

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

29 September, 2020

Open Minutes pages 1 - 11

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Jackson) in the Chair

Councillors:

Cleeve	How
Coles	Lee
Curtis	Mackenzie
Dyer	Rolfe
Fojtik	Taylor
I Fradgley	Vos
J Fradgley	

Clerks: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk  
Press: Absent  
Public: Sara Aspley, Chief Executive of Stratford Town Trust, Rev Dr Paul Edmondson

Prior to declaring the meeting open, the Mayor called upon the Council's Chaplain, Rev Dr Paul Edmondson, who gave his "Thought for the day".

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60) Apologies

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

61) Declarations of Interest

Councillors Cleeve, Coles and Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 15, minuted as item 73.

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

There were no requests.

- 63) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

- 64) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

- 65) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28 July, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28 July, 2020 be approved as a correct record. The Mayor instructed the Town Clerk to append his electronic signature to the minutes.

- 66) To Adopt the Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 4 August, 2020 and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 1 September, 2020

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 4 August and the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 67) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Additional General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19 August, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Minutes of the Additional General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19 August, 2020 be approved and adopted.

68) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 8 September, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 8 September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

69) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events Committee Meeting held on 15 September, 2020

Councillor Vos requested that the decision not to change the civic car to an electric or hybrid car at the current time be kept under review. Councillor Rolfe responded that it was under review. Councillor Taylor added that the vehicle that had been selected as a replacement has a delivery time of twelve to eighteen months, so an immediate replacement would not be possible.

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial and Events Committee Meeting held on 15 September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

70) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 4 August, 18 August and 8 September, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 4 August, 18 August and 8 September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

71) To Adopt the Notes from the Town Centre & Town Traffic Task and Finish Group Meetings held on 5 August, 17 August and 2 September, 2020

RESOLVED: The Notes from the Town Centre & Town Traffic Task and Finish Group Meetings held on 5 August, 17 August and 2 September, 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 72) To Adopt the Notes from the Youth Council Steering Group Meetings held on 5 August, 8 September and 17 September, 2020

RESOLVED: The Notes from the Youth Council Steering Group Meetings held on 5 August, 8 September and 17 September 2020 be approved and adopted.

- 73) To Receive a Presentation on the socio-economic profile of Stratford-upon-Avon by the Chief Executive of Stratford Town Trust, Sara Aspley

Sara Aspley gave an interesting and informative presentation on the Socio Economic Profile of the Town by 2035, using data obtained before COVID. Following the presentation members asked a number of questions, noting the need for more collaborative support of community centres and for the data to be considered when planning the next Core Strategy. Following the interaction, Ms Aspley was thanked for her time and then withdrew from the meeting.

The slides from Sara's Power Point Presentation are appended to these minutes as **Appendix 'A'**.

- 74) Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Council Steering Group

Councillor Cleeve gave an update and thanked her colleagues, the Town Clerk and Committee Clerk for their support in getting this exciting initiative off the ground. The steering group is represented by members who live across the town and attend different schools.

The next stage is to consider the formal interaction between the Youth Council and the Town Council. It was suggested that this may involve attendance by the Chairman of the Youth Council at Town Council meetings or submitting a written report with their views on Town Council agenda items.

Cllr Cleeve was thanked for her work in establishing the group, and she in turn paid tribute to the young people whose passion was inspirational.

75) Review of Proposed New Committee Structure

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the standing committee that includes the consideration of civic matters will be known as the Civic, Heritage & Events Committee.

It was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve the new committee structure and the committee Terms of Reference.

76) Appointment of Members to Standing Committees

Members were appointed to serve on the new standing committee structure as follows:

- Those on General Purposes will now serve on Community Services;
- Those on Finance & Scrutiny will now serve on Finance & Audit;
- Those on Human Resources will now serve on Personnel;
- Those on Mayoral, Civic Ceremonial & Events will now serve on Civic, Heritage & Events;
- Planning Consultative Committee remains unchanged.

Additionally, Councillor Vos was appointed to serve on the Civic, Heritage & Events Committee.

77) Appointment of Town Council Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was agreed that the existing representatives to outside bodies would remain constant, with the following exceptions:

- Councillor Mackenzie will replace Councillor Warren-Howles as the VASA representative;
- Councillor Dyer will replace Councillor J Fradgley as the Friends of Shakespeare Church representative;
- Councillor Warren-Howles will join Councillor J Fradgley as the Town Council Stratford-in-Bloom representatives.

The 2020/2021 Representatives to Outside Bodies list is appended as **Appendix 'B'**.

78) Members' Allowances

Councillors discussed whether they should accept a member's allowance as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

A concern was raised that by not having an allowance in place, going forward, it may present a potential barrier and prevent greater diversity of representation.

It was therefore felt that this should be kept under review and be considered in advance of the next local election in May, 2023.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That Council would not implement a member's allowance but the issue would be reviewed again in 2021.

79) Town Council and Committee Meetings Virtual -v- Physical

Members agreed that streaming meetings had made them more accessible to the public and it was considered essential that this should continue.

