

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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) Regulations 2020

26 January, 2021

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Jackson) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	J Fradgley
Cleeve	How
Coles	Lee
Curtis	Mackenzie
Dowling	Rolfe
Dyer	Taylor
Fojtik	Vos
I Fradgley	Warren-Howles

Clerks: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: There were three members of the public present, with one remaining throughout the meeting

Prior to declaring the meeting open, the Mayor turned to the Council's Chaplain, Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, who called for a minute's silence in honour of former Mayor's Consort, Normal Price, which he followed by his "Thought for the day".

115) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wall and was accepted for the reasons given.

116) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fojtik declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17.1 minuted as 131.1.

117) To Receive Written Requests for Dispensation for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no requests.

118) To Grant any Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests.

119) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

120) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 24 November, 2020

Owing to his absence at the meeting held on 24 November, 2020 the Mayor called upon the Deputy Mayor to present the minutes.

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 24 November, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

In accordance with current procedures, the Deputy Mayor's electronic signature will be appended to the minutes.

121) To Adopt the Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 1 December, 15 December, 2020 and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 19 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 1 December, 15 December, 2020 and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting

held on 19 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 122) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 8 December, 2020 and to Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 8 December, 2020 and to the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 123) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of Civic, Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 5 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of Civic, Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 5 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 124) To Adopt the Open Minutes of Finance & Audit Committee Meetings held on 17 November, 2020 and the Draft Open Minutes of Finance & Audit Committee Meetings held on 12 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Open Minutes of Finance & Audit Committee Meetings held on 17 November, 2020 and the Draft Open Minutes of Finance & Audit Committee Meetings held on 12 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 125) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 1 December, 2020, 5, 12 and 19 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 1 December, 2020, 5, 12 and 19 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

126) To Adopt the Notes from the Town Centre & Town Traffic Task & Finish Group Meeting held on 21 December, 2020

RESOLVED: The Notes from the Town Centre & Town Traffic Task and Finish Group Meeting held on 21 December, 2020 be approved and adopted.

127) To Adopt the Minutes from the Youth Council Meetings held on 10 December, 2020 and 7 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The minutes from the Youth Council Meetings held on 10 December, 2020 and 7 January, 2021 be approved and adopted.

128) To Welcome and Receive an Address from Sally Bannister, Community Engagement Manager Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick & Leamington Spa – Office of National Statistics, on the forthcoming 2021 Census

Sally Bannister gave a verbal address regarding the forthcoming 2021 Census advising that it was hoped that 80% of responses will be done on-line. Paper copies will be available on request.

Sally requested specific help from the Town Council to identify those who may find it too difficult and complicated to complete the Census online, or have other barriers, such as language. She would be grateful if the Council publicises the forthcoming Census using the usual channels of information – personal face to face contact, Facebook, newsletters etc.

Following her briefing, Sally responded to several questions from the floor, also covered in FAQ documents provided by the Census which are appended to the minutes as **Appendix 'A'**.

Sally confirmed that she is the Council's point of contact if members have any questions and that if there is any further information to impart, she will circulate this via the Town Clerk.

Sally was thanked for her time but remained to witness the rest of the meeting.

129) To Receive a Presentation from the Engineering Project Manager at Warwickshire County Council, Julie Crawshaw, on road works planned for Stratford-upon-Avon over the next 18 months

Julie Crawshaw's internet was unstable and she could not connect to the meeting at this point. The Mayor proposed, and it was agreed, to move on and return to agenda item 15 if and when she appeared. Julie gained access after agenda point 17.1 minuted as 131.3.

She addressed the meeting using a Power Point presentation on all the road works that are planned for the next 18 months in the town and local environs.

Julie advised of major works as well as smaller projects which were presented alongside a Gantt chart, with the caveat that Gantt charts can never be 'set in stone' and have to be flexible in accordance with circumstances.

Her slide presentation is appended to the minutes as **Appendix 'B'**.

130) Election of Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect

It was Proposed by Councillor Warren-Howles and Seconded by Councillor I Fradgley and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kevin Taylor be appointed Mayor Elect.

