bays.	The Ken Kennett Centre is a well known building located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt the Ken Kennet Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
DFE	Albany Parish Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon	475	Accessible building with parking located nearby in the town centre.	Elizabeth House is not located in the polling district, however, was used for the May 2023 Elections and is deemed suitable for the small electorate of Albany Parish Ward.	To adopt Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
DHB	Darlow Parish Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	St. Andrews Church Centre, Church Lane, Shottery	285	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	St. Andrews Church is not located in the polling district, however, was used for the May 2023 Elections and is deemed suitable for the small electorate of Darlow Parish Ward.	To adopt St. Andrews Church Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Guildhall & Bridgetown Ward - Single Member Ward								
DE	Guildhall & Bridgetown Ward (west of River Avon) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon	1402	Accessible building with parking located nearby in the town centre.	Elizabeth House is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.

DD	Guildhall & Bridgetown Ward (East of River Avon) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	Rosebird Community Hall, Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	1353	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	The Rosebird Community Hall is not located in Guildhall & Bridgetown Ward, however, was used for the May 2023 Elections and is deemed suitable for the voters of this polling district.	To adopt the Rosebird Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Hathaway Ward - Single Member Ward								
DHA	Hathaway Parish Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	St. Andrews Church Centre, Church Lane Shottery	1146	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	St. Andrews Church is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt St. Andrews Church Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
DJ	Brookside Parish Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford North	<i>To be confirmed</i> as Foundation House, Masons Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, is not available – suggestions are welcome for an accessible building within the ward.	1014	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Stratford Orchard Hill Ward - Single Member Ward								
DDA	Orchard Hill Ward (south of Banbury Road) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	Rosebird Community Hall, Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	1413	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	The Rosebird Community Hall is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt the Rosebird Community Hall , Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
DC	Orchard Hill Ward (north of Banbury Road) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	St. Peter's Mission, Manor Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	1529	Accessible building, however, with on-street parking only.	St. Peter's Mission is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt St. Peter's Mission, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Shottery Ward - Single Member Ward								
DF	Shottery Ward (East Side) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	Shottery Memorial Hall, Hathaway Lane, Shottery	582	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	The Memorial Hall is not located in the polling district, however, was used for the May 2023 Elections and is deemed suitable for the electorate of this polling district.	To adopt the Memorial Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
DH	Shottery Ward (North and West Side) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	Shottery Memorial Hall, Hathaway Lane, Shottery	873	Accessible building with adequate car parking and designated disabled parking bays.	The Memorial Hall is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt the Memorial Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.

DEA	Shottery Ward (South Side) in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford West	Stratford Racecourse, Luddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	1415	Accessible building with adequate car parking, however, with no designated disabled parking bays.	The Racecourse is a well known building, located in its polling district and convenient for voters.	To adopt the Racecourse, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Tiddington Ward - Single Member Ward								
DB	Tiddington Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford South	Community Centre, Main Road, Tiddington	2327	Accessible building with adequate car parking, however, with no designated disabled parking bays.	The Community Centre is a well known building, located in its polling district and is convenient to voters.	To adopt the Community Centre, Tiddington, as the polling place for this polling district.
Stratford Welcombe Ward - Single Member Ward								
DA	Welcombe Ward in the Parish of Stratford-upon-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	Stratford North	The Baptist Church, Payton Street, Stratford-upon-Avon	2784	Accessible building with ramp placed at entrance due to slight step up to station, with designated disabled parking bays only.	The Baptist Church is a well known building, located in its polling district and is well known and convenient to voters.	To adopt the Baptist Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, as the polling place for this polling district.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

Vision Statement

The Town Council's vision for Stratford-upon-Avon is for a sustainable, attractive and vibrant town which improves the quality of life for people who live, work, invest or just visit Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mission Statement

To develop quality services that benefit the town, improve liaison between all sectors of the community and the Town Council and engender greater community pride and involvement:

- a) To act as the grass roots of local democracy and deliver a democratic, representational voice for the community through transparent local government, accessible to all;
- b) Helping to create a sustainable, caring and inclusive society which embraces all inhabitants irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, culture or income which seeks to develop wellbeing, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation;
- c) Support and work closely with the town's charitable organisations, community groups and volunteers;
- d) Engage in open dialogue with residents to better understand their needs and, in turn, explain how the Town Council will address those needs within the powers and resources of the Council;
- e) To develop high standard and cost effective services that meet local needs;
- f) Work in partnership with others to achieve more for Stratford-upon-Avon;
- g) Preserving the unique identity of the town, by conserving and enhancing its traditions, character and heritage;
- h) To promote Stratford-upon-Avon as a welcoming, clean and safe town for all;
- i) To be proactive rather than reactive in our approach.