Concern was expressed at incurring a cost of £500 on a pilot test, in addition to the £5,600 cost of installing the necessary cabled equipment.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That a system should be installed to allow streaming of meetings and further clarification on the costs of undertaking a pilot should be obtained.

*Councillor Rolfe was unable to vote due to lost internet connection. The Mayor temporarily suspended the meeting for approximately five minutes.*

80) PING Stratford-upon-Avon Lead Partner Agreement

Members agreed that Ping was an excellent initiative.

Councillor Taylor explained that the existing agreement with Table Tennis England expired in March 2020 and that due to COVID-19 restrictions, setting up a new agreement had been delayed. A new agreement would enable an application for further funding to install other tables in the town.

Councillor Taylor also advised that locations for further tables will be reviewed as and when funding is agreed and reminded members that due to current COVID-19 regulations, users must use their own equipment when they play.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To sign a new twelve month agreement with Table Tennis England - PING.

81) Local Government Structural Reform

Councillors J Fradgley and Rolfe gave further verbal updates.

Warwickshire County Council and the five District Councils in Warwickshire have commissioned reports on possible future structures. These will go to central government for review, with a response expected by the end of October, 2020. If central government is in favour of either proposal, a robust consultation process will ensure.

It was suggested that a Task & Finish group should be set up to research and understand the implications of unitary structure reform for the Town Council before it is required to respond to any consultation. It was also agreed that residents should be encouraged to respond to any consultation that takes place.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That a Task & Finish group be set up to consider local government structural reform, once central government has responded to the proposals submitted. Membership of the

group and a calendar of meetings will be agreed at a later date.

82) Fred Winter Centre

Councillor How, the Council's representative on the Fred Winter Centre, explained the background to the request for an additional £5,000 to support the centre, which is scheduled for completion in March, 2021.

A debate ensued whether the Town Council should seek clawback of funding if the centre is not managed effectively and whether further payments should be made subject to Stratford on Avon District Council producing a long term plan for dealing with the sixty-six homeless people in the town.

Councillor How responded that the centre will be professionally run and as the Town Council's representative he would give status updates on the project and its management.

The Town Council remains supportive of the project and does not wish to hinder its progress but agreed that a management plan for the centre in the context of the wider issue of homelessness in the town will need to develop.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To award an additional £5,000 in support of the Fred Winter Centre to combat the shortfall of funds from the National Lottery.

83) Enhancing the Ambience of the Town Centre During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Town Council was asked to support a further financial contribution of £900 in order for the trees, that were temporarily installed in large planters during the pandemic, to remain in situ until approximately the end of October, 2020. Concern was raised about the cost of the temporary trees and whether a more permanent solution might be more cost effective.



The Town Clerk confirmed that she had already agreed with the District Council that the Town Council would share the cost of the lamp post banners.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Town Council would pay a £900 contribution towards the cost of retaining the temporary trees in the Town Centre for as long as possible, which is likely to be until the end of October, 2020.

84) BT Phone Boxes

Councillor How noted that the phone box in Clopton ward was a magnet for anti-social behaviour and by adopting it, BT would remove the equipment within and it could be locked until a new use for it is agreed. It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopts the phone box in Clopton ward.

85) Amendment to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council Press Liaison Policy

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the revised Town Council Press Liaison Policy.

86) Town Centre Strategic Partnership

The report was noted.

87) Underutilised Green Space

The list of proposed green spaces within the town boundary that can be used for wildflower planting was noted.

Councillor J Fradgley requested that she be informed of any other areas that can be identified for inclusion on the list. She advised that the next step was to identify ownership and decide which areas will be used for the pilot planting, starting in the spring of 2021.

88) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

Cllr J Fradgley gave a further verbal update on Stratford-in-Bloom, advising that the committee will be reconfiguring in December, 2020 and requested that she be notified by her colleagues if they were aware of any possible new members from within their wards.

89) Ward Reports

**Councillor Vos:**

Halloween Window Art initiative being organised by Councillor Warren-Howles in Avenue ward. Flyer attached as **Appendix 'C'**;

**Councillor Fotjik:**

The Ken Kennet Centre has received £31,000 for an art project that will be open to all Stratford residents;

**Councillor Rolfe:**

The B4632 (Clifton Mill to Waitrose roundabout) will be closed for essential gas repairs from 16 October, 2020 for up to 4 weeks. This will cause significant disruption to local residents and businesses and will have an impact on other roads in the area affected by the diversion route. Local business will be eligible for compensation if they are affected;

**Councillor Cleeve:**

VASA has a plot on the Town Trust's allotment site in Shottery to be used as a community allotment. Those tending the plot will be entitled to a share of the produce and any surplus will be given to schools.

90) Town Clerk's Verbal Report For Information

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting to review the existing traffic measures in the town will take place on 21 October 2020 and requested that its members have any comments or observations regarding the existing measures, they should inform either herself or Councillors J Fradgley and Rolfe in advance of the meeting.

91) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next virtual Meeting of the Town Council will take place at 6:00pm on Tuesday 24 November, 2020, or at 6:30pm if a physical meeting is to be held at the Town Hall.

*The Mayor declared the virtual meeting closed at 8.57pm.*