

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

26 July, 2022

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Cleeve) in the Chair

Councillors:

Coles	Jackson
Curtis	Lee
Dowling	Mackenzie
Fojtik	Rolfe
I Fradgley	Taylor
J Fradgley	Rolfe
Harding	Vos
How	

Clerks: Town Clerk, Town Clerk Designee and Responsible
Financial Officer

Press: Absent

Public: There was one member of the public present

24) Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Alcock, Dyer and Warren-Howles and accepted for the reasons given.

25) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

None were received.

27) To grant any requests for dispensation

None were received.

28) Public Participation

No one wished to speak in Public Participation.

29) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 June, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 June, 2022 were approved as a correct record.

30) To Adopt Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 21 June and 12 July, 2022

RESOLVED: The Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 21 June and the Draft Open Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July, 2022 were approved and adopted.

31) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 28 June, 2022

The Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Dowling, presented the minutes but advised that as item 10 was a recommendation, with the issue being an agenda item for the Town Council Meeting, he requested that Council defer approving and adopting the minutes until after agenda item 12.1 had been resolved.

Being put to the vote, it was AGREED.

After agenda item 12.1 was resolved, the Personnel Committee minutes were represented, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That with the exception of minute 10 – Review of the Chaplaincy Role, which reverted to the Personnel Committee for further deliberation, the remaining Draft Open Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 28 June,

2022 be approved and adopted.

32) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 5 July, 2022

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

33) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Town Council Meeting held on 21 July, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Youth Town Council Committee Meeting held on 21 July, 2022 were approved and adopted.

Prior to presenting the minutes, the Mayor made mention of the Youth Town Council Awards Evening on Saturday, 15 October and requested that members spread the word on their social media channels.

34) To Adopt the Notes of the Stratford Support Group Meeting held on 28 June, 2022

RESOLVED: The notes from the meeting of the Stratford Support Group were approved and adopted.

35) The Position of Council Chaplain

When the Personnel Committee held a review of the Chaplaincy Role at their meeting on 28 June, the committee decided that it would be inappropriate to make changes to this traditional and historic role without the mandate of Town Council. They did, however, recommend certain changes for the Town Council to consider at the Town Council Meeting on 26 July. To assist Council in their deliberations, the vicar of Stratford-upon-Avon, Revd Patrick Taylor, and the Council's incumbent Chaplain, Revd Dr Paul Edmondson, were invited to attend the meeting.

The vicar tabled a document (for reference attached as **Appendix 'A'**) which focused on three questions:

1. Does religious faith have a legitimate place in public life?
2. If so, what do we do with it?
- 3) Where do we want this role to sit on the spectrum?

Having fully explained the *raison d'être* behind his paper, the Council's Chaplain then made a verbal presentation which included some reflections and options for a way forward. Following his verbal presentation he tabled a paper which documented his address (attached as **Appendix 'B'**).

The Chaplains then took questions which was followed by a thought provoking and enlightening debate by members.

During the debate, it became clear that the title 'Council's Advocate' did not sit well with members and that more time was required to take stock and reflect on the papers, presentations and debate.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the matter would revert to the Personnel Committee for further deliberation and that a recommendation from the Committee would be returned to Council where the issue would be resolved before Mayor Making 2023.

Revd. Taylor then withdrew from the meeting.

32) Appointment to Outside Bodies 2022/2023

By mutual consent, the following members were appointed or re-appointed to outside bodies:

Organisation	Councillor
Age UK Warwickshire	Warren-Howles (subject to her agreement)
Alveston Relief in Need Charity	Rolfe
Bishopton Community Centre	No representative required
CCTV Forum	Dowling
Christmas Lights Co Ltd	Rolfe
Community Builder Project	Alcock

Fred Winter Centre Steering Group	How
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Taylor
Municipal Charities	No appointment and no representative required
Historic Builds Preservation Trust	I Fradgley
Historic Spine	J Fradgley
Shakespeare Line Promotion Group	How
StratFire Historical Research Project	Harding
Stratfords of the World	Cleeve
Stratford-in-Bloom	J Fradgley Warren-Howles (subject to her approval)
Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership	Vos
Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust	Cleeve until 2024 Coles until 2024 Jackson until 2024
Stratforward BID	How
Stratford Town Transport Group	Jackson Chairman of Planning (Deputy as substitute)
VASA	Mackenzie

The appointments are made subject to the approval of those outside bodies who had yet to respond to the Town Council's enquiry of whether they wished to retain the relationship with a Town Council representative.

33) Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL)

Council noted the response from Kemi Badenock MP following representation from Nadhim Zahawi MP on the Town Council's behalf.

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council has long prided itself on being a respectful Council to all, and will not tolerate bullying, harassment and intimidation of members or employees at any

time. Council therefore questioned the need to actually sign a pledge. However, such is the importance of this issue, it was Proposed, Seconded and

- RESOLVED: To sign the Civility and Respect Pledge drawn up by NALC, SLCC and OVW and agree to:
- Put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
 - Sign up to the Code of Conduct for Councillors
 - Have good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work Policy
 - Seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise
 - Commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
 - Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion Council
 - Support the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support civility and respect, including sanctions for the elected members where appropriate

34) Members' Allowances

A protracted debate ensued with a number of differing opinions. The motion was finally Proposed, Seconded and carried.

- RESOLVED: To delay the decision until the next administration comes into office in 2024.

35) Appointment of new Committee Member to the Civic, Heritage and Events Committee.

No appointment was made following the resignation from the Committee by Councillor Mackenzie. The Committee now stands at eight members, with the Mayor ex-officio.

36) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

None were received.

37) Verbal Ward Reports

- **Cllr J Fradgley**

A huge thank you from Stratford-in-Bloom for assisting with the judging of front gardens in your wards. The evaluations are now in and the Chairman and Mayor will be inspecting and making the final decision in the near future. Councillors help has been invaluable.

- **Cllr Fojtik**

The Fun Day on the Green in Clopton ward was a great success, despite me having to open it as a result of the Mayor having COVID. People from all over Stratford-upon-Avon attended so it was a real community event with more people than ever in attendance, well over 1,000 people.

- **The Mayor**

Went on ward walk-about with Inspector Ben Hembry and the message must be reiterated time and time again for people to report incidents to the police so that evidence can be established.

- **Cllr I Fradgley**

Responded to the Mayor advising that a hedgehog had been set on fire and that the police had taken no action over the issue until the matter was reported to a named police individual. Councillor I Fradgley suggested that it would be a good idea to arrange a follow up meeting with Inspector Hembry and the Police Commissioner and invite them to a future Town Council Meeting.

38) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report

- Councillor Lee queried whether the Town Council's proposal for Greenhill Street had been submitted to the District Council for funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund. The Town Clerk confirmed that it had and thanked him for his considerable help and input. As yet, she has received no response from SDC.

- The Town Clerk advised that a meeting of the Cemetery Extension Working Group had been scheduled for Wednesday 27 July. The group will receive the report from the Cemetery Developer and hopefully be reassured that there are no significant pitfalls to prevent change of use from garden plots to burial space and can therefore proceed with the purchase of the land.

39) The 'Handing of the Wig'

The Town Clerk attended the meeting fully wigged and robed, whereas the Town Clerk designee attended in robes. but without a wig.

The Town Clerk could not resist a little theatre at her last Council Meeting, and therefore had included an agenda item to ceremoniously take off her wig and formally present it to Mrs Caroline Nash, the Town Council's new Town Clerk. Council received the latest Town Clerk in full garb with genuine warmth and applause.

The outgoing Town Clerk went on to advise that it has been an honour and a privilege working for such an inspirational Council over these past twenty years and was so pleased to be handing the mantle to such a worthy replacement. Both the Council and the Town Clerk will be in mutual safe hands.

34) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 20 September, 2022 at 6:30pm. Please note that the **Annual Photograph of the Council** will be taken prior to the meeting. **Please be at the Town Hall and robed by 6:00pm.**

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:10pm.