

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023

MINUTES

Presiding: The Mayor (Councillor Gill Cleeve)

Councillors Present:

Alcock	Harding
Cleeve	Jackson
Coles	Lee
I Fradgley	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Taylor
	Vos

Clerk – Town Clerk
Electors – 13
Press – Absent

Apologies: Councillors Curtis, Dowling, Dyer, Fojtik, Mackenzie and Warren-Howles.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting and advised that although it is statute for the Town Council to hold an annual meeting, it was not a Town Council Meeting, no decisions or resolutions passed would be binding by law (other than a call to provide allotments), as it was purely an opportunity for the electorate to air their views and concerns regarding current matters. The Council would, however, take into consideration that which was discussed.

The Mayor gave a brief introduction, which covered an invitation to all to attend 'Cake for Coronation' at the Town Hall on 7 May 2023 and highlighted the Youth Town Awards to take place on 15 April 2023. The Mayor also welcomed ideas for areas of tree planting and wildflowers.

All Members of the Town Council were invited to introduce themselves and the Ward that they covered.

1. Minutes

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 3 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March, 2022

The Chairman of Finance and Audit Committee gave a brief overview on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, which was noted. The Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee thanked the current and previous Responsible Finance Officers for their excellent work with the regard to the Return and the Budgeting process.

4. Parochial Matters Raised by Electors

- Markets

A number of questions were raised over this subject which included:

Who paid for the Road Closure Orders?

What were the permitted days of market trading on Bridge Street and Waterside?

What was Stratford BID involvement in the Market Forum?

The Town Clerk reported that it was thought that there was currently no fee involved in applying for a Road Closure Order, but this would be confirmed with the District Council and then reported direct to the questioner. (Confirmed)

Under a variation agreement signed, by both the District and Town Councils, in July 2023. Markets were permitted on Waterside from the third weekend in March until the last weekend in October when it moved to Bridge Street.

Stratford BID was invited to the Market Forum meetings, which took place between the two Councils and the market operator LSD Promotions, in accordance with the Term of Reference of the group.

The Mayor indicated that specific questions could be directed to the appropriate Council meeting if required and action could be taken then if appropriate.

- Anti Social behaviour

There were a number of comments and observations about anti-social behaviour within the Town and the lack of byelaws to restrict public drinking.

The Mayor reported that Councillors were in regular contact with the Police and the Crime Reduction team at the District Council. She encouraged any report of anti-social behaviour to be reported direct to the Police by 101 or on-line so that a true picture could be recorded.

- Dog Waste Bins

A few comments were raised over some reports of dog waste and lack of or overflowing bins.

The Mayor reported that if there was the requirement for additional bin(s) as identified by a member of the public that the relevant ward member should be contacted who would ascertain that there was the requirement in that area before a bin(s) would be purchased. The Town Council would be required to fund this and to pay an annual charge for collection. The District Council would be contacted to confirm the collection rate. (The District Council subsequently confirmed that bins were collected once a week. However, this was currently being monitored)

- Concessionary parking charges

A question was raised on the cost of this recently increased charge.

The questioner was advised that this was a District Council function and needed to be directed to them.

There being no further issues arising, the Mayor thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8:14pm.