

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26 September 2023

Meeting commenced: 6.30PM Meeting ended: 8.00PM

Minutes

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Rolfe) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	Hunter
Cleeve	MacDonald
Coles	McNaught Barrow
Dowling	Petrovic
Fojtik	Rashwan
I Fradgley	Vos
Harding	

Clerks: Town Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: Five members of the public present

40	Apologies Apologies were received from Councillors Duck, Lee, J Fradgley and Smith and accepted for the reasons given.
41	Declarations of Interest There were no disclosures of interest.
42	To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests None were received.
43	To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate There were none.

44	Public Participation There was no public participation.
45	Citizens Advice – Presentation Lavinia Derrick, Vice-Director of Outreach, and Emma Cook, Branch Director, from the Samaritans in Stratford-upon-Avon, addressed the meeting to discuss the Samaritans' work within the community. They provided an overview of the services offered by the Samaritans, all of which were provided by dedicated volunteers. The Stratford branch is the second largest in the West Midlands and ranks within the top 15% nationally. Staff members undergo extensive training and were part of the national team, ensuring a 24/7, 365 days a year service. Additionally, they shared details about the extensive outreach work conducted in the area. After a brief question and answer session, the Mayor and Councillors expressed their gratitude to both Lavinia and Emma for their attendance and for providing insights into the valuable service the Samaritans were making in the community.
46	Mayor's Announcements The Mayor informed the meeting of the sad passing of Francis Prentice, a former hairdresser within the town and esteemed founder of Shakespeare Hospice. Heartfelt condolences were extended to the bereaved family and friends. The Mayor reported on the successful Young Traders Market held within the town at the end of August. Additionally, the meeting was informed about the success of the Community Kitchen, currently operating at the Ken Kennett Centre, which had received support from Councillors Fojtik and Petrovic. The Mayor concluded the announcements by reminding everyone that the Annual Mop would be taking place in town on the 11th and 12th of October. She cordially extended an

	invitation to all the Councillors to attend the opening.	
47	To approve the draft Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25 July 2023. It was Proposed, Seconded and	
	RESOLVED:	The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25 July 2023 be adopted.
48	To approve the draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage Meeting held on 18 July 2023. It was Proposed, Seconded and	
	RESOLVED:	The draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage Committee meeting held on 18 July 2023 be adopted.
49	To approve the draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023. It was Proposed, Seconded and	
	RESOLVED:	The draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on 5 September 2023 be adopted.
50	To approve the draft Minutes of the Cemetery Extension Task and Finish Group held on 4 August 2023. It was Proposed, Seconded and	
	RESOLVED:	The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Extension Task and Finish Group meeting held on 4 August 2023 be adopted.
51	Standing Orders and Terms of Reference Consideration was given to the annual review of the Council's Standing Orders and Terms of Reference. Following consideration of minor administrative changes, it	

	was	
	RESOLVED:	That the Council's Standing Orders and the Terms of the Reference be approved.
52	<u>Town Clerk's Open Report</u> Town Twinning The Town Council had been contacted by Santa María de Cayón, a town in the northern region of Cantabria, Spain. They had expressed their interest in establishing a twinning relationship with the Stratford-upon-Avon. After thorough analysis of this proposition and the potential advantages of twinning with a European town, regrettably, it was concluded that due to the Town's current support to the 'Stratfords of the World', and the current economic climate there presently was no further support to pursue a twinning arrangement. Members asked the Town Clerk to convey this decision and to thank the Council and residents of Santa Maria for their interest. It was also requested that an offer to put them in touch with local schools to see if they wished to pursue a more informal arrangement for the younger generation.	
	RESOLVED:	That the offer of Town Twinning is not supported at this time.
53	Resignation from Stratford-upon-Avon Business Improvement District (BID) Councillor Rolfe had recently resigned from the BID Board, along with the District and County Council representatives. In addition, Officers of these Councils were also no longer observers on the BID Board	
	RESOLVED:	That the resignation be noted.
54	Warwickshire Association of Local Councils AGM	

	The Annual General Meeting of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils was due to take place on 15 November 2023 and a voting member was required to be appointed from this Council.	
	RESOLVED:	That the Responsible Finance Officer, with the Town Clerk as a substitute, be appointed to be the voting representative.
55	Statutory 5 year Polling Place and Polling District Review In advance of the public consultation to commence on 2 October 2023, the Town Council had been consulted on the initial proposals of the statutory review. Members noted the change to the Brookside Parish Ward as unfortunately Foundation House, Masons Road was no longer available to hire. Councillor MacDonald had already made observations on this which had been forwarded to the District Council. Members were reminded that their individual comments could also be submitted as part of the public consultation period. All members concurred with the view that polling stations should be in a walkable distance to all electors. If this was not possible and electors needed to travel outside their wards, consideration should be given to mobile venues being utilised. Various, other venues were tabled as suitable premises. Members were advised that parking, accessibility and the logistics of the polls planned were also a consideration that the Returning Officer would need to take into account in choosing a venue.	
	RESOLVED:	That the Town Clerk submit the observations raised to the District Council as part of the consultation process.

56	UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Christmas Light Switch-on In anticipation of a successful funding bid there was a requirement to appoint two representatives to sign the Agreement with the District Council.	
	RESOLVED:	That the Mayor and Councillor Rashwan with a substitute member Councillor Alcock be appointed to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Town Council.
57	Aims and Objectives / Mission Statement Consideration was given to the Town Council's current Mission statement and whether it was still fit for purpose. With new Councillors now fully engaged with their new roles, now was the time to consider the Council's objectives for this period of administration. Members agreed that they would come together ahead of the next Council meeting and consider the current Mission Statement.	
	RESOLVED:	That the report be noted and further consideration be given to this ahead of the next Council meeting.
58	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. Stratford Town Centre Strategic Partnership – Councillor Vos Fred Winter Centre - Councillor Rashwan reported that a meeting with the had taken place that day and her report would be circulated.	

	Stratford-in-Bloom – Councillors requested that the Town Clerk write to the Chair of the Committee to thank her, committee members and all residents who took part in making the town centre look spectacular this summer.
59	Verbal Ward Reports to receive notification of important issues, for information purposes only, on issues affecting the town. Councillor Fojtik – Reported on the Community Kitchen, which was going strength to strength and he thanked the volunteers for their work. Councillor Alcock – Community Builder, Rachel Knight reported was making a real difference to the community of Bishopston. Councillor Alcock also reported a noise nuisance with motorbikes. Councillor Cleeve – Reiterated the comments of Councillor Alcock on the Community Builder and also reported on a residents meeting concerning the roadworks at Bordon Hill. Councillor I Fradgley – Commented on the noise nuisance of motorbikes and hot rod cars and was liaising with the police on this. Councillor Coles reported on the 20mph speed limit imposed in her ward. Councillor Rolfe reported on Loxley Road and the chicanes that were back in situ, which had left some residents furious. Councillor MacDonald – Albany Road, Wellesbourne Grove Speed restrictions Councillor Vos – gave an update on Birmingham Road traffic/highways
60	Town Clerk's Verbal Update The Town Clerk presented the A5 Town Council Information leaflet to the Councillors for their evaluation. The leaflet is intended to be distributed to local residents through a local

	magazine. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Lisa Campion and the Website, Social Media, and Newsletter Panel for this. Councillors were requested to provide any suggested changes by the end of the week.
	Date of Next Meeting 6:30pm on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at the Town Hall.

Mayor: