

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

7 December, 2021

MINUTES pages 1 – 5

Present  
Councillors:

Cleeve	How
Coles	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Vos
Jackson	

Clerks: Admin Officer  
Public: No members of the public were present.  
Press: No members of the press were present.

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34) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mackenzie, Taylor and Wall and were accepted for the reasons given.

35) Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Cleeve, Coles, and Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 9.2 minuted as 43 as members of the Town Trust that have part funded The Fred Winter Centre.

36) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

37) To grant any requests for dispensation

None.

38) Public Participation

There was no public participation.

39) Minutes

RECOMMENDED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 26 October, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

40) To Adopt Draft Notes of Sub-Group Meetings

- Website, Social Media & Newsletter Panel

RECOMMENDED: That the notes from the Website, Social Media & Newsletter Panel Meeting held on 19 October, 2021 be adopted.

The Chairman asked that it was minuted that the Admin Clerk has been doing a great job on the Bridging the Gap newsletter.

41) Budget Review October 2021

41.1. YTD Budget Review for 2021-22

Members noted the report and acknowledged the increasing deficit in the budget. They asked for clarification on the following items, which the Clerk agreed to investigate:

- Where are we with the progress in fixing the American Fountain Clock – *following the meeting, the Admin Clerk has been told that currently the clock is working, and it is hoped that no further work is required;*
- Is the work on the Holy Trinity Church wall complete and did Holy Trinity contribute to the restoration – *following the meeting, the Admin Clerk was advised that the work is complete and that all costs were covered by the Town Council;*
- Who would be liable if someone were to injure themselves on the Holy Trinity Church Wall – *the Town Clerk is due to have a meeting with a representative at Holy Trinity Church next week and the Admin Clerk agreed to ask for this to be discussed.*

Further suggestions on how to decrease expenditure and increase income were suggested:

- Amenities requests should be paused for the time being and this should be made clear on the STC website. Planning Consultative Committee members should ensure that planning developers are encouraged to site bins on all new housing developments;
- The Tranquility Garden should be more widely advertised. It was agreed that this should be taken to the next Website, Social Media & Newsletter Panel for discussion;
- The Cemetery tariffs should be reviewed again and a Task and Finish Group should be set up in the new year.

Members requested that the Responsible Financial Officer attends next meeting.

#### 41.2. Draft Budget Review for 2022-23

Members noted that the Town Council would not be informed of the Council Tax Base by the District Council until later in December.

It was

RECOMMENDED: that in order to aim for a more balanced budget the following changes could be made:

- Reduce the area of kerbing work in the Cemetery kerbing - *further discussed in minute 45*;
- Remove the £5,000 expenditure commitment for the Tranquility Garden;
- Raise allotment fees to £35.00 per year;
- Cap Stratford in Bloom and Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights initiative funds at £25,000 for 2022-23.
- Put a spending cap on any future initiatives.

It was agreed that if members think of any other suggestions to let the Responsible Financial Officer know.

#### 42) Town Council Initiatives (previously Grants)

##### 42.1. To adopt the revised Town Council Initiatives (previously Grants) application form

It was noted that some numbering would have to be fixed, but following this amendment was

RECOMMENDED: the form is adopted and reviewed once a year.

42.2. To approve and adopt a revised application form for Free Use of the Town Hall

It was suggested that this form should be trialled, and that we could ask local organisation Lifespace Trust to fill it in as they may want to use the Town Hall for their AGM in 2022.

RECOMMENDED: the form is adopted and reviewed once a year.

43) Fred Winter Centre

Some members raised concerns that the ethos behind the Fred Winter Centre has changed and that it has become a more commercialised enterprise now.

One member noted that they believed members of the homeless community would be able to come into the centre on a particularly rainy or cold day and be able to take a shower, change into clean clothes and have access to hot food, but is unsure after seeing latest plans whether this is the case.

Another member asked whether the centre would be supporting mental health and whether any money would be received from the government towards this.

Cllr How asked that any questions or concerns are sent to him so that he could portray them at the next board meeting.

It was also

RECOMMENDED: that a representative of the Fred Winter Centre is invited to a Town Council meeting in the New Year in order for them to give a presentation on their progress.

44) Printer Cartridge Recycling Bin

Members noted the report.

45) Cemetery Kerbing

Following a discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Council obtains a requote on the kerbing for the smaller area as recommended by the Health and Safety Officer.

46) External Works on the Town Hall;

The report was noted.

Members noted how impressive the Town Hall now looks.

It was suggested that Council may want to start to build up a fund for repainting the 'God Save the King' inscription on the Town Hall, but it was thought that may be able to come under the general maintenance budget in future years.

47) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday 1 February, 2021 at the Town Hall.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:57pm.*