

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE MAYORAL, CIVIC CEREMONIAL AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

In accordance with s78 of the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulation 2020

15 September, 2020

Minutes **Pages 1- 4**

Present:
Councillors:

Alcock	Mackenzie
Curtis	Rolfe (Chairman)
J Fradgley	Warren-Howles

Clerk: Civic Officer
Press: None
Public: None

The Town Clerk was in attendance for part of the meeting
The Health and Safety Consultant was present.

16) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Cleeve, Jackson, Taylor and Wall and accepted for the reason stated.

17) Declarations of Interest

Councillors Alcock and Rolfe declared an non pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.2 (Christmas Lights Switch-On) minuted as 27.

- 18) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

None were received.

- 19) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were no verbal requests for dispensation.

- 20) Public Participation

None were present.

- 21) To approve the draft minutes of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee held on 21 July, 2020

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the draft open minutes of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee held on 21 July 2020, be approved as a correct record.

In accordance with current procedures, the Chairman's signature and the date will be appended electronically to the minutes.

The Chairman proposed and it was AGREED that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted that item 7.2, minuted as 27, be moved to Confidential Session.

- 22) Remembrance Sunday

In line with current restrictions, only organisations wishing to lay a wreath would be invited inside the Remembrance Garden. With the current strict social distancing measures there is no other choice, and a road closure between the junctions of Church Street/Old Town and Southern Lane to allow members of the public to stand safely outside the Garden of Remembrance.

To ensure that the Remembrance Sunday event is widely accessible, arrangements have been put in place to film and simultaneous live stream the ceremony via the 4G network.

It was therefore Proposed, Seconded and Unanimously

RECOMMENDED: To adopt the plan for Remembrance Sunday as presented, and to accept the quotation for £470.00 plus VAT for the provision of sound and video equipment.

23) VJ Day Commemoration - 15 August

Members noted the report regarding the virtual commemoration of VJ Day on the 15 August. It is clear from the statistics that the collaboration between Escape Arts, Welcombe Radio and the Town Council had been very well received, and members congratulated all concerned for a successful outcome.

The Clerk was requested to write to Karen Williams, Penny Keynton Hook and Niamh Oldham on behalf of the Committee, to express its thanks and appreciation for their contribution.

24) The Commemorative Tree and Planter Marking the 600th Anniversary of the Stratford-upon-Avon Guildhall

Members noted the report and accepted that due to current repair work on the Guild Chapel, that the tree could not be installed until the spring of 2021.

The proposed wording for a plaque was noted, although it was considered to be too wordy. Therefore, following a brief discussion, it was Proposed, Seconded and Unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That the wording on the plaque should read: *This holly tree was placed here by Councillor Kate Rolfe, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon 2019 –2020, commemorating the 600th anniversary of the foundation of Stratford Guild Hall in 1420.*

25) Civic Car – purchase/Hire charges

Members noted the additional information

26) Stratford Mop

Although a final decision regarding whether the Stratford-upon-Avon Mop Fair is to take place rests with the District Council, members were dismayed, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, that the fair had not already been cancelled. With Covid levels rising locally as indicated by the increased 'R' rate, to fill the streets with hundreds of additional people would be totally unacceptable. Local traders had already endured a challenging year, and to allow the Mop would be viewed locally as a kick in the teeth!.

The Town Clerk and the Mayor had spoken at length to the Leader of the District Council on Monday 14 September, making it very clear to Councillor Jefferson that the Town Council were totally opposed to the Mop taking place during the current pandemic. Local residents and shop keepers have also expressed very serious concerns regarding the potential spread of Covid if the Mop is allowed to go ahead.

The cancellation of the Mop would have contractual implications, and discussions are already taking place with the Showman's Guild and the Wilson Family, and it is hoped that a right decision in the circumstances could be reached very soon.

Councillor Curtis requested that a letter be sent to the District Council reaffirming the Town Council's opposition to the Mop taking place this year.

27) Christmas Lights Switch-On

The meeting then moved into confidential session