The Senior Councillor, Bill Dowling, advised that he had received two nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect; Councillor Cleeve and Coles. Councillor Coles expressed surprise and although she appreciated the gesture of trust, she asked that her name be withdrawn. Having received no further nominations, it was Proposed by Councillor Alcock and Seconded by Councillor Rolfe and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Gill Cleeve be appointed Deputy Mayor Elect for the ensuing year 2021/2022.

131) Funding Requests

131.1 **Community Catalyst**

In general, it was felt that this initiative was one that Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council would like to support and be involved with. However, no provision had been made in the proposed 2021/2022 budget. It was also considered that some additional information was required before a considered decision could be reached.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That a potential £5,000 from General Reserves be earmarked for this initiative, and that the matter be deferred to the Community Services Committee for scrutiny at their meeting on 6 April, enabling a recommendation to be returned to the Town Council on 27 April when the matter will be determined.

131.2 **Economic Studies Regarding Re-opening Lines and New Passenger Services, Stratford-upon-Avon – Honeybourne – Worcester/Oxford**

This item was withdrawn as it was understood that full funding had been achieved.

131.3 **Membership of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC)**

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To take advantage of the waiving of the NALC subscription element of the overall fee for Councils joining for the first time in at least two years and re-join WALC for the ensuing year 2021/2022 at a cost of £620.00.

As Julie Crashaw had now gained access, the meeting reverted to item 15, minuted as 129.

Following Julie's presentation, the Mayor temporarily adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

132) 2021/2022 Draft Budget and Precept

Councillor Coles lead on this issue giving an account of the extensive budget review undertaken by the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting on 12 January, 2020, which resulted in the recommendations contained in the Deputy Town Clerk's Open Report. She advised that the Committee was recommending caution and although it was considered necessary to increase the Precept very slightly, the Committee had been mindful that it would be insensitive and unfair to increase it significantly when there is currently so much financial hardship in the community.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the cost of the Precept per Band D household would be increased by 2.5%, which is an increase of £0.97 from £38.89 to £39.86 resulting in a total Precept request of £527,576.

It was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the eighth draft version of the proposed 2021/2022 budget.

Both the Deputy Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Finance Committee were commended for their excellent and extensive work in formulating the budget.

133) Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2021/2022 on the understanding that it may have to be returned to Council for amendment if the District

Council's Planning Committee Meetings do not follow their regular pattern of meetings.

134) Annual Town Meeting

The report was noted.

135) Standing Orders

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the proposed amendments to Standing Orders.

136) Reserves Policy

Following a brief verbal account from the Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the proposed amendment to the Reserves Policy which is linked to at least three months of budgeted expenditure.

137) Outside Bodies Reports

The reports were taken as read.

138) Verbal Ward Reports

138.1 Councillor Warren Howles

Advised that the Environmental Group had instigated a new initiative called 'Stratford Goes Wild'. The aim was to join like-minded but currently disparate groups or individuals together in a WhatsApp group so that they can share their environmental ideas and learn from one another.

138.2 Councillor Alcock

Confirmed that unsurprisingly, there has been a lot of disruption resulting from the Bishopton 500 development. She is in daily contact with residents and District Council and is grateful for the support from Councillor J Fradgley. Councillor Alcock advised that it is hoped that some of these issues will begin to be resolved.

138.3 Councillor Cleeve

Thanked all the volunteers helping with Stratford Support which has stepped up again during this latest wave of the pandemic and is there to help anyone who needs assistance with shopping, wellbeing calls etc.

138.4 Councillor Rolfe

Advised that the refurbishment of the carriageway in Bridge Street and Sheep Street has been brought forward from April to February (second and third week of February), to take account of the decrease in vehicles and pedestrians during lockdown.

138.5 Councillor Fojtik

Confirmed that the Clopton Community Action Group's Arts Funding has enabled a scheme that is being delivered by a body called 'Make Lunch'. They are delivering meals to families during February and there is an arts colouring pack that is also going out to help them during the half term.

139) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report

The Town Clerk had nothing further to report.

140) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Town Council will take place at 6:00pm on Tuesday 30 March, 2021, or at 6:30pm if a physical meeting is to be held at the Town Hall.

The Mayor declared the virtual meeting closed at 8:21pm.