

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

5 April, 2022

MINUTES pages 1 – 5

Present
Councillors:

Cleeve	Rolfe
Coles	Vos
J Fradgley	Mackenzie
How	

Clerks:	Admin Officer
Public:	One member of the public was present and spoke in Public Participation, minuted as 67
Press:	No members of the press were present

63) Apologies

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

64) Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Cleeve and Coles declared an interest in item 10.5 minuted as 76 as Stratford Town Trustees.

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

None.

66) To grant any requests for dispensation

None.

67) Public Participation

A former Mayor spoke for the allotted time on the Fred Winter Centre which was later discussed under minute 76.

He was concerned about anti-social behaviour happening in the town centre and did not agree with Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council contributing taxpayers' money towards the Fred Winter, a venture he did not see as a long-term solution towards tackling homelessness.

He advised that he had sent an email to the Town Clerk explaining his concerns further and agreed that this email could be circulated to the Council.

68) Minutes

RECOMMENDED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Pre-Decision/Consultation Meeting held on 1 February, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

69) To Adopt Draft Notes of Sub-Group Meetings

- Environmental Strategy Panel

RECOMMENDED: That the notes from the Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 7 March, 2022 be adopted.

- Asset Register Review Group

RECOMMENDED: That the notes from the Asset Register Review Group Meeting held on 28 March, 2022 be adopted.

70) To Receive a Presentation on Shopmobility by Elizabeth Dixon

Elizabeth unfortunately could not attend the meeting, so agreed to present at a later date.

As the Shopmobility subject is time sensitive, it was suggested that she be invited to address full Council instead on 26 April, 2022.

71) YTD Budget Review for 2021 – 22

There was an enquiry regarding if any budget has been set aside for livestreaming equipment. Cllr How responded that this was looked into last year whilst remote meetings were permitted but the

maintenance and operating of the technology would need to be considered.

The Town Clerk has sent a letter in support of the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ASDO)'s petition in regard to allowing remote and hybrid meetings to continue. The response to this should be brought back to this committee as an agenda item on 5 July, 2022.

Members were happy that the budget deficit was continuing to reduce and noted the report.

72) To approve and adopt the Community Services Committee Terms of Reference

As the maintenance of benches (and other amenities) is a responsibility of the Town Council, it was suggested that a 'Talking Benches' initiative was considered. It was agreed to bring this item to the next meeting.

It was

RECOMMENDED that the Terms of References are approved and adopted.

73) To retrospectively agree the revised Cemetery & Tranquility Garden Fees

Whilst the previous Cemetery debt has now been paid, it was suggested that payment processes for purchasing burial space should be looked into in more depth.

It was

74) RECOMMENDED: the revised Cemetery & Tranquility Garden Fees are agreed.

75) To review the Terms and Conditions of hire of the Town Hall

It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Terms and Conditions of the hire of the Town Hall are fit for purpose.

76) To conduct an annual review of the Asset Register

It was noted that the huge amount of work undertaken by Cllr Lee to overhaul the Asset Register Database has helped considerably with the verification of assets.

After discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Admin Clerk should recirculate the Ward Amenity lists to Council, and that Councillors should aim to return these by 15 April, 2022.

77) To conduct an annual review of the Fred Winter Centre

Members thanked Cllr How for his in-depth report dated 9 March, 2022. He expanded on this by reporting that the bottom half of the centre is now fully open, along with the café. He also noted that delays were caused due to Covid and modified fire regulations. Work on the external fire escape is still being undertaken, but once this has been completed, the top floor will be opened to residents.

The Town Council initially pledged £25,000 per year towards the centre, and it was agreed that as the project is in its infancy, we should not expect all needs to be met immediately.

Questions were raised as to whether the accessibility issues in the report have yet been address. Cllr How agreed to follow up on this and update Council accordingly.

Members agreed that they would like to see the Council's financial support linked towards the homelessness and community engagement issues.

After discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council will contribute £25,000 budgeted in 2021-22 (delayed from January 2022) and a further £25,000 in January 2023, following a review.

78) To receive an update on the progress of Town Hall restoration

Some members expressed their concern that the cleaning/conservation of the entrance porch of the Town Hall was not shown as much effort as the rest of the building.

It was asked that it is checked whether this work was part of the original specification. The Admin Clerk agreed to liaise with the Finance and Facilities Officer about this.

The update was noted.

79) To consider changing the signing in the Holy Trinity Churchyard to deter dog fouling

It was agreed that changing the wording on the sign will most likely not deter this anti-social behaviour.

After an in-depth discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the possibility of banning dogs from the Churchyard is brought to the next meeting of this Committee for discussion.

80) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday 5 July, 2022 at the Town Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:36pm.