

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
CIVIC, HERITAGE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Town Clerk's Open Report

11 May, 2021

1) **Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations**

- **To note the report**

The virtual Birthday Celebrations, via You Tube, were launched on Friday 23 April at 11:00am. In less than a week, more than 2,100 people had logged in to watch the video. It was hoped that many of those watching might live outside Stratford-upon-Avon, and that they would be encouraged to attend in person in 2022.

The filming of the live cameos was undertaken over two evenings, and on both occasions, this was done with lovely sunny weather. None of the completed presentation would have been possible without the huge support received from our guests. Grateful thanks have been passed on to all concerned, who by giving up their valuable time, made the presentation possible.

Sincere thanks have also been extended to both Dudley Simpson and Doug Earnshaw, whose technical skills brought the completed presentation to life.

Shakespeare Service - 25 April

A special service was broadcast live from Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 25 April, attended by a pre-booked congregation of about 70 people, including representatives of the Town Council and the High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

2) **NHS and Frontline Workers Day – Monday 5 July 2021**

- **Members are requested to note the report and the recommendation.**

Although Councils throughout the UK are being encouraged to take part in this inaugural event, it was not initially clear how many of the local Councils which we actively support were intending to participate.

The Civic Officer subsequently carried out a survey, and received generally a lukewarm response, with the majority confirming that they intended to purchase a flag and do very little else. However, any reluctance to join in is most probably being driven by the current pandemic uncertainties.

It is therefore agreed that the NHS and Frontline Workers Day flag is raised at 10:00am on the 5 July, and that it flies for a period of 7 days. The Civic Officer will request some additional feedback from other local councils after the event and will advise members accordingly if the level of participation is likely to change in the future.

To mark the inaugural NHS and Frontline Workers Day, it was resolved to plant a commemorative rose in the Garden of Remembrance. Attached as **Appendix 'A'** is a selection of appropriately named roses for consideration.

3) **Centenary of the Royal British Legion**

- **Members are requested to note the report**

The Royal British Legion was formed on 15 May 1921, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after the First World War.

The Chairman of the Stratford-upon-Avon Branch has recently confirmed that the Stratford Branch has currently no plans in place to mark the RBL Centenary, although something may be arranged later in the year to mark this significant milestone.

4) **CIL Projects**

- **To determine and recommend any potential CIL Projects – Town Clerk**

The existing CIL wish list was distributed to all Councillors for review and amendment, but no further feedback has yet been received.

5) Town Hall New Income Streams

The Task and Finish Group will convene on the 10 May, and a report regarding its findings and recommendations will be presented to the meeting on the 20 July

6) Mayor Making, Civic Dinner and Civic Service

- **Members are requested to note the report**

Mayor Making

The Town Clerk is currently working on the format of the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making, including the numbers in attendance for this face-to-face meeting. Further information will either be tabled at the Civic, Heritage & Events Meeting, or will be circulated via email to all members of the Town Council.

Civic Dinner

No date has yet been determined for this to take place.

Civic Sunday

A meeting was held on 26 April between Vicar, Patrick Taylor, the Mayor Elect, the Council Chaplain and the Civic Officer to determine the format of the 2021 Civic Service on Sunday 23 May at 10am. Because of current regulations governing places of worship, it will now be possible for the service to be held in person, but with a limited congregation present. The Mayor will undertake a reading and choose a hymn, and the newly appointed Council Chaplain, Dr Roy Lodge, will preach.

Currently thirty places are reserved for the Town Council, and an email will be issued shortly requesting members to respond promptly as to whether they can attend. Depending on the take-up, available places will thereafter be offered to Past Mayors & Mayoress/Consorts.

Members are requested to make an appointment to call at the Town Hall to collect their robes and should gather on Sunday 23 May in the Garden of Remembrance by 9:45am promptly. The Council will process directly to church where designated seats will have been reserved. Following the service, once outside, please disburse quickly. Masks must be worn throughout the service, so please bring one with you.

7) Covid Victims - Commemorative Plaque

- **To determine a form of words for the commemorative plaque for victims of the Covid 19 Pandemic**

Members determined, in recognition of the first anniversary of the Covid Pandemic, to install a commemorative plaque in the Tranquility Garden, remembering those from the community who had died. The Mayor agreed to defer the cost of the plaque to commemorate his mayoral year.

8) Flying the Union Flag

- **To note the report**

Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, has recently issued new guidance recommending that the Union Flag should be flown daily on all government buildings. Crucially this guidance is not a requirement for local government buildings, particularly those authorities, like us, who already have an established and robust flag flying policy.

We are therefore permitted to continue flying the Town Council flag between April–September, the Union Flag to mark Royal Anniversaries/Birthdays and on Remembrance Sunday. We are also allowed to fly flags marking St George’s Day, Commonwealth Day, NHS Frontline Workers Day, Armed Forces Day, and Merchant Navy Day in order to promote local civic pride.

Civic Officer
5.05.21