

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

In accordance with s78 of the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulation 2020

7 January, 2021

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Present
Councillors:

Cleeve	How
Jackson (Mayor)	Rolfe
Taylor (Chairman)	Vos
J Fradgley	

Clerks: Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Admin Clerk

Public: The meeting was streamed live on YouTube for members of the public to watch

Press: No members of the press were present

53) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Wall and accepted for the reasons given.

Cllrs Coles and Fojtik were absent from this meeting.

54) Declarations of Interests

None.

55) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

56) To grant any requests for dispensation

None.

57) Public Participation

There was no public participation.

58) Minutes

Cllr How wished to clarify that at the previous meeting he suggested that a Cemetery Task and Finish Group be created, not that the Cemetery Working Party be reinstated.

The Admin Clerk clarified that the future of the Cemetery pick-up truck is due to be discussed within the Cemetery Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 8 December, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

59) To Adopt Draft Notes of Sub-Group Meetings

- Climate Change Emergency Panel

RESOLVED: That the notes from the Climate Change Emergency Panel held on 9 December, 2020 be adopted.

60) Budget Review

60.1 Budget Review 2020/21

Members noted the report.

60.2 Budget Proposal Fifth Draft 2021/22

It was confirmed that the purpose of the budget review by this Committee was to determine expenditure requirements rather than to recommend changes to the Precept. An updated draft budget will then be reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee at their meeting on 12 January 2021 to determine how expenditure will be funded, including a review of reserves.

The substantial budget deficit proposed of over £283,000 will require extensive use of reserves as well as a potential requirement to increase the Precept. Members were advised that a 1% increase in the Precept will only raise just over £5,000. The level of Precept request will be recommended to Council by the Finance & Audit Committee, or budget matters may be referred back to the Community Services Committee for further review of priorities if the level of budgeted expenditure is deemed unsustainable.

The figure of £127,000 for Town Hall Planned Maintenance & Repairs was based on previous estimates rather than fully costed proposals or tenders and therefore is liable to change. That said, Members were advised not to add contingency to this figure but to propose an additional sum to Designated Reserves if deemed appropriate.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that the fifth draft of the 2021/22 should be accepted, pending the discussion of the items further down the agenda.

60.3 Designated Reserve requirement for 2021/22

Members were reminded that any additional Designated Reserves would initially need to be transferred from the General Reserve, so this will be subject to review by the Finance & Audit Committee as part of the overall budget review for 2021/22.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that a reserve of £20,000 is designated for Holy Trinity/Public Monuments and that a reserve of £5,000 is designated for street furniture.

61) Riverside Wall and Holy Trinity Church

The Town Clerk informed that she had made a site visit to Holy Trinity Churchyard on 6 January with Stephen Oliver, Conservation Architect and David Bishton, Structural Engineer. At this meeting it was suggested that approval for a budget provision of £20,000 is sought from the Community Services Committee.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that £20,000 to repair this wall is included in the 2021/22 budget.

62) Cemetery Kerbing

There were discussions over whether this work was a safety precaution or for aesthetics and whether it should be delayed in favour of repairing the Holy Trinity Boundary Wall.

It was confirmed that this is mainly a safety issue, as the kerbs would hopefully prevent cars from accidentally knocking over headstones, a situation that has happened in the past in the Cemetery.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the £7,490.00 quoted for this work has been included in the fifth draft of the 2021/22 budget. He also noted that this would finish the kerbing at the rear of the Cemetery but that there is further work at the front of the Cemetery to consider in the future.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that Council continues with this work, but that it would be carried out towards the end of the financial year.

63) Anti-social Behaviour within Holy Trinity Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance

63.1 Garden of Remembrance

Cllr Fradgley reported that she, as one of the Ward Councillors for this area, has recently set up a liaison with Stratford Police and Stratford-on-Avon District Council, and are meeting in this area

weekly. Any complaints or concerns raised by residents are discussed and pursued within these meetings.

63.2 Holy Trinity Churchyard

It was agreed that the two different signs within this area have made the rules ambiguous – a sign outside of the Churchyard states that any dog fouling could be liable to a fine, whereas the sign within the Churchyard states that “dogs should not be exercised within this precinct”.

Cllr Rolfe confirmed that for a fine to be given, SDC’s Dog Warden has to see the offence in action and has so far only ever fined one person.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: to change the signage within the Churchyard to state that all dogs must be kept on leads, and that anyone that does not clean up after their dog may face a fine.

64) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The next virtual Meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place at 6:00pm on Tuesday 6 April, 2021, or at 6:30pm if a physical meeting is to be held at the Town Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12:07pm.