

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024

MINUTES

Presiding: The Mayor (Councillor Kate Rolfe)

Councillors Present:

Alcock	Harding
Cleeve	Hunter
Coles	MacDonald
Dowling	McNaught Barrow
Fojtik	Petrovic
I Fradgley	Rashwan
J Fradgley	Smith
	Vos

Clerk – Town Clerk
Electors – 20
Press – One present

Apologies: Councillors Duck and Lee

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 and invited all Councillors of the Town Council to introduce themselves and the Ward that they covered.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Rachel Knight, Community Builder gave a sort presentation on her role as Bishopton and Clopton Community Worker. This was a role which was partly funded by the Town Council, District Council, Town Trust and Orbit Housing.

1. Minutes

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 2 March 2023 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 2023

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 Responsible Finance Officer for her excellent work with the regard to the Return and the Budgeting process.

4. Annual Report 2023/24

This was presented to the meeting.

5. Parochial Matters Raised by Electors

The Mayor invited attendees to raise questions or matters of interest. A range of topics were brought forward and discussed by those present, including the following:

1. Town Centre Issues

Concerns were expressed regarding various challenges faced in the town centre. These included the overall condition and vibrancy of the area and suggestions for enhancing its appeal to both residents and visitors.

2. Empty Shops and Premises

Attendees raised concerns about the increasing number of empty shops and commercial premises within the town. Discussion centred on potential strategies to address this issue, such as encouraging new businesses and supporting existing ones.

3. Town's Road Network and Roadworks

A discussion took place regarding the town's road network, including specific reference to planned roadworks on Warwick Road. Concerns were voiced about the potential for disruption and the long-term impact on traffic flow.

4. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Questions were raised about the use and allocation of funds generated through the Community Infrastructure Levy. Suggestions were made regarding how these funds could be utilised to benefit local infrastructure and community projects.

The Mayor acknowledged the contributions and thanked participants for their engagement and declared the meeting closed at 8:14pm.