

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH, 2020**

**MINUTES** pages 1 - 3

Presiding: The Mayor (Councillor Kate Rolfe)

Councillors Present:

Alcock	Jackson
Cleeve	Lee
Coles	Mackenzie
Dowling	Taylor
Dyer	Vos
I Fradgley	Wall
J Fradgley	Warren-Howles
How	

Clerk – Town Clerk  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Electors – 10  
Press – Absent

Apologies: Councillors Curtis and Fojtik

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting and advised that should a vote be taken, only residents of the parish would be eligible to vote.

Members of the Town Council introduced themselves, confirming the ward they represented.

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1. Minutes

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 7 March, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Return for the year ended 31 March, 2019

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an explanation why the figures in the Accounting Statement on the Annual Return had been changed. This was as a result of instructions from the External Auditor who requested a change in how long and short term investments were accounted for, which makes no difference to the overall value of cash investments and assets.

The report was noted.

4. Mayor's Annual Report – 2019/2020

The report was 'taken as read'. However, the Mayor advised that if anyone had any comments or questions relating to the report that they should contact her, or the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk.

5. Parochial Matters Raised by Electors

5.1 A resident from Old Town raised concern that the pavements and gutters in this location were becoming seriously clogged with grass and weeds and that the situation was now so severe that it was becoming dangerous.

Ward member and County Councillor, Jenny Fradgley, responded that she and fellow ward member, Tony Jackson, had taken the grass down in 2017, but having recently taken this matter up again with Warwickshire County Council, they would not grant permission for her, together with a group of volunteers, to clear the grass and debris from outside residents houses. This would make the Council liable should something go awry.

Councillor Fradgley went on to explain that due to the reduction in money and resources, WCC had only sprayed once, which had not been very effective, possibly owing to the time of year it was done. She agreed to go back to WCC and would report the outcome to the resident concerned in due course.

5.2 A former Mayor brought three issues of concern to the attention of Council:

1) Although the Crime & Police Commissioner attended the January Town Council Meeting, his address and feedback related to policing across the whole of the district which diluted the overall picture of police manpower and effectiveness within the town. He considered that it would be far more transparent if, in future, the Commissioner reported on police matters relating purely to Stratford-upon-Avon.

2) The large concrete blocks in Bridge Street are an eyesore and give totally the wrong impression. He understood that they are a defence against an HGV attack, but believes they are unsuitable and unattractive and he would like to see them removed.

3) The anti-social behaviour which continually occurs outside Sainsbury's on Bridge Street is unacceptable. The people concerned are abusive, their language is offensive and they should not be allowed to congregate. He suggested that Stratford-in-Bloom should be asked to put in a flower box to prevent people gathering in this location.

The Mayor advised that she had just left a Stratford-in-Bloom meeting but would bring the matter up at their next meeting.

5.2 Another former Mayor, who stepped down at the last election, advised that the annual tea party 'Mayoress at Home' had evolved into either 'Mayoress at Home' or, if the Mayor is female, 'Mayor at Home'. He considered this to be unfair and that if there is a Consort, he should be given the opportunity to host an event for men.

The Chairman of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee agreed that this matter would be considered at the forthcoming meeting.

*There being no further issues arising, the Mayor thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7:46pm.*