

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

28 January, 2020

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Rolfe) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	J Fradgley
Cleeve	Jackson
Coles	Lee
Curtis	Taylor
How	Vos
Fojtik	Warren-Howles
I Fradgley	

Clerks: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Chaplain: Present throughout the open meeting

Press: Herald

Public: Two members of the public were present, one leaving after the Police & Crime Commissioner's address

87) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dowling, Mackenzie and Wall and accepted for the reasons given. Councillor Dyer also apologised for his absence.

88) Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

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

There were no requests.

90) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

91) Public Participation

After wishing Council a 'Happy New Year', a resident and former Mayor raised two issues:

91.1 He advised that he had many reservations and worries regarding the Town Council's contribution of £25,000 for the Fred Winter Centre initiative. He considered that the town's people were 'getting a raw deal'. Although he quite understood why Stratford-on-Avon District Council were financially supporting the venture, as the Centre would accommodate people from across the district, he believed that other parishes within the district should therefore be obligated to provide financial support and that it should not be left to the Town Council on behalf of the people of Stratford-upon-Avon to bear the brunt. He requested that the Town Council place a caveat on their contribution to this effect.

91.2 The resident went on to advise that he believed the town's people were also 'getting a raw deal' with regard to police on the ground as the Stratford-upon-Avon officers also have to cover Southam and Wellesbourne. He stated that it feels like Stratford-upon-Avon has no designated officers which leaves the town vulnerable and questioned the number of police that are purported to be on the ground in the town.

As the Police and Crime Commissioner was present to address the Town Council, the Mayor requested that he also responds to the resident's concern.

92) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 November, 2019

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 November, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

- 93) To Adopt the Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 3 December and 17 December, 2019 and the Draft Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 21 January, 2020;

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 3 December, 17 December, 2019 and the Draft Open Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 94) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee Meeting held on 7 January, 2020;

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial and Events Committee Meeting held on 7 January, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 95) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 14 January, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 14 January, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 96) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the Aims & Objectives Task & Finish Group Meeting held on 14 January, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Notes of the Aims & Objectives Task & Finish Group Meeting held on 14 January, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 97) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the Governance & Policies Panel Meeting held on 20 January, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Notes of the Governance & Policies Panel Meeting held on 20 January, 2020 be approved and adopted.

98) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the Climate Change Emergency Panel Meeting held on 20 January, 2020

The Town Clerk requested that this issue be withdrawn as the notes should have been presented for approval and adoption to the General Purposes Committee, to which it reports, and not to Town Council. She apologised for her administrative error.

99) To receive an address from the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe TD

The Mayor welcomed Mr Philip Seccombe, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire.

Mr Seccombe commenced his address by stating that his aim was to give an update on what has occurred since his visit to the Town Council in April, 2019, to give an account on what the police precept is/will be financing and to listen to the issues and concerns raised at the meeting.

He went on to give quite a lengthy account containing brief synopsis of what has been achieved and the initiatives that have been successfully instigated.

Mr Seccombe responded to the resident's concern and answered questions that had been submitted in advance and the spontaneous questions that arose from the floor.

At the close, Mr Seccombe, who was thanked by the Mayor and Council, then withdrew.

(The full transcript of the session is appended to these Minutes as **Appendix 'A'**).

100) Election of Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony Jackson be appointed Mayor Elect.

The acting Senior Councillor, Jenny Fradgley, advised that having contacted all members of the Town Council, one member, Councillor Kevin Taylor, had come forward to stand for Deputy Mayor Elect.

Councillor Taylor gave a short candidacy address and there being no other candidates, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kevin Taylor be appointed Deputy Mayor Elect to serve alongside Councillor Jackson in the ensuing year 2020/2021.

To warm applause, the Mayor congratulated both councillors.

101) Calendar of Meetings 2020/2021

The Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee advised that the timescale between the August and September PCC meeting was too long. He requested that an earlier date be arranged by swapping the date of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee or the Finance & Scrutiny Committee which were scheduled to meet earlier in September.

The Town Clerk advised that she will re-issue the calendar when the clerks of the two aforementioned standing committees and the Planning Consultative Committee have been consulted, as the calendar had been compiled having received confirmation that all the clerks were available on those dates.

102) Council Tax Referendum Principles

The report was noted.

103) Proposed 2020/2021 Draft Budget

A number of members spoke on the issue, all in support of the proposed budget and precept.

The Mayor requested that Council's appreciation be placed on record for all the hard work that had been undertaken by the Deputy Town Clerk during the budget deliberations.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the proposed 2020/21 draft budget.

