

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

MAYORAL & PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

17 July, 2018

Town Clerk's Open Report

1) Civic Service

- **To consider whether to revise arrangements for the Civic Service**

The Civic Service, held on the first Sunday after Mayor Making, is when the new Mayor formally takes Council to church to ask for God's guidance for the forthcoming municipal year and also to mark historic links between the church and state.

It is currently incorporated as part of the morning service at Holy Trinity, and therefore the content and timing is something which is determined by the Vicar. The only input the Council has is a choice of hymns, a reading by the Mayor and the choice of preacher for the sermon, which traditionally should be the Mayor's Chaplain.

Although attendance is not mandatory, it is expected that this particular service is well attended by Council members as it is a public outward public sign of support for the Mayor at the beginning of their term in office.

Members are requested to determine whether the current format of holding a service within the usual service at the Parish Church should be continued, or whether consideration should be given to establishing a stand-alone event, at an alternative time. This would allow a much greater degree of flexibility regarding the content and timing of the service and hopefully attract greater attendance by members.

2) Beacon Lighting for Centenary of WW1 - 11 November, 2018

- **To receive details regarding the proposed programme**

Sunday 11 November, 2018, marks the formal conclusion of the commemorations marking the Centenary of WW1. A gas beacon will be lit in the Garden of Remembrance at 7:00pm, one of a chain of about a 1,000 beacons across the UK and beyond.

Although the Beacon Lighting comes at the end of a day of national and local commemorations for Remembrance Sunday, it is anticipated, because of the significance of the WW1 Centenary, that there will still be a good number of people wishing to attend.

Appropriate road closures will therefore be sought, providing a safe environment for those participating, but not wishing to stand within the garden. However it is recommended, bearing in mind the time of year, that the commemoration should last no longer than 45 minutes.

Following an initial approach from the Queen's Pageant Master, Council agreed to support the initiative, and Stratford District Council subsequently contracted to jointly fund the event.

Although a traditional beacon bonfire was built on the Welcombe Hills in 2012 (Queen's Diamond Jubilee) and 2016, for her 90th birthday, it was resolved that this location would not be a safe or an appropriate option for a November event.

The Town Council's Health and Safety Consultant has calculated that the Garden of Remembrance can safely accommodate up to 400 spectators, allowing enough space on the hardstanding near to the WW1 Memorial for wheelchair users and those with impaired mobility.

Town Council Marshals will be on duty, working alongside traffic management, event safety and first aid personnel.

Please find attached as **Appendix 'A'** a plan of the Garden of Remembrance and the proposed programme, for information.

3) WW1 Commemorative Statue

- **To determine whether to purchase a statue marking the centenary of WW1 for the Garden of Remembrance**

The iconic display of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London in 2014 will be something which will long live in the memory of those who saw them.

In 2018, to conclude the WW1 Centenary, a new initiative known as “*THERE BUT NOT THERE*” has been launched, and has attracted wide publicity. The scheme’s three main aims are: to *commemorate* the fallen by taking their names off the wall and back into their local communities; to *educate* all generations about their sacrifice; and to help *heal* veterans who are suffering from the hidden wounds of their service.

In order to raise additional funds to support six service charities, veterans from the British Legion Industries have made a number of commemorative items, including two types of “Tommy Statues”, see “**Appendix B**”.

The small Perspex Tommy was purchased at a cost of £XX and stands within the poppy display in the cabinet in the entrance hall of the Town Hall. However, a resident has enquired whether the Council intends to purchase the larger Tommy for the Garden of Remembrance as a permanent reminder of the WW1 Centenary.

In 2014, the Festivals and Events looked at possible options for commemoration the WW1 Centenary, including a special bench, emblazoned with a striking poppy design. This ultimately was determined to be a fitting tribute for installation in the Garden of Remembrance, to mark other significant anniversaries in perpetuity.

It was therefore Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That this special WW1 commemoration seat be purchased at a cost of £535.00 to be placed in the Garden of Remembrance as the permanent tribute to the Brave Men, Women and Civilians from Stratford-upon-Avon, who had served in theatres of war in the past and into the future.

Bearing in mind the earlier resolution, members are requested to consider whether it would now be appropriate to purchase a further memorial marking the Centenary, or whether the earlier decision should stand, particularly as the Centenary has been marked by the small Perspex Tommy in the glass cabinet.

Civic Secretary
11 July, 2018