

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

23 November, 2021

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Taylor) in the Chair

Councillors:

Cleeve	I Fradgley
Coles	J Fradgley
Curtis	How
Dowling	Jackson
Dyer	Lee
Fojtik	Rolfe

Clerk: Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Press: None present

Public: One member of the public was present throughout the meeting, together with the County Council representative for Stratford North

71) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alcock, Mackenzie, Vos, Wall and Warren-Howles and were accepted for the reasons given.

72) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

None were received.

74) To grant any requests for dispensation

None were received.

75) Public Participation

The Warwickshire County Councillor for Stratford North, Councillor Tim Sinclair, introduced himself, advising that although he knew many on the Town Council, he had not met everyone. He hoped to attend as many Town Council Meetings as possible and wished to work closely with the Town Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Sinclair, who remained for the rest of the meeting.

76) Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12 October, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12 October, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

77) Draft Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 19 October, 2021

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 19 October, 2021 be approved and adopted.

78) Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 26 October, 2021

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 26 October, 2021 be approved and adopted.

79) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 2 November, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 2 November, 2021 be approved and adopted.

80) To Adopt the Draft Open/Confidential Minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 16 November, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 16 November, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 81) To Adopt the Notes from the Stratford Support Meeting held on 2 November, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Notes of the Stratford Support Meeting held on 2 November, 2021 be approved and adopted.

Cllr Cleeve advised that the meeting on 2 November had been the AGM. She wished to congratulate the new Chair, Kerry Alcock, and thanked outgoing Chair, Aiden Drinkwater.

- 82) To Adopt the Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 11 November, 2021.

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 11 November, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 83) To respond to the NALC Consultation on Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and to agree to formally approach SDC to secure land for an increase in the provision of burial space

Council noted the Government's stated objective to update the Regulations to improve the way in which groundwater activities and some related surface water discharge activities are regulated. However, Council was very concerned that in order for Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery to be an 'exempt facility', Council must comply with General Binding Rules and ensure all future burial plots are no smaller than 5 square meters.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To strongly disagree to point 3b in Annex B of the consultation document. By implementing this clause, Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery would see a reduction in existing grave space from 232 to 162 and a potential to reduce the remaining burial capacity nationally by 50%.

Council believes that DEFRA should be doing everything possible to maximise capacity for cemeteries managed by local councils, whilst still improving the way that essential ground water activities are regulated.

Council considered that for existing and future generations, it is their duty and responsibility to ensure that there is an adequate provision of burial land in Stratford-upon-Avon to service the needs of a town continually growing in population.

It was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk provides Stratford on Avon District Council with written confirmation that the proposal has been formally discussed and approved in a public open meeting with a minuted decision taken, authorising an approach to SDC with a view to STC's acquisition of two pieces of land owned by SDC, adjacent to Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery.

84) To consider and adopt the proposed Policy for the Conferring of the Title of Honorary Freeman and Freewomen

Council is aware that only very rarely is the title of Honorary Freeman and Freewomen bestowed, but if another illustrious individual, regiment, or organisation were in future to join those who enjoy or enjoyed the Freedom of the Town in future, a policy should be in place for it to be enacted.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To adopt as unamended, the proposed Policy for the Conferring of the Title of Honorary Freeman and Freewomen.

85) To consider the proposal by WALC for a Jubilee Fund

It was noted that the Town Council is already collaborating with other key organisations so the town can collectively and joyously commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Members considered that it would perhaps be more constructive if other community organisations were invited to join in the collaboration rather than applying for Jubilee Funding to stage something independently which may already be in hand.

In any event, members considered there was insufficient information provided by WALC and that the matter should be DEFERRED to a future meeting, when further details or proposals are available.

86) To review the Town Council's Data Protection Policy

The Policy was unanimously noted as being fit for purpose.

87) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

- CCTV

Councillor Dowling presented his written report and requested that Council continues to wholeheartedly support this valuable asset for detecting or preventing crime.

- Stratford-in-Bloom

Councillor J Fradgley advised that in her written report, she had inadvertently omitted to mention all the work on the new website and the increased social media activity that Stratford-in-Bloom has undertaken.

88) Ward Reports

- COVID

Councillor Cleeve warned that cases of COVID are rapidly increasing, not just in her ward but across all wards and requested caution and observation of COVID precautionary measures such as continuing to wear face masks and social distancing.

89) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report for Information

The Town Clerk tabled an information document which details the programme for the Opening of the Victorian Christmas Market, taking place on Thursday 9 December. She apologised that she

would be unavailable, the first civic event that she would miss in her career.

The Town Clerk went on to explain the folders which had also been tabled, containing the running programme and directions for the rehearsal taking place immediately following the Town Council meeting, for the Celebration of Mayoralty on Friday 26 November,.

90) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council Meeting will be 25 January, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

As this was the last meeting of 2021, The Mayor wished everyone a very Happy Christmas, prior to declaring the meeting closed at 7:00pm.