Following a POINT OF ORDER, it was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve the precept request of £514,351 which equates to an Annual Rate Charge per Household of £38.89.

104) Appointment of a Conservation Architect

Following a further verbal explanation by the Chairman of the Town Hall Income, Facilities and Wellbeing Panel, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To appoint conservation architect, Mr Stephen Oliver MA (Cantab) DipArch RIBA AABC, from Oliver Architecture, to act as the Council's overseer for the Town Hall maintenance programme, with particular regard to the external work, and that he be retained as the Council's Architect in Residence when Mr Roger Abbot RIBA, relinquishes the position.

The Town Clerk was requested to write to Mr Abbott, and Mrs Dawn Lodge MRICS, the Council's Building Surveyor, to thank them for their assistance during the recruitment process.

105) Proposed new byelaw to replace those currently existing at the Bancroft Gardens, the Tramway and the Recreation Ground

There was unanimous support for the proposed new bylaw for the Bancroft Gardens, the Tramway and Recreation Ground but in response to the consultation, the Town Clerk was requested to seek reassurance from the District Council that proper safety control measures will be in place to ensure that all the new bylaws are actively and properly enforced.

106) Dementia Friendly Stratford-upon-Avon

The report was noted. It was agreed that each member would be given a small supply of hard-copy questionnaires.

With regard to the Dementia Awareness event at the Town Hall on 2 March from 10:00am until 1:00pm, the following members volunteered to assist with serving tea and coffee: the Mayor and Councillors Alcock, Cleeve, Curtis, J Fradgley, Jackson, Taylor, Vos and Warren-Howles.

107) Appointment/Replacement Representatives to Outside Bodies – Christmas Lights and Alveston Relief in Need Charity

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That with immediate effect and until his return or the time of re-election to outside bodies, Councillor Alcock would temporarily replace Councillor Wall as the Town Council's representative on the Christmas Lights Committee.

It was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rolfe would replace Councillor Mackenzie as the Town Council's representative on the Alveston Relief in Need Charity.

108) Long Term Provision of Burial Space

As this issue involved consideration of Heads of Terms, the Mayor proposed and it was AGREED that this matter would be conducted in confidential session.

109) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

Councillor Taylor:

- PING Initiative
- Stratforward BID
- Market Forum

Subsequently added
Councillor Alcock:

- Christmas Lights

The reports were taken as read.

110) Ward Reports

Verbal reports were received from:

- **Councillor Alcock:**

Thanked the police ground-force in Bishopton for the six arrests relating to drug offences that were made recently.

- **Councillor I Fradgley:**

Raised concern regarding the recent Potting Shed planning application which the Town Council had opposed, being outside the built up area boundary. Albeit in contravention of the town's Neighbourhood Development Plan, as was pointed out to the District Council when the Chairman of the PCC spoke at the Planning 'A' Meeting opposing the application, the District Council still proceeded to grant the application.

- **The Mayor:**

Gave a detailed account of the extensive damage to roads, in particular to Boundary Lane and Pimlico Lane, which has been caused by construction lorries facilitating the Arden Heath Development. Both Lanes should have been out of bounds to development vehicles. Since Christmas, seven private vehicles using the Lanes have burst their tyres. WCC have insisted that the roads should be properly cleaned and the condition of the Lanes improved, at the expense of the developer. WCC Enforcement could prevent development continuing if these urgent issues are not addressed. The Mayor requested that if any member receives a complaint or has sight of photographs appertaining to this issue, that they be forwarded to her, as WCC is compiling a dossier following the excessive and abnormal number of complaints they have received.

- **Councillor J Fradgley:**

Expressed thanks to Mr Cyril Bennis who responded quickly to a telephone message and arrived very early that morning to rescue a swan from their driveway that was obviously in distress.

111) Town Clerk's/Deputy Town Clerks's Verbal Report

The Town Clerk issued a verbal report on:

- The installation of the new fire detection system and fire drills;
- The garden at the Fred Winter Centre;
- Private use of the civic car by the Civic Officer to ensure emissions are captured effectively.

112) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council Meeting will be held on 31 March, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. The Town Meeting will be held on 5 March at the Town Hall at 7:30pm.

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, item 15.8 minuted as 113 was moved to Confidential Session. Although the information received and subsequent discussions were confidential, the resultant minute is not, and is therefore documented as a continuance of the Town Council Open Minutes.

113) Long Term Provision of Burial Space

The Town Clerk received clear and unanimous instruction to pursue the issue and open formal negotiations, taking into account the various points raised by members during the discussion.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:20pm