

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

25 January, 2022

Open Minutes pages 1 – 7
Appendix 'A' page 8
Confidential Minutes page 9

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Taylor) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	J Fradgley
Cleeve	Jackson
Coles	Lee
Curtis	Rolfe
Dowling	Vos
I Fradgley	

Clerk: Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Press: None present

Public: The Chair of the Youth Town Council and the County
Councillor for Stratford-upon-Avon North were present
throughout the open session of Council. Mr Paul Spooner left
the meeting after agenda item 15, minuted as 104.

91) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dyer, Fojtik, How, Mackenzie and Warren-Howles and were accepted for the reasons given.

92) Declarations of Interest

Councillors Cleeve, Coles and Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 15, minuted as 104.

Councillors Alcock, Dowling, J Fradgley, and Rolfe declared an interest in agenda item 16, minuted as 105.

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

None were received.

- 94) To grant any requests for dispensation

None were received.

- 95) Public Participation

No one wished to speak in Public Participation.

- 96) Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 23 November, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 23 November, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

- 97) Draft Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 30 November, and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 14 December, 2021

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 30 November, and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 14 December, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 98) Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 December, 2021

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 December, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 99) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 4 January, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 4 January, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 100) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 January, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 January, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 101) To Adopt the Notes from the Stratford Support Meeting held on 11 January, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Notes of the Stratford Support Meeting held on 11 January, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 102) To Adopt the Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 16 December, 2021.

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 16 December, 2021 which were presented by the Chair of the Youth Town Council.

- 103) Election of Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect

It was Proposed by Councillor Alcock and Seconded by Councillor Rolfe and unanimously

RESOLVED: To affirm Councillor Gillian Hazel Cleeve (known as Gill) as the Mayor Elect, to take office on 20 May, 2022.

The senior Councillor confirmed that he had received one nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect and there being no further nominations, it was Proposed by Councillor J

Fradgley and Seconded by Councillor Alcock, on behalf of Councillor Warren-Howles, and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Catherine Lisbeth Rolfe (known as Kate) be appointed as Deputy Mayor Elect, to take office on 20 May, 2022.

Both appointees were warmly congratulated by their peers.

104) To welcome Mr Paul Spooner and receive an update on the progress of the Fred Winter Centre

Mr Spooner gave an enlightening and comprehensive account of the progress for the opening of the Fred Winter Centre. He explained that this is being tackled in two phases, following challenges caused by the requirement of additional building regulations, particularly fire safety regulations, which all came at additional cost and had caused delay.

The first stage near to completion is the establishment of the services that will be using the lower floors. Paul confirmed that the Food Bank should be fully operational from the Centre next week, charity and other partners providing services will be in residence within the next two weeks, including Cork & Tile, a Portuguese restaurant providing catering for the Centre and open to the public. Cork & Tile will also be providing training and work experience, particularly in their bakery.

The second phase will focus on the residential provision, namely the fifteen self-contained apartments, two of which will be for emergencies. Residents of the remaining thirteen apartments can stay for up to two years. The Centre will also provide a severe weather area and there will be provision for those in need of help to use showers, a change of clothes and a hot meal. It is not a night-time 'drop-in' Centre, however. Those in need will be referred to the Centre, via charities, councils, housing associations, the police etc.

There followed a number of questions from the floor, ably answered by Mr Spooner. Prior to leaving the meeting He was then warmly congratulated on his tenacity to get this 'off the ground' and to see it through.

105) To agree the proposed 2022/2023 Draft Budget and Precept requirement for the ensuing year

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To be mindful of the recommendation by the Finance & Audit Committee and approve and adopt the final draft budget using the figures reported in the sixth draft.

It was further unanimously

RESOLVED: That a precept request of £556,242, which includes a 2.5 percent increase in the rate charge per household, be submitted to the District Council by their deadline date of 28 January, 2022.

106) To Pursue the Acquisition of Land for the Provision of Additional Burial Space

Council maintained its resolve to acquire the two pieces of landlocked land adjacent to the Cemetery, owned by SDC and currently used as garden plots. Members considered that, for existing and future generations, it was their duty and responsibility to ensure there is adequate provision of burial land in Stratford-upon-Avon to serve the whole community in a town continually growing in population.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To proceed with the purchase of the land and request that the District Council notifies its garden plot licensees of this impending transaction as soon as possible.

107) To approve the proposed change to the Trusteeship of Municipal Charities

Although there was consensus that the Town Council would in no way wish to impede the process of the Municipal Charities becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the

news was met with sadness and regret, particularly bearing in mind the long and close association of the two organisations.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To accede to their request, negating the automatic right for the Town Council to nominate a trustee to the Board.

108) To receive and adopt the Calendar of Meetings 2022/2023

Councillor I Fradgley pointed out some anomalies in the calendar with dates that should have been amended to 2023 which instead were still listed as 2022. Consequently, it did not make sense. Additionally, there were a number of amendments and additions, as follows:

- Youth Town Council to start at 5:30pm. The meetings scheduled for 10 November and 15 December had been omitted.
- The swapping of the September meetings of the Finance & Audit Committee, now on 13 September and the Civic, Heritage & Events Committee, now on 6 September.
- The Annual Photograph will be taken on 20 September and not 26 July, 2022 as previously stated.

The revised Calendar of Meetings, which takes affect from May, 2022 is attached as **Appendix 'A'**.

Councillor Alcock understood the need for August meetings of Planning but advised that there was some public disquietude to planning applications, often controversial, being considered at the height of the holiday season.

The Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee robustly defended the need for the PCC to meet in August, for precisely the reason raised by Councillor Alcock. If it did not meet, it would mean that the Town Council would not be in a position to respond to any of the applications, having missed the District Council's response deadline which is encompassed in planning legislation.

109) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

- Councillor J Fradgley & Warren-Howles – Stratford-in-Bloom
- Councillor Jackson – Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust

The reports were taken as read but Councillor Jackson responded to a question regarding the date for the implementation of the northern section of the Riverside Project, which should commence on 7 February. However, he was not absolutely sure of the dates when the Fisherman's Car Park would be closed. He confirmed however, that nearer the time, the public would be notified in advance of the closure.

110) Ward Reports

110.1 **Councillor Rolfe** advised that work on the Alveston roundabout would commence in the third week of February, but she was unsure how it would be regulated.

She also confirmed that Knights Lane would be closed at the same time.

110.2 **Councillor J Fradgley** confirmed that things were now beginning to move on the Shottery 800.

She hoped that Council would once again participate and act as judges for the Stratford-in-Bloom Front Garden Competition, although this was some way off.

111) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report for Information

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on Shakespeare's Coming Home and on the visit by the Worshipful Company of Glovers to Stratford-upon-Avon in June 2023.

She then advised that she had confidential verbal information to impart. The Mayor closed the open meeting, and the public withdrew.

112) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next Meeting of the Town Council will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday 29 March, 2022. The Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 7:30pm on Thursday 3 March, 2022.