

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council

23 April 2024

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm Meeting ended: 8.22pm

Minutes

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Rolfe) in the chair

Councillors:

Alcock	Cleeve
Coles	Fojtik
I Fradgley	J Fradgley
Hunter	Lee
MacDonald	McNaught Barrow
Petrovic	Rashwan
Vos	

Clerk: Town Clerk
Press: Absent

104 Membership of the Council – late Councillor Bill Dowling

After observing a moment of silence, Councillors were given the opportunity to share their memories of Bill. Councillors J Fradgley, Cleeve, I Fradgley, Alcock, Fojtik, Lee and The Mayor all spoke.

The Mayor then moved the following:

‘That the Council notes with regret the death of former Councillor Bill Dowling and extends its sympathy to his family and friends in their loss.’

105 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Duck, Harding and Smith and were noted for the reasons given.

106 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Alcock, J Fradgley and Rolfe disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute * as a member of the Audit and Standards Committee of the District Council.

107 **To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests**

There were none.

108 **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

There were none.

109 **To receive a presentation from Sam Slemensek, Community Safety Manager at Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Public Space Protection Order**

The District Council was conducting a consultation regarding the potential implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the town. The PSPO would deal with specific nuisances or problems in a defined area that were 'detrimental to the community's quality of life' and were designed to tackle anti-social behaviour in public places.

Mr Slemensek ahead of addressing the meeting, advised that due to purdah period for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections, he would be unable to answer any questions on specific situations. He proceeded to explain that the purpose of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and emphasised that the main aim was for the Police or an authorised Council Officer to approach individuals who were found violating the PSPO and request them to stop consuming alcohol.

Several questions and observations were raised, which covered, the boundary of the PSPO, police levels, the collaborative effort among various agencies, plans for areas beyond the designated zone, and the utilisation of CCTV.

The Mayor thanked Mr Slemensek for attending the meeting and for his presentation.

Councillors were to consider the Town Council's response to this consultation later in the meeting.

110 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

111 **Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor reported on her events recently attended which included:

- 53rd Independence of Bangladesh event held in Birmingham;
- Volunteers Reception on 19 April at the Town Hall;
- Laying of a wreath at the Cemetery for the celebration of Marie Corelli 100 years and her future attendance at a 'garden party' at the Town Hall to mark the occasion;
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations of the 20/21 April– a special thank you was extended to the Civic Officer and Town Council staff for their hard work;
- Stratford Marathon and the awarding of medals;
- Last Hurrah to be held on 10 May.

112 **To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 30 January 2024**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30 January 2024 be adopted.

113 **To adopt the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2024**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 16 January 2024 be adopted.

114 **To adopt the draft Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 20 February 2024**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 20 February 2024 be adopted.

115 **To adopt the draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage Committee meeting held on 23 January 2024 and Draft Open Minutes of 12 March 2024**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Civic Heritage Committee meeting held on 23 January 2024 and Draft Open Minutes of 12 March 2024 be adopted.

116 Election of Deputy Mayor Elect

The Senior Councillor present, Councillor J Fradgley, confirmed that she had one nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect and there being no further nominations, it was Proposed by Councillor Cleeve and Seconded by Councillor Vos, on behalf of Councillor Harding, and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Danielle Simone Gemma Hunter, commonly known as Dani, be appointed as Deputy Mayor Elect, to take office on 17 May 2024.

117 Appointment to Committees and Sub Committees

Consideration was given to the membership of committees and sub-committees for the next municipal year. Councillor Fojtik as mayor elect would serve on all committees as ex-officio but had indicated his willingness to continue as a serving member on the Finance and Audit Committee.

Thanks were given to Councillor Coles for her service to Finance and Audit Committee, which she was now standing down from.

RESOLVED: That the Committee and Sub-Committee membership for 2024/25 be approved.

118 Council's Chaplain 2024/25

RESOLVED: That Reverend Doctor Paul Edmondson be appointed as the Town Council's Chaplain for 2024/25.

119 Community Infrastructure Levy - Avon to Arrow Greenway Project

The Environmental Sustainability Panel had agreed in December 2021 to allocate £1000.00 towards the feasibility study of the Avon to Arrow Project, which was the development of the former Broom junction – Stratford railway line, into a walking and cycling trail. This was to be funded from the Climate Change Budget. However, given that the project aligns with the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Policy, it has been considered appropriate to fund it from this budget.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That the funding of the feasibility study of £1,000 be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy budget.

Community Infrastructure Levy - Community Builder Initiative

Councillors Alcock, Coles, Fojtik and Petrovic all now disclosed personal interests the item.

The Town Council had agreed in January 2024 to fund the Community Builder Project for a further year of the project. What had not been made clear at the time was that the scheme was for a further two years. The District Council had now requested the Town Council's commitment for the full two years in order for the agreement to proceed. Members were supportive of the initiative and it had also now been identified that it aligned with the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Policy.

Accordingly, it was

- RESOLVED:
- (1) That the Community Builder Initiative be supported by the Town Council for a further two years, 2024/25 and 2025/26.
 - (2) That this funding be met from Community Infrastructure Levy Policy Budget.

Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

The District Council was currently considering making a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which would tackle anti-social behaviour in public places and be effective across a designated zone in Stratford Town Centre. This Order would prohibit the following specified behaviour:

Causing anti-social behaviour anywhere within 'Stratford Town Centre' when consuming or possessing alcohol.

Having listened to the presentation earlier in the meeting and following discussion and questions, Councillors instructed the Town Clerk to compile a response to be submitted on behalf of the Council. The Town Clerk also informed Members that they have the option to provide their own individual responses, if desired.

Accordingly, It was

- RESOLVED:
- That the Town Clerk be instructed to complete the Town Council's response to the consultation

122 **Appointment of Parish/Town Council Representatives to the District Council's Audit and Standards Committee**

Town and Parish Councillors within the District had been invited to consider applying for two vacancies on the District Council's Audit and Standards Committee. The role would cover the work of the committee and assist the District Council in discharging its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst District and Town/Parish Councillors. Current members who served as District Councillors were not eligible to serve.

RESOLVED: That any Councillor interested in applying for one of the positions should contact the Town Clerk.

123 **Casual Vacancy**

A notice indicating the current casual vacancy for the Shottery Ward was to be published on 25 April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

124 **Civility and Respect**

A reminder was given of the Town Council's commitment to the Civility and Respect pledge previously given. This pledge aimed at promoting positive behaviour and interactions within local councils and the wider public sector. The Town Council in signing the pledge agreed to treat all individuals with civility and respect, implement training and adhere to the Code of Conduct. Amongst other things. The Town Clerk indicated training was available and this would be circulated to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the reminder be noted.

125 **To receive written update reports on Outside Bodies from the Councillors:**

The following written reports were received and there were no questions raised by Councillors.

Councillor Cleeve – Stratfords of the World
Councillor Fradgley – Stratford in Bloom
Councillor Petrovic – Community Builder
Councillor Rashwan – Fred Winter Centre

126 **Verbal Ward Reports**

Councillor Rolfe reported on the highways issues in her ward.
Councillor MacDonald - Air Quality levels at Albany Road

127 **Town Clerk's Verbal Report**

The Town Clerk reported that Stratford-in-Bloom had written and thanked the Town Council for their grant awarded.

The meeting then went into confidential session so that the Town Clerk could provide an update on the Market Contract, as mentioned earlier in the meeting.

It was

RESOLVED: To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of the Council, it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted "that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday 17 May 2024

Chairman: