

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

27 July, 2021

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Taylor) in the Chair

Councillors:

Coles	J Fradgley
Curtis	How
Dowling	Jackson
Dyer	How
Fojtik	Lee
I Fradgley	Vos

Clerk: Town Clerk

Press: None present

Public: One member of the public was present throughout the meeting

22) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alcock, Cleeve, Mackenzie, Rolfe, Wall and Warren-Howles and were accepted for the reasons given.

Particular mention was made of Councillor Rolfe and on behalf of Council, the Mayor wished her a speedy recovery.

23) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

None were received.

25) To grant any requests for dispensation

Councillor Jason Fojtik requested a dispensation to take part in agenda item 15.1 minuted as 36. Councillor Fojtik had an 'other registerable interest' in the issue.

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Town Clerk granted the request on the following grounds:

- It is considered that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business.
- That the authority considers that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area.
- That the authority considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

26) Public Participation

No one wished to speak in Public Participation.

27) Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 June, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

28) Draft Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 1 June, 22 June, and 29 June, 2021

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Pre-Discussion Consultations held on 1 June, 22 June, and the draft open minutes of 29 June, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 29) Draft Open/Confidential Minutes of the Personnel Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 29 June 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of Personnel Pre-Discussion Consultation Meeting held on 29 July, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 30) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of Community Services Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 6 July,2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 6 July, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 31) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Civic, Heritage & Events Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 20 July, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Civic, Heritage & Events Pre-Discussion Consultation held on 20 July, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 32) To Adopt the Notes from the Stratford Support Meeting held on 11 May and 13 July, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Stratford Support Meetings held 11 May and 13 July, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 33) To Adopt the Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 10 June, 2021.

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 10 June, 2021 be approved and adopted.

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 22 July, 2021 had been cancelled.

34) To Meet and Greet Inspector Benjamin Hembry

The Mayor welcomed the new Police Inspector for Stratford-upon-Avon, Inspector Ben Hembry.

The Inspector gave a brief resume of his career to date and then proceeded to answer the questions from members that had been submitted in advance.

The Mayor permitted additional questions from the floor, which were answered in depth. He then thanked Inspector Hembry for his time. The Inspector then withdrew.

35) To Affirm Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Three Standing Committees

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To act on the recommendations of the Standing Committees and affirm the appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen:
Personnel Committee - Chairman Cllr Vos
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Alcock;
Community Services Committee - Chairman Cllr Cleeve, Deputy Chairman Cllr How;
Civic, Heritage & Events Committee – Chairman Cllr Rolfe, Deputy Chairman Cllr Alcock.

36) Community Builder Initiative

Councillor Fojtik, who had received a dispensation to speak and vote on this issue, was joined by Stratford on Avon District Council officer, Marie Darwin, to present an update on the Community Builder initiative and request that the Town Council supports the venture with a £5,000 contribution and appoints a representative to the Board.

Following a protracted question/answer session with Marie, and a short debate, Councillor Fojtik requested a recorded vote, permitted under S/O T20.

It was Proposed, Seconded and carried by eleven votes in favour of the motion with one abstention.

RESOLVED: That Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council supports the initiative with an investment of £5,000 and will appoint a Town Council representative to the Project Board in due course.

Councillor Coles	For
Councillor Curtis	Abstain
Councillor Dowling	For
Councillor Dyer	For
Councillor Fojtik	For
Councillor I Fradgley	For
Councillor J Fradgley	For
Councillor How	For
Councillor Jackson	For
Councillor Lee	For
Mayor Taylor	For
Councillor Vos	For

37) CIL Projects

It was considered that the Council's CIL money had been well spent by investing in the Bridge Street/High Street design project, which resulted in WCC adopting it as their preferred scheme to apply for funding from the Government's levelling up scheme.

Council was in agreement that the strategy of investing CIL money for important projects that affect the town as a whole should continue, but further thought should be given on how to support community projects which could have benefitted from CIL monies. It was suggested that the Town Council should develop policy guidance on how the Council will use CIL money which can be conveyed to the community.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To accrue CIL monies to be used strategically to advance the delivery of projects and policies

of benefit to the town such as those in the Neighbourhood Development Plan

38) Increase in the Debit Card Balance

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To amend the Financial Regulations to reflect:

- To increase the maximum debit card balance to £1,000;
- That the Finance & Facilities Officer's authorisation limit would also increase to £1,000;
- That the Finance Regulations be amended to reference the RFO, not the Deputy Town Clerk.

39) Market Contract – Extension of Market Agreement

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Town Council concurs with Stratford on Avon District Council's resolution and grants LSD Promotions Limited an extension to the Market Agreement until September 2027.

40) Market Contract – Financial Split

Members agreed that there was insufficient information and future uncertainty regarding how the market would be administered from Warwick.

the Town Council felt that it was unable to agree to the proposed 50/50% profit share with SDC until there was a clear understanding and agreement of what exactly can be deducted from the net profit 'pot' before the profit is shared on a 50/50% basis.

Additionally, the Town Council would like to wait until the total merger of Warwick and Stratford District Councils can be judged

as to its effectiveness, particularly with regard to Stratford-upon-Avon's markets.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Town Council proposes that the current agreement should continue for at least twelve months.

41) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

The reports were noted.

42) Ward Reports

Cllr J Fradgley – Stratford in Bloom

Issued a reminder that they were now halfway through judging the SiB front garden competition and that the judging forms must be returned by 1 August.

Cllr I Fradgley – Planning Applications

Advised that there are an increasing number of tree felling applications being considered at Chairman's Actions and that ward members must pick these up when the list of applications are circulated to Council and respond.

43) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report for Information

43.1 The Town Clerk advised that as she had only received positive feedback from councillors regarding the Health Assured cover for employees and members, she will proceed and enrol the Town Council into the Employee Assistance Programme for a five-year term, at a fixed cost of £750.00 per annum.

Further information on the benefits of the scheme can be found on the Health Assured website:
<https://www.healthassured.org>

43.2 The Town Clerk issued a brief update on the wellbeing of those within the Council who are suffering ill health and the current staffing levels during the peak holiday period. She

confirmed that most officers are now working from the office.

44) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council Meeting will be 5 October, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. The Town Council Annual Photograph will be taken at 6:10pm.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm