

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

24 OCTOBER, 2017

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Present  
Councillors:

Alcock (Mayor)	Jackson
Bicknell (Chairman)T	Rolfe
Fojtik	Wall
J Fradgley	

Clerk: Deputy Town Clerk

Public: No members of the public were present

Press: No members of the press were present

Schools: Absent

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36) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors C Bates, T Bates and L Bott and accepted for the reason given.

37) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

During the discussions under item 49, Councillor Rolfe declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no further part in the debate for that item.

38) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any);

There were no written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests received.

39) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were none required.

40) Public Participation

None.

41) Minutes

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 26 September, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

42) Ward Member Operational Issues including amenities

It was AGREED that this would be discussed under items 46 and 47 below.

43) Budget Review

It was AGREED that this would be discussed under item 47 and 50 below.

44) Town Hall Maintenance

No progress had been made on the list since the last meeting, though it was hoped that, with the appointment of the new 'Odd Job Man', some of the smaller maintenance tasks would now start to be addressed.

45) Draft Tariffs

45.1 **Cemetery**

The draft proposed tariff for 2018/19 had been created using a basic inflationary uplift of 3.9% RPI as at August 2017 applied to the current year's tariffs, resulting in some odd values.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed figures should be implemented for 2018/19, rounded up or down to the nearest £5.

## 45.2 **Tranquility Garden**

The draft proposed tariff for 2018/19 was tabled at the meeting. It had been created using a basic inflationary uplift of 3.9% RPI as at August 2017 applied to the current year's tariffs, resulting in some odd values.

As the current tariff had been prepared prior to the opening of the Tranquility Garden earlier this year, and in light of the positive feedback received about this facility and its fees, it was suggested that Members may wish to consider a more detailed review of the proposed tariff, being mindful of the substantial investment by the Town Council over the last 2 years in this project. However, it was subsequently agreed that an inflationary rise was sufficient at this stage and it was Proposed, Seconded and

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed figures should be implemented for 2018/19, rounded up or down to the nearest £5.

In seeking to maintain the good work undertaken to bring this project to completion, and to ensure its ongoing maintenance in the future, Members agreed that the Finance & Scrutiny Committee should be asked to consider ring-fencing all fees received, to be transferred to the Tranquility Garden Designated Reserve at year end, for reinvestment in the Tranquility Garden.

## 45.3 **Town Hall Tariff**

It was noted that the draft proposed tariff needs to be considered by the Town Hall Sustainability & Income Task & Finish Group, for which a meeting date needed to be arranged. Again, it was AGREED that a rounding of the proposed figures should be suggested.

## 46) Dog Hygiene Bin for Avenue Ward

Unfortunately, the Ward Member on the General Purposes Committee was absent from the meeting, so no further update was available and the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

The Deputy Town Clerk will contact the resident who had phoned recently for an update on this matter, to advise of the further delay.

47) Budget 2018/19 Provision of Street Furniture and Amenities

Responses to the Town Clerk's request for feedback from all the Ward Members had identified a requirement for 4 bins in Avenue Ward, possibly in addition to the one mentioned in item 46 above.

Members present at the meeting also suggested a possible requirement for 1 bin in Clopton Ward and 1 bin in Tiddington Ward.

Concern was again raised that Council was receiving a significant increase in requests for litter/dog hygiene bins, particularly in areas where there is new development. It would appear that little or no provision has been made for these street amenities. One Member mentioned that a developer had been approached to ask if they would be willing to install a bin and they had verbally agreed, though there was the unresolved issue of whether the District Council or the Town Council would subsequently be expected to fund the ongoing emptying costs year on year. As the number of additional bins requested by the Town Council increases, so too will the annual budget provision need to increase also. However, the environmental challenge of not providing enough litter bins was also mentioned.

Further to the report and feedback provided by the Town Clerk following her meeting with Stratford District Council to discuss this issue, it was AGREED that the Planning & Consultative Committee should be asked to ensure that requests for bins and street amenities should be included in all relevant future planning applications.

It was also mentioned that it is difficult to budget for street amenities required during the next financial year when new developments are ongoing and that an element of contingency should be included for at least 1 or 2 more additional bins. It was suggested that, when the Community Infrastructure Levy scheme is introduced (currently expected to be in early 2018), the Town Council should consider ring-fencing a proportion of the monies received to be used specifically for street amenities throughout the town, both for installation and ongoing maintenance / emptying of bins.

It was therefore Proposed, Seconded and

RECOMMENDED: That the budget for 2018/19 should include provision for at least 5 additional bins.

48) Calendar of Meetings for Ward Watch

There was some concern over Members' availability to attend the meetings on the proposed dates at the proposed time of 2.15pm. The meeting proposed for the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 was also considered to be likely to have attendance issues by many of the representatives from participating organisations because of school holidays.

It was therefore Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the time of the first meeting should be changed to 9.30am on Wednesday 31 January 2018 and that the schedule for future meeting dates and times should be discussed again at that first meeting, with a view to trying to accommodate working Members.

49) River Avon Tenancy Agreement

While Members generally agreed that the current annual rent should be increased, there was some concern about increasing it in one go to the higher amount which could potentially be achieved on the open market, if the current tenant was keen to continue with an extended lease. This would be a significant increase in percentage terms and could possibly be considered excessive.

It was confirmed that the Open Spaces team had recently checked the condition of the mooring and that only some minor maintenance was required to the landing stage, assuming the mooring continued to be leased on the current basis.

After further discussion, it was therefore Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the current tenant should be offered the opportunity to extend the agreement for a further 3 years, with the annual amount initially increased using a basic inflationary uplift of 3.9% RPI as at August 2017, with further annual increments in line with the inflation rate each year.

In the event that the current tenant does not wish to continue on this basis, the lease will be offered on the open market.

50) General Purposes Draft Budget 2018/19

Apart from reviewing the estimated income from the revised rounded fees, as discussed in item 45 above, and the change to the Street Furniture and Amenities budget, as discussed in item 47 above, it was AGREED that there were no further changes to the draft budget required at this stage. Members were asked to give further consideration to any requirements prior to the next meeting, and to contact the Deputy Town Clerk via email if any additional funding may be necessary, as soon as possible over the next 2 months.

51) Town Clerk's Verbal Report – for information

There was nothing further to report.

52) Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 December, 2017 at 6:30pm

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm.*