

**STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY REMOTE MEETING**

**4 November 2020**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Coles	J Fradgley
Curtis	Lee
Cleeve	C Warren Howles

Clerk: J Mayes, Town Clerk

Tony Holt, David Lawley from the Outdoor Spaces Team

Joe Harvey, Chair of AAGP joined the meeting at 3.00pm.

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Dyer

2. Approval of Notes from Meeting held on 6 October 2020

Noted.

3. Discussion with Outdoor Spaces Team re Wildflower Planting underutilised space and Trees in Planters projects

The Chair explained to the Outdoor Spaces team that a list of unkempt land that could be used for wildflower planting, in each of the Town's wards had been identified and sent to SDC and WCC to establish land ownership. The full list had been submitted, but initially the project would work on one piece of land in each ward (9 in total). The Outdoor Spaces team agreed that beginning with 9 was a more manageable number. They confirmed that they had looked at the sites, most of which have grass which is cut regularly at the moment. Dave explained that in order to establish the wildflower meadows the grass will need to be depleted. This is achieved by planting a yellow weed parasite, known as yellow rattle plant which attaches to the root of the grass and kills it. The land will then need to be scarified before the seed is spread on the bare soil. Any particles of thistle, dock leaf will need to be removed to allow the wildflower seed to grow. Dave explained that this process will take two seasons to establish. The recommended time to plant the yellow rattle

plant is the autumn, so it will be too late to plant this now for the spring next year. He also noted that yellow rattle plant is difficult to purchase at the moment because it is in short supply.

He asked Cllrs if residents living locally to the sites would be happy with rough grass that can't be mown until the wildflower seed is established.

The Chair concluded that the delay to next autumn to plant the yellow rattle should be used to establish ownership of the land and to write to local residents to explain the project and confirm they are happy with the proposals. Cllr Lee asked if there were any sites that the team felt were attractive as pilot locations. Dave suggested the land by Bishopton Hamlets, Avenue Ward and the top of Blue Cap road in Welcombe ward. Cllr Warren Howles confirmed that she has already had some discussions with the residents at Bishopton Hamlets about the project. It was **agreed** that the outdoor spaces team would liaise with Cllr Warren Howles, who will speak to the residents of Bishopton Hamlets about starting the project.

It was also **agreed** that the Outdoor Spaces team need to know the 9 areas to be planted so that they can calculate the amount of seed required.

The Chair also asked the Outdoor Spaces team for their thoughts on the project to build large planters for trees to place around the town. Tony confirmed that he had obtained a quote to make one planter from a Town Council supplier, which would be £880 plus VAT. The cost of trees and soil (likely one ton) would also need to be included. Cllr Lee asked if materials were driving the price. Tony outlined the specification for the planter, which would be made from hardwood.

Cllrs discussed possible options for funding including applying for a Severn Trent grant or using CIL funding because the project is for the good of the town. Cllrs also discussed possible locations for the planters including Waterside (on the town side away from market), outside the Town Hall and on the Cornmarket. It was also noted that putting some on Bridge Street may set a precedent for any future reconfiguration and give a sense of greenery on Bridge Street. The Chair noted that there are two planters on Meer Street that could possibly be used. There are also planters situated near Bridgefoot car park that are not being used. Due to the size and weight of the planters once planted there will be limited capacity to move them. A fork lift truck would be required.

Cllrs also discussed the type of tree. Tony confirmed that trees can be obtained at cost price from his supplier. It was **agreed** that Tony should speak to his supplier for advice on the best tree to plant in the planters and the cost of the trees. It was also **agreed** that should have further discussions with the supplier about on costings for the planters if more than one are required.

4. Budget Review to determine budget requirements and designated reserve for 2021/22

The Clerk advised that group should consider its recommended budget and nominated designated reserve budget for next financial year. Although the budget is finalised in January the finance committee require the information before then. It was confirmed that this year's budget includes £10,000 for a Climate Change Pilot Project and that no expenditure has been incurred to date. It was noted that if this income is carried forward to next financial year it should not be double counted.

