

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

26 October 2021

MINUTES pages 1 - 6

Present
Councillors:

Cleeve	J Fradgley
How	Vos
Jackson	

Clerks:	Admin Officer
Public:	No members of the public were present.
Press:	No members of the press were present.

20) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Coles, Mackenzie, Rolfe, Taylor and Wall and were accepted for the reasons given.

21) Declarations of Interests

Cllr J Fradgley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 9.1.2, minuted as 28.2.

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

None.

23) To grant any requests for dispensation

None.

24) Public Participation

There was no public participation.

25) Minutes

RECOMMENDED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 6 July, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

26) To Adopt Draft Notes of Sub-Group Meetings

- Environmental Strategy Panel (formerly Climate Change Emergency Panel)

RECOMMENDED: That the notes from the Environmental Strategy meeting held on 1 September and 19 October, 2021 be adopted.

- Grants Task & Finish Group

RECOMMENDED: That the notes from the Grants Task & Finish Group meetings held 9 September, 23 September and 14 October, 2021 be adopted.

27) Budget Review October 2021

27.1) YTD Budget Review for 2021-22

Members noted the report and acknowledged the increasing deficit in the budget.

27.2) Draft Budget Review for 2022-23

Members recognised that the Town Council has been spending more than it has been receiving for at least 5 years, with the deficit growing, and this is not sustainable and agreed that either income has to increase by raising the precept and increasing fees, or expenditure needs to be cut.

Members were reluctant to raise the precept to the level we would need to in order to truly rectify the deficit.

It was

RECOMMENDED: that unnecessary expenditure should be deferred, with the following suggestions made:

- Defer Cemetery kerbing unless it poses a health and safety risk - *further discussed in minute 31*;
- Do not install any new amenities in 2022/23;
- Take out the item in the budget for Dementia Lunch Club as this has yet to take place;
- Remove the item in the budget for the Green Advent Calendar as this is something that is not planned for the next year;
- Roll on the existing Climate Change Emergency budget, but do not ask for more – this will need to be agreed by the Environmental Strategy Panel;
- Cap initiative funds to £25,000 for each organisation requesting funding – *further discussed in minute 28.2*;
- Query whether the funding for CCTV can be reduced;

It was agreed that any further questions and suggestions should be brought to next meeting of this committee on 7 December, 2021.

Cllr How made the suggestion that Hatton Rock should come under the responsibilities of the Civic, Heritage and Events Committee instead of the Community Services Committee.

Cllr Vos agreed that he would talk to the Responsible Financial Officer regarding the contingency for inflation.

28) Town Council Initiatives (previously Grants)

28.1) To adopt the revised Town Council Initiatives (previously Grants) application form

Following a discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: to make further minor amendments to the application form and to ask those that have already completed it for their feedback. This form will then be brought back to the December meeting for adoption.

28.2) To review Initiative applications from Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights Company, and Stratford in Bloom

The applications received from these two organisations were reviewed. Both organisations had requested funding of £35,000. However, due to the deficit it was suggested that this funding is capped at £25,000 per organisation, as is the norm for the CCTV contribution and funding awarded to the Fred Winter Centre.

However, it was agreed that it was not the intention to cause these companies to be unable to proceed with their plans, therefore it was

RECOMMENDED: to contact the Chairs of Stratford-in-Bloom and Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights Company to advise that we could fund a minimum of £25,000, but that budget can be cut in other areas then this may increase. A final decision on this will need to be made at the Community Services Committee meeting on 7 December, 2021.

Members also suggested an update from the Fred Winter Centre might be prudent, as the opening has been delayed a number of times. Cllr How advised that he is having a meeting with the Fred Winter Centre Board later this week and that he would provide the Town Council with any feedback following this.

29) To approve and adopt a revised application form for Free Use of the Town Hall

It was suggested that the following questions should be added to this form:

- Room layout required?
- Will you be setting up the room yourself, or would you require Town Hall staff to do this for you?

It was also thought that the form should specify that events are to take place on weekdays only and that if a paid-for booking arises, the date of the event may be moved.

It was therefore

RECOMMENDED: to call a meeting of the Town Hall Fees/Income Task & Finish Group in order to discuss plans for accepting applications for free use of the Town Hall.

30) Bike Marking Kit

Cllr Vos advised that one of these kits has been purchased for a non-Town Council related project, therefore it is not necessary to budget for a further kit at this time.

31) Cemetery Kerbing

After a discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: to ask the Town Council Health and Safety Officer to risk assess the kerbing at the Cemetery. If the current kerbing is not a health and safety issue, the work will be deferred.

32) External Works on the Town Hall;

The report was noted.

33) Other Debtors – Stratford Support cash only clients

It was

RECOMMENDED: to write off this debt of £168.43.

33) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday 7 December, 2021 at the Town Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm.