

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

AIMS & OBJECTIVES TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING

10 MARCH, 2020

Notes pages 1-4

Present:  
Councillors

Alcock	How (Chairman)
Cleeve	Mackenzie
Coles	Mayor Rolfe (ex-officio)
J Fradgley	Warren-Howles
I Fradgley	

Clerk: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies: Mark Haselden

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39) Notes from the meeting held on 18 February, 2020

These were approved as a correct record.

40) Implementation of TC Project 1 -Town Strategic Partnership

The Town Clerk advised that she had received confirmation that the following would represent their organisation on the proposed Town Strategic Partnership Board:

SDC – Deputy Leader, Cllr Darren Pemberton and Deputy Chief Exec, Tony Perks

RSC – Director of Events and Exhibitions, Geraldine Collenge

SBT – Tim Aucott, Director of Strategic Projects

BID – Director, Joe Baconnet

STT – Chief Executive, Sara Apsley

Stratford Society – John Scampion

STC – Town Clerk, Sarah Summers and one member, yet to be appointed

Clerk to the Board – Joanne Mayes (STC)

It was hoped that former NDP Steering Group Chairman, Mark Haselden would serve on the Board, and hopefully act as its independent Chairman. However, this is far from certain. If Mark is unavailable, members thought that the Town Clerk should act as Chairman. The Town Clerk voiced concern as she was not convinced that she would be suitable but agreed to give it thought.

The makeup of the Board wants to be as tight as possible with local authority membership being one member, one officer. It was disappointing to note that WCC did not think it necessary to appoint a member but one of the three County Councillors for Stratford-upon-Avon would attend.

The Town Council member has yet to be appointed which will be done at the Town Council Meeting on 31 March. News that Joanne Mayes would act as Clerk to the Board was met with approval.

Once membership to the group has been finalised, the inaugural meeting will be arranged, but will now be delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

41) CLW Project 2 - Promoting New Strategic Green Open Spaces

Cllr Jenny Fradgley advised that the Climate Change Emergency Group had been working on the tree planting initiative.

Councillor Lee has produced a map of each ward which will be overlaid with district and county land ownership maps. This should identify areas suitable for tree planting and ward members could prioritise their list and work with the landowner to find a space for our staff to plant trees.

The Town Council would have to identify suitable species and have these ready for planting at the next tree planting period which is November.

The Group is drawing up a proposed Tree Planting Policy and then the Town Clerk will work with the County and District to instigate the planting regime.

Ideally the initiative should be based on the same principle as the Evesham Road model - work with a residents group, get the work costed and then get the residents to pay half. The Council would guarantee to match-fund. Residents would also be asked to take on the responsibility for maintenance, i.e. watering.

The Town Council's Terms of Reference for its Committees should make mention of the Council's 'green' commitment. Additionally, when considering Grant applications, the applicants must have taken account and outlined their green credentials. In consideration of the Stratford-in-Bloom grant application in particular, Council would like to see evidence of a move towards promoting bee friendly, sustainable planting and provide as many bird and bat boxes as possible.

42) TC Project 5 - Improving the Balance between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists

TC Project 5 will naturally feed into the Strategic Partnership meetings, and appropriate people will be invited to the relevant meetings i.e. someone for the Town Transport Group or cycling forum.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley advised that Safety Planning for Alcester Road is being undertaken by WCC but as the will cost is in the region of £600,000 this is on hold at present. There is £150,000 available for the first trench but this might be withdrawn. There will need to be a business study for safe access to the town for cyclists. A cycle monitoring group by WCC needs to be responsibly pressurised to help bring this forward.

Councillor Ian Fradgley advised that the County Highways officers who attended the SDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee said there were no plans whatsoever regarding cyclists crossing the river.

The Town Clerk was requested to invite Steven Rumble from WCC to the April Town Council Meeting not necessarily to talk specifically about cycling but movement around the town in general. However, this will also be delayed owing to COVID-19.

42) Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the aim to get the three NDP projects 'off the ground' had been satisfied. Therefore, there was no reason for the Aims & Objectives Task & Finish Group to continue working on this.

However, it was still necessary to meet regarding non NDP A&O's. The meeting on 7 April (likely to be held remotely) will continue but the 12 May meeting is cancelled.

43) Council Approval

The Town Clerk advised that she will bring the agreed A&O's as prioritised by the T&F group to the next Town Council Meeting so these can be ratified as the Town Council's short and long term objectives which will feed into the budget process accordingly.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6:13pm*