

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

5 July 2022

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Present
Councillors:

Coles	J Fradgley
Cleeve (Mayor)	Rolfe
How	Taylor
Jackson	

Clerks: Administration & Communications Officer and Finance/Facilities Officer; Town Clerk and Open Spaces Foreman were also present

Public: There was 1 member of the public present. They were present for Agenda item number 9, and after the presentation, they left the meeting.

Press: No members of the press were present.

1) Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year 2022/23

The Mayor took the Chair and explained to the Committee that the Deputy Mayor (Cllr Rolfe) is automatically afforded the opportunity to act as Chairman. However Cllr Rolfe (Deputy Mayor) declined the position of Chairman of the Community Services Committee for and afforded the role to Cllr How for the municipal year 2022/2023.

Cllr How took the chair and called for nominations for Deputy Chairman. It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That Cllr Coles be appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Community Services

Committee for the municipal year
2022/2023.

2) Apologies

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

3) Declarations of Interests

None.

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

None.

5) To grant any requests for dispensation

None.

6) Public Participation

There was no public participation.

7) Minutes

RECCOMENDED: That the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 5 April, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

8) To adopt draft notes of Sub-Group Meetings

Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 11 April, 2022;

RECCOMENDED: That the notes from the Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 11 April, 2022 be adopted

Website, Social Media & Newsletter Panel Meeting held on 5 April, 2022;

RECCOMENDED: That the notes from the Website, Social Media & Newsletter Panel Meeting held on 5 April, 2022 be adopted.

9) Shopmobility Presentation by Elizabeth Dixon

Elizabeth Dixon highlighted her concerns regarding the Shopmobility unit in Stratford. There has been rumours of a proposal that Shopmobility could be closed by the end of the financial year.

It has been run by SDC for the last 27 years in conjunction with a charity called Friends of Shopmobility. The equipment is owned by the Charity, however staffing costs and operational costs are covered by payment from SDC. They are currently based in Bridgefoot carpark under the CCTV office. They have no broadband in the unit. They have limited facilities – they can only take payment for hiring aids in cash or cheque (a deposit of £200 is required when hiring equipment). Figures were given for hire of aids for the last two months, these showed an increase in demand for local people and visitors to the town (not just day visitors).

This is a vital service for local residents and tourists to Stratford town centre. They have a wide range of mobility aids that can be used by all who may not be able to afford to purchase their own personal equipment. After much discussion;

It was

PROPOSED: that the Town Clerk would write a letter to SDC asking for clarification of Shopmobility and what are the District Council's proposals for its future.

10) Budget Review April 2022/2023

Members noted the reports provided. The Mayor commented that the pie charts were a great help.

11) Dogs in Holy Trinity Church

The Cemetery Foreman reported that this is still an ongoing issue and reports that dogs are off the lead and are fouling in the churchyard. There are signs in the area about dog fouling but they

have not had much impact.

This has been due to the gate between the RSC walled garden and the Churchyard being unlocked. This previously had been locked by RSC staff limiting access to the Churchyard during early morning and evenings. The Open Spaces Foreman believes he may still have access to a key for the gate.

SDC have an appointed Dog Warden, he also covers the whole of the district and is the only person in the District who has the power to issue a fouling fine to a dog owner. It was suggested that contact is made with the Dog Warden. Discussion was also had regarding new grass cutting equipment that could be sourced which would keep equipment cleaner and protect the health and safety of our Open Spaces Team.

It was

PROPOSED: that that Open Spaces Foreman explores locking the gate at certain times (i.e. early morning and early evening).

A quotation for new mowing equipment is sources.

Contact via letter to the Dog Warden to highlight the problem of dog fouling and dogs not on leads in the Churchyard.

12) Talking Benches

The Town Clerk had experienced a Talking Bench in another town whereby the bench has a plaque on it, which explains if you sit here, someone may come and chat to you. She thought that this might a lovely idea for our town. It was confirmed that the bench outside the Town Hall is perfect for this initiative.

It was

AGREED: that a plaque be purchased with a budge of £50.00 and appropriate wording be added.

13) Bus Shelter on Tavern Lane

It is noted that the bus shelter is no longer on a public bus route and the bus shelter and is only used for school children waiting on buses to pick them up i.e. morning drop off or afternoon pick up. It was reported that since its removal, children are lingering on the pathways and sitting on the kerb.

It was suggested that The Mayor would speak to the young people who use the shelter for their thoughts on what would be required and then liaise with Shottery Girls Grammar School and Alcester Grammar School.

If it was found that a requirement was needed for a new shelter, this could be discussed in time for the next budget review and would enable sufficient time for a consultation to take place.

14) Open Spaces Vehicle

The Open Spaces Foreman gave an outline of the issues with the current tipper vehicle and its unreliability and need for further work to keep it going. It is an essential vehicle and it is used for all varying jobs that the team have to undertake.

The Committee discussed the three quotes received in the report and the current budget situation. The Committee realised the desperate need to replace the vehicle as soon as possible. Quotes had been sourced for three options – new purchase, second hand purchase or lease.

It was

AGREED: that the Town Council lease a new tipper vehicle at a cost of up to £500.00 per month and that three quotes should be obtained to compare what is included within this figure. No further approval is required from the Committee at this time. Officers to work on this as a matter of urgency.

15) Town Hall Maintenance

An update was given by the Finance & Facilities Officer. The only outstanding issue is the lighting for the statue being far too bright and this is currently waiting to be sorted out.

16) Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place on Tuesday 25 October, 2022, at 6:30pm to be held at the Town Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:05pm.