

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

26 April, 2022

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Taylor) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	J Fradgley
Cleeve	How
Coles	Jackson
Curtis	Lee
Dowling	Rolfe
Dyer	Vos
I Fradgley	Warren-Howles

Clerks: Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Press: Absent
Public: There were five members of the public present

146) Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Fojtik and Mackenzie and accepted for the reason given.

147) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no requests.

149) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

150) Public Participation

No one wished to speak in Public Participation.

151) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 29 March, 2022 and the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 6 April, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 29 March, 2022 and the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 6 April be approved as a correct record.

152) To Adopt the Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 12 April, 2022

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 12 April, 2022 be approved and adopted.

153) To Adopt the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meetings held on 5 April, 2022

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 5 April, 2022 be approved and adopted.

154) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the Stratford Support Meeting held on 30 March, 2022

Councillor Rolfe confirmed that the Stratford Support Group meeting was now focusing on help and support for any Ukrainian refugees taking up residence in Stratford-upon-Avon as well as keeping abreast of broader aspects happening in the town.

RESOLVED: To Adopt the Draft Notes of the Stratford Support Meeting held on 30 March, 2022.

155) To Meet and Greet the new Administration Officer

The Mayor welcomed the Council's latest recruit, Mrs Lisa Campion who will be joining at the end of May as a replacement

for the Administration/Communications Officer and PA to the Town Clerk. Lisa introduced herself, advising that she was currently working in the office at Holy Trinity Primary School and was very much looking forward to working with everyone at the Town Council.

156) Appointment of Members to Standing Committees

As two members of the Council were absent, subject to their approval they were re-appointed to the committees they previously served on.

It was noted that committee membership would change slightly following the by election for the new member for Bishopton ward.

The new structure is appended to these minutes as **Appendix 'A'**.

157) Appointment of Members to Sub-Groups

The new sub-committee structure for 2022/2023 is appended to these minutes as **Appendix 'B'**.

158) Members' Code of Conduct - Training

The report was noted.

159) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

159.1 Town Trust – Councillor Jackson

159.2 Town Transport Group – I Fradgley

159.3 Stratford-in-Bloom (tabled) – J Fradgley

The written reports were taken as read.

160) Verbal Ward Reports

160.1 Councillor Alcock advised that having reported a spate of burglaries in Bishopton ward at the last Town Council meeting, she was pleased to announce that there have since been two arrests as a result of CCTV evidence and sentencing will follow shortly.

160.2 Councillor How advised of a worrying report regarding accessibility at the Fred Winter Centre that had been submitted by Accessible Stratford representative, Elizabeth Dixon. Although the Strategic Board were notified at their last, infrequent meeting, and assurance was given that they would be rectified as part of the snagging process, it appears that, as yet nothing has been addressed. Councillor How proposed that the Town Clerk should write on behalf of Council to Springfield Mind to seek an explanation and assurance that all the accessibility issues identified in Elizabeth's report would be rectified as a matter of priority.

160.3 Councillor Warren-Howles reported the initiative supported by the Stratford Support Group. She contacted Northampton Town Council who cater for a lot of Polish residents. A local teacher native to Poland, who still has many contacts within the Polish education system, has advised that the influx of Ukrainian children into Polish schools has meant that general schooling resources for the Ukrainians are very low.

Northampton Town Council is co-ordinating a project to accrue basic school equipment, from pencil cases to back-packs, which are donated by British school children who are keen to help the Ukrainian children. They engaged a logistics company, set up a collection point, and all the donations will eventually be shipped to Poland.

Stratford Support was all in favour of this initiative and hoped that Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council would partner Northampton Town Council and raise similar supplies through donations from local school children in town.

Morrisons have already agreed to donate supplies and will provide a container instore as a drop of point for further donations. In the short term, all the donations can be stored at Hatton Rock until transportation to Northampton's logistics company.

A letter is being sent to all the schools outlining the initiative and Councillor Rolfe, as Chairman of Stratford Support, urged all members to visit the schools in their ward to talk about and promote the project if invited to do so by the school.

The reaction by Council members was extremely positive and Councillor Warren-Howles was congratulated.

- 160.4 Councillor J Fradgley requested that members contact either herself or Councillor Rolfe regarding issues of anti-social car activity such as noise and speeding. This issue is ongoing at Warwickshire County Council and as much evidence as possible is required to build up a case for prosecution.

She went on to advise that the Carpets for the Queen initiative is thriving. 30 packets of seeds have been given out but there are some left so if anyone else wants to participate, please let her know.

- 160.5 Councillor Cleeve notified members of the first quarterly meeting with the police which has taken place highlighting some of the ongoing problems. Similarly to Councillor J Fradgley's request for evidence, she urged everyone to continue to report issues to the police for they must have this information in order to act.

She went on to thank the Town Clerk and the team for the very successful and enjoyable conferment of Freedom of the Town to Dame Judi Dench and Kenneth Branagh Kt and the Birthday Celebrations. This vote of thanks was later echoed by the Mayor and Councillor Rolfe.

- 160.6 Ian Fradgley advised that 20 years ago planning permission was given for Worths Way. As part of the conditions there was a piece of land designated as open space and after 20 years, it has to be offered to the Town Council to see if they are willing to take it on.

It is understood that it is currently being used as a play area. This offer is now on the table and any information or opinions should be passed to Councillor I Fradgley, as the Planning Consultative Committee Chairman, to assist with the decision making process.

161) Town Clerk's Verbal Report

- The Town Clerk suggested that as the civic year draws to a close, now is the time for members to just make sure that nothing has changed in terms of their declarations of interest and also to make sure that any gifts or hospitality received is logged in the register. In line with the new Code of Conduct any offers of gifts or hospitality that is declined should also be recorded.
- She went on to advise of arrangements following the Youth Town Council Meeting on Thursday 28 April and to report the special birthday of the Open Spaces Foreman on Wednesday 27 April.

162) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be Mayor Making at the Town Hall on Friday, 20 May, 2022 at 12 noon.

The Mayor declared the virtual meeting closed at 7:18pm.