

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

25 April 2023

Meeting commenced: 6:30pm Meeting ended: 7.54pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Cleeve) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	How
Coles	Jackson
Curtis	Lee
Fojtik	Mackenzie
I Fradgley	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Taylor
Harding	Vos

Clerks: Town Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: There were members of the public present

83 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Dowling, Dyer, and Warren-Howles and were accepted for the reasons given.

84 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

85 To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

None were received.

86 **Public Participation**

Ms Alison Halford had indicated that she would be attending the meeting and submitting a question. Unfortunately, she had been unable to attend. Her question which concerned markets would be addressed by the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Town Council representatives on the Market Forum.

87 **Mayor's Announcements**

The mayor highlighted recent events which included the very successful and well received Youth Town Awards and the mini-edition of Shakespeare's Coming Home which had raised £1300 for her charities.

The Mayor invited the support of all Councillors at the 'Tea and Cake for the Coronation' event on 7 May 2023, which included all those Councillors who were not seeking re-election at the forthcoming elections, as their last day of office would be 8 May 2023.

88 **Vote of Thanks – Retiring Councillors**

That the Council place on record its thanks to Councillors:

David Curtis (Councillor for Shottery Ward from 2019-2023)

Roy Dyer (Councillor for Bridgetown Ward 2019-2023)

Philip How (Councillor for Clopton Ward 2019-2023)

Tony Jackson (Councillor for Guildhall 2015-2023 and Mayor 2020/21)

Eva Mackenzie (Councillor for Tiddington Ward 2019 - 2023)

Kevin Taylor (Councillor for Welcombe Ward 2019-2023 and Mayor 2021/22)

Cohl-Warren Howles (Councillor for Avenue Ward 2019-2023)

and whilst he had already retired from office a record of thanks to Chris Wall (Councillor for Bishopton Ward 2006-2022)

89 To Adopt Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 January 2023

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 31 January 2023 be approved.

90 To Adopt Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 7 February, 21 February and 21 March 2023

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held 7 February, 21 February and 21 March 2023 were approved and adopted.

91 To Adopt Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held 17 January and 7 March 2023

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 17 January and 7 March 2023 were approved and adopted.

92 To Adopt the Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 7 March 2023

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of 7 March 2023 were approved and adopted.

93 To Adopt the Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2023

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2023 were approved and adopted.

94 **To Adopt Minutes of the Civic Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 24 January and 14 March 2023**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Civic Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held 24 January and 14 March 2023 were approved and adopted.

95 **To Adopt the Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 26 January 2023**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meetings held on 26 January 2023 were approved and adopted.

96 **To Adopt Minutes of the Cemetery Extension Task and Finish held on 13 March 2023**

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Cemetery Extension meeting held on 13 March 2023 were approved and adopted.

Town Clerk's Open Town Council Report

97 **Visitor Survey for Stratford-upon-Avon – financial contribution**

Consideration was given to a request from the District Council for a contribution towards a Visitor Survey to be carried out in the summer of 2023 in the town.

It was outlined that the results would provide evidence of the

characteristics of visitors to the town, what were the key drivers for visitor satisfaction, retention, and referral, and to estimate the expenditure by visitors and would also provide a tool from which to develop strategic planning, marketing and monitoring.

A contribution of £1500 to £2000 has been suggested towards the overall costs of £10,000 to £20,000.

Councillors considered that there was some merit in evaluating this request. However, there remained several questions to be answered and evaluated. In addition, there was no identified budget in place for funding this survey as the request had not been submitted in time for the budget setting process. There was some concern also expressed that there was no indication of what the results would achieve and Members indicated they would like further information from the District Council before they made a commitment to using reserves.

Accordingly, the Town Clerk undertook to contact the District Council with a request that a representative attended the next Community Services Committee and give detail of the questions to be asked and the timeframe involved.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken at this point and a representative from the District Council be invited to attend a meeting of the Community Services Committee to present the request for a financial contribution to the Visitor Survey.

98 **Art Installation**

Consideration was given to a request from the District Council for a contribution towards art installation for vacant shops within the town.

The scheme, around themes relating to Shakespeare, had been implemented in the hope to create a versatile immersive gallery experience by re-purposing disused retail sites to engage and educate visitors to the town.

In considering the request Members had made a number of observations and concerns about the project which included, not utilising local artists, the suitability of the chosen premises and that it had been indicated that the art could be used elsewhere of the town centre. In addition, there was no budget for this scheme as it had not been submitted in time for the budget setting process.

However, Members would be minded to consider the funding request if more details could be secured from the District Council.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken at this point and a representative from the District Council be invited to attend a meeting of the Community Services Committee to present the request for a financial contribution for the art installation.

99 **River Festival**

Stratford-upon-Avon BID had given notice that a number of events would not be run this year and this had included the River Festival.

Since this news there had been a public campaign launched by The Herald newspaper to 'Save our River Festival' which had received backing from local organisations and interested parties. Given the scale of the event it had not been suggested that this was run in 2023.

The Herald had approached the Town Council to instigate a meeting to be held at the Town Hall in June 2023.

Members concurred with this initial stage and asked that once a date had been agreed, all Councillors be informed so that a representative Group (including the Chair of Civic Heritage and Events Committee) could attend.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be instructed to liaise with interested parties over the date for a public meeting to be held at the Town Hall.

100 Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

- Stratford in Bloom – Councillor Warren-Howles
- Historic Buildings Trust – Councillor I Fradgley gave a verbal update on the Tollhouse
- Stratfords of the World – The Mayor gave a verbal update

101 Verbal Ward Reports

- Councillor Curtis (Shottery) Bordon Hill roundabout /highway works expected to be completed mid- end August 2023
- Councillor Lee (Hathaway) and I Fradgley (Bridgetown) - reported on Dog Bin issues
- Councillor Alcock (Bishopton) - Removal of public bin had caused inconvenience in a high footfall area
- Councillor Fojtik (Clopton) – Community Builder Worker – significant improvements noted

102 Town Clerk's General Verbal Report:

The Town Clerk reported that an application had been received for a wildflower verge at Severn Meadows Road. With the agreement of the Council an application to Warwickshire County Council would need to be submitted from the Town Council.

Councillor J Fradgley spoke in support of the application and gave a brief update of the current wildflower schemes in place.

Date of Next Meeting The next Meeting of the Town Council will take place with at Noon on Friday 19 May 2023.