

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

21 March, 2017

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor J Short) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	I Fradgley
Applin	J Fradgley
C Bates	Jackson
T Bates	Jefferson
Bicknell	Lloyd
Bott	Lowe
Dowling	Rolfe
Fojtik	Wall

Clerks: Town Clerk and Finance Officer

Press: Herald, for part of the meeting

Public: There were seven members of the public present for part of the Open Session

Prior to declaring the meeting open, the Mayor presented the High Steward badge of office to Henry Jocelyn Seymour DL ARAgS, 9th Marquess of Hertford. The High Steward responded briefly and advised that he, and no doubt his successors, would wear the badge with great pride.

113) Apologies

There were no apologies for absence. Councillor Brain was absent from the meeting.

114) Declarations of Interest

Councillors I Fradgley, J Fradgley, Lloyd, Rolfe and Short declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12.1, minuted as 124.

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

There were no written requests.

- 116) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

- 117) Public Participation

Mr Richard Thomas gave a detailed verbal account of reasons why he, and fellow residents in the vicinity of Luddington Road, is opposed to the South Western Relief Road which is proposed in the Draft Transport Strategy. Mr Thomas claimed that there is no data to support the SWRR, which he considered to be a 'developer's desk exercise'.

- 118) Draft Open Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 7 February, 2017

Councillor C Bates proposed and it was AGREED to exchange the word 'paying' for 'support of' in minute 106 - ...*primarily for support of the Pay-Back team.*

Subject to the above amendment it was

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 7 February, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

- 119) Draft Open Minutes of the Mayoral & Protocol Committee Meeting held on 14 February, 2017

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of the Mayoral & Protocol Committee Meeting held on 14 February, 2017 be approved and adopted.

- 120) Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 21 February and the Draft Open Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March, 2017

RESOLVED: Open Minutes of Planning Consultative

Committee Meeting held on 21 February and the Draft Open Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March, 2017 be approved and adopted.

121) Draft Open Minutes of General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 28 February, 2017

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 28 February, 2017 be approved and adopted.

122) Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 7 March, 2016

When Councillor Dowling presented the Minutes, he advised that there were a number of aspects within some of the recommendations which now require further consideration, as additional information or evidence has since come to light. He proposed to amend or withdraw and revert to Finance & Scrutiny Committee:

- Withdraw Minutes 102 pg 4 of open minutes
Grant Applications for 2018/19
- Amend Minute 101pg 3 of open minutes
To remove the sale of the two old fire engines
- Withdraw Minute 108 pg 6 of confidential minutes
Photocopier lease renewal option
(Once the Mayor had formally excluded the press and public from the meeting, Council went into confidential session at the end of the meeting to discuss this issue).

Subject to the above it was

RESOLVED: Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 7 March, 2017 be approved and adopted.

123) Draft Open Notes of the Governance & Policies Panel Meeting held on 14 March, 2017

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of the Governance & Policies Panel Meeting held on 14 March, 2017 be approved and adopted.

124) Stratford-upon-Avon Area Draft Transport Strategy

The Mayor introduced two panellists to the proceedings; Mr Mark Haselden, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Mr Ian Tonner, Group Commander of the Fire Services District Response Group.

Mr Tonner spoke first and gave a somewhat alarming account that the proposed Draft Strategy may not be taking sufficient account of the needs of the Emergency Services. The increasing congestion, particularly on the Birmingham Road, which now has a knock-on effect on other major access/exit roads throughout the town, is seriously and adversely affecting the 10 minute response time. Mr Tonner responded to a number of points for clarification from the floor.

Mr Haselden's address looked at the wider qualities, concentrating primarily on aspects that were in direct contradiction to the town's Neighbourhood Development Plan and the resulting implications. Mr Haselden was particularly concerned that the level of detail that was announced at the Traffic Summit was not evident in the actual Draft Transport Strategy. He advised that this goes against standard good practice and there could be a danger that the verbal address would be sited and used as consultation evidence. In reality there is still a general lack of understanding as the absence of detail and lack of analysis to support the proposals provides an overall Plan which lacks substance.

The Mayor then opened the debate and Councillor Charles Bates commenced proceedings by tabling a proposed response to the consultation by the Town Council, which was used as a 'starting point'. Councillor Bates had included in the response, as the final comment, a statement regarding concern for the Emergency Services.

Each member was asked to comment in turn and the debate was protracted and exacting. During proceedings, County Councillor, Kate Rolfe, advised that WCC has no resources for modelling or analysis of other options. After referring to both Mr Haselden and Mr Tonner on a number of occasions, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To submit the tabled response to the Draft Transport Strategy but tighten the view that the proposal lacks detail and substance and also make mention of the need for expansion of rail links, which should be included as an option. Most importantly, the Strategy must be compliant with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Town Council's response to the Draft Transport Strategy is attached as **Appendix 'A'** and will be submitted to WCC by 23 March, the close of the consultation.

125) Initiation of Task and Finish Group

Members were appointed to two Task & Finish Groups as a result of a call for volunteers:

- **Sports Club Recreation Ground Project**

Councillors: Dowling, I Fradgley, Rolfe and Short.

- **Funeral Fair**

Councillors: Alcock, C Bates, T Bates, Bott, Jackson and Short.

126) Town Council Website

The new website, which went live on Monday, 20 March, 2017 was unavailable to view, due to the demise of the TV monitor. Consequently, the website will be presented at the 18 April Town Council meeting.

In the meantime, Members were asked to visit the website, familiarise themselves with the content, and pass on any feedback.

127) Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations Luncheon

As Mr Alan Haigh, the co-ordinator of the Luncheon, had consulted both the Town and District Councils on the proposal for the authorities to take on the legal responsibility for the Birthday Celebrations luncheon, it was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To await the response by the District Council before considering the request further, and refer the matter to the next Town Council Meeting on 18 April, 2017.

128) Town Council Commendation for Police Officer

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To confer a Town Council Commendation on Inspector Richard Thomas at the Mayor Making Ceremony on 18 May, 2017.

129) Market Concession

The Town Clerk and the two Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council interview panel members, Councillors Alcock and Short, gave a detailed verbal update on the appointment of the new Market Concession. The new operative will be LSD Promotions, who will take over from Geraud Markets (UK) in October, 2017.

The Mayor requested that the work on the tender exercise by both STC and SDC staff should be acknowledged.

Members noted the report.

130) Ward Reports

- Ken Kennet Centre:
Councillor Fojtik – advised that a Steering Group Meeting of the Clopton Community Action Group had been held with Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, which had the support of SDC ward members Councillors Jefferson and Howse. The CCAG have produced a substantive business plan to run the Ken Kennet Centre, and a proposal to underwrite £20,000 of the £40,000 refurbishment plan will be presented to Town Council in due course.

- Litter Pick:

Councillor Jenny Fradgley – advised that the Litter Pick had taken place but as the initiative is running throughout March, further picks are scheduled. She advised that out of the excellent work carried out by the Canal Water Trust, a new group had evolved called ‘Rubbish Friends’ so it would appear that the commitment will be ongoing and not just limited to March.

- Brexit Interview:

Mayor Short – apologised for her controversial interview, conducted by the Washington Post, regarding Brexit. She explained the circumstances of being somewhat ‘ambushed’ and sincerely apologised to her fellow members if her intentions had been misconstrued and caused offence.

It was noted that this was a salutary lesson for all members, but particularly those shortly to hold office, or have aspirations to do so in future.

131) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

None were received.

132) Town Clerk’s Verbal Report for Information

The Town Clerk advised:

- That notices of Election for Warwickshire County Council will be published on Friday 24 March, at which time Council must take account of Purdah. The Clerk advised that a copy of the latest Legal Briefing as to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity (England) had been provided to each Councillor. A more detailed guide was available upon request.
- Help is required from members to cut out the 10,000 sonnets which will be given out free of charge during the Birthday Celebrations. A ‘rock and roll’ evening will be scheduled in April in order for the 10,000 pre-cut sonnets to be rolled up and sealed.
- Further help is also required in obtaining prizes for the lucky sonnets.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:52pm.