It was suggested that the funding could be used for the trees in planter's project, which it would be possible to start in this financial year. This will improve the aesthetics of the town, and links in with the work of the Strategic Partnership, and would show the Town Council's willingness to engage in improvements.

Cllrs **agreed** that a decision is needed on the best type of tree to use for the planter, using advice from the tree supplier. Once further information on the cost of additional planters and trees is available the group can confirm costs for the budget at the next meeting. Cllrs agreed that the funding for the wildflower meadows would then be paid from next year's budget as the project will be started in the autumn as discussed earlier in the meeting. Cllr Warren Howles noted that she had purchased yellow rattle plant for a project she is undertaking at a cost of £35 per 100g, which covers 5 square metres. Cllrs **agreed** that it was important to stress that if the £10,000 budget is spent this year another allocation is required for next financial year to continue with projects.

The Town Clerk left the meeting.

5. Presentation on Avon to Arrow Greenway project by Joe Harvey, Chair, AAGP

The Chair welcomed Joe Harvey to the meeting. Joe gave an interesting presentation on The Avon to Arrow Greenway Project (AAGP), which aims to open up path and cycle ways between Evesham and Alcester, largely along the route of old railway lines. Since the project started two years ago plans have developed to extend the route from Broom into Stratford, enabling it to be linked to the existing Greenway cycle route. A feasibility study will be needed for this part of the route. AAGP have engaged with the parish councils along the route, on two main points; land ownership and whether land owners are happy to look at idea in principle and political support. Joe explained that AAGP are seeking support for the project before discussions move to SDC and WCC level. The group have already engaged with Wychavon Council and have spoken to senior officers at WCC. It is hoped that that the project may be able to be built into the South Warwickshire plan as part of a broader concept to improving infrastructure and environment in the district. AAGP

hope to set up terms of agreement to safeguard land and reassure landowners about their relationship with the project. The Chair asked how Stratford fits into the hub of the project and whether the project sits within the local transport plan. Joe confirmed that at the moment the project doesn't sit within the local transport plan but it would be beneficial if it did, allowing connections within the urban setting. AAGP aims to persuade everyone to work together to become a powerful alliance to help achieve the project and were seeking the support of the Town Council.

Cllrs were supportive of the project. The Chair explained that the group would take the matter to the next full Town Council meeting to ask for its endorsement and support.

The Chair thanked Joe for his presentation. Joe left the meeting.

#### 6. Green Directory – collating information

The Clerk asked how the group wished to proceed with collating information for the green directory. It was agreed that councillors would check with any contacts they know who are involved with environmental work that they are happy to include their details in a directory. This information would then be sent to the committee clerk.

#### 7. Any other business

##### 7.1 Update on green advent calendar

Cllr Warren Howles gave an update on the green advent calendar. The costs and final design have been approved.

##### 7.2 Damascus Project

The Chair gave an update on a conversation she had with Simon Herko from TravelSpirit concerning a project looking at the technical feasibility of consolidating online shopping delivery in Stratford upon Avon. The project is seeking support from a Small Business Research initiative competition funded by the cabinet office, Geospatial Commission. The Chair noted that, following her discussions a letter of interest in the project from the Town Clerk had been sent. The letter had been circulated to Cllrs in advance of this meeting because the deadline for submitting the letter was before the meeting.

##### 7.3 Update on community gardening in wards

Cllrs Cleeve, Warren Howles and Fradgley gave updates on the community gardening projects in their wards.

The Chair also reported that at the WCC Liberal Democrat group were considering producing a leaflet for residents on bio diversity in back gardens. She would circulate it when received for discussion about whether it could be adapted for use locally.

## 8. Dates of future meetings

Cllrs agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 9 December at 4.30pm. The Clerk asked the group for their thought on setting a calendar of dates for 2021 if they intended to meet monthly. It was agreed that future dates for 2021 would be agreed at the next meeting.

*The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.40pm.*