

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

CIVIC HERITAGE AND EVENTS PRE-DECISION/DISCUSSION CONSULTATION

14 October, 2021

Minutes Pages 1 – 4

Present:
Councillors:

Alcock	Mackenzie
Cleeve	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Taylor (Mayor)

Clerk: Town Clerk
Press: None present.
Public: Dermot McGillicuddy, LSD Promotions.
The meeting was streamed live via You Tube for members of the public to watch.

Subsequent recommendations from the pre-discussion consultation the 14 September will be enacted under delegated authority by the Town Clerk.

8) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Vos, Wall and Warren-Howles.

9) Declarations of Interest

Councillors Taylor and Rolfe declared an interest in item 8.6 minuted as 15. Councillor Rolfe also declared an interest in item 8.7 minuted as 16, as did Councillor Alcock.

- 10) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

None were received.

- 11) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were no verbal requests for dispensation.

- 12) Public Participation

None were present.

- 13) To approve the draft minutes of the Civic Heritage and Events Pre-Decision/Discussion Consultation Meeting held on 20 July, 2021

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RECOMMENDED: That the draft open minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Pre-Decision/ Discussion Consultation Meeting held on 20 July, 2021, be approved as a correct record.

In accordance with current procedures, the Chairman's signature and the date will be appended electronically to the minutes.

- 14) To approve the draft notes of the Website, Social Media and Newsletter sub-group held on 3 August 2021

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That the draft open notes of the Website, Social Media and Newsletter sub-group meeting held on 3 August, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

In accordance with current procedures, the Chairman's signature and the date will be appended electronically to the notes.

The Chairman proposed and it was AGREED to bring forward agenda items 8.6 and 8.7 to accommodate Dermot McGillicuddy from LSD Promotions Ltd who was present to contribute to the discussions relating to the forthcoming Christmas Lights Switch-on and Victorian Christmas Market.

15) Victorian Christmas Market 9 – 12 December

Members noted the report and approved the proposals therein.

The possible location of the animatronic reindeers and polar bears was discussed, and it was suggested that the polar bears could be sited in Wood Street, however some members raised concerns for the safety of the display in this location. Other suggestions were the Dustbowl, the Cornmarket or the High Street entrance to Debenhams.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That the locations for the reindeer and polar bear displays will be finalised at the next meeting on 2 November.

16) Christmas Lights Switch-On 25 November

Dermot McGillicuddy advised that the Thursday Christmas Markets will take place on Bridge Street this year, and his team had toyed with the possibility of staging the Switch-On Ceremony within the Christmas market precinct.

Concern was expressed as past events had attracted hundreds of visitors in close proximity, which is not ideal particularly with regard to the COVID guidelines which are likely to change to provide winter safeguards. However, members believed that cancelling the event would send the wrong message. It was considered that we should proceed with all arrangements but be ready and prepared to cancel or reign-back should circumstances change adversely.

For the event to go ahead it was thought advisable to:

- Allow for more street closures to provide space for social distancing which should include High Street as well as Bridge Street;
- To site the mobile stage and compere at the top of High Street facing towards the tree of light;
- To encourage the wearing of facemasks in all advertising and publicity;
- To advise all participants that they or their organisation must undertake a risk assessment before attending the event;
- The Mayor would ceremoniously turn-on the Christmas Lights from the stage in High Street;
- That a school band and choir would be located by the stage, if they are willing to participate this year.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: To proceed with planning the event in accordance with the above. The cost for the stage and compere will be financed from the Christmas Lights Switch-on budget and Dermot McGillicuddy was requested to provide these amenities at a discounted fee of £800.

17) Queen's Green Canopy Initiative for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: To plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A location for this is yet to be determined. However, the Town Clerk agreed to discuss landscaping with the contractors tasked with the Bridge Street/High Street development. She will also arrange a site meeting with officers from Street Scene at the District Council.

18) Remembrance Sunday -14 November

Whilst the Town Hall is shrouded in scaffolding, it is not possible to display the illuminated poppies on the Church Street elevation to mark the Act of Remembrance.

Councillor Alcock enquired whether the Town Council would like the poppies placed elsewhere in the town this year. Suggestions for alternative locations included:

- Elizabeth House;
- Stratford Playhouse.

19) CIL Projects

The report was noted but a policy is required outlining how the community can influence how Council's CIL money is utilised.

20) 600th Anniversary Tree - Guild Chapel

The Town Clerk advised that no money had been budgeted for this planter. However, there is £2,000 in the Heritage Open Days budget, which will not be used this year.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That the planter be purchased using the money indicated above.

21) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Alcock expressed disappointment at the lack of take-up for this group. She also noted that light-up crowns that were used for the Golden Jubilee are still held by the Christmas Lights Company if the Town Council wished to use them again.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RECOMMENDED: That the Task and Finish Group meet as soon as possible.

22) A Celebration of the Mayoralty Event

The Town Clerk reported that she envisioned that this would be a ceremonial event to encompass a celebration of former Mayors adversely affected by the COVID-19 restrictions, particularly former Mayor, Tony Jackson. The ceremony would be followed by a formal Civic Reception.

It was suggested that the event is held on 26 November, the day after the Christmas Lights Switch On. It was noted that the Town Clerk will work on a programme to bring to the next meeting on 2 November.

23) Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday, 2 November 2021 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

The Deputy Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:35pm