

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

29 March, 2022

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Taylor) in the Chair

Councillors:

Alcock	J Fradgley
Cleeve	How
Coles	Mackenzie
Curtis	Rolfe
Dowling	Vos
Fojtik	Warren-Howles
I Fradgley	

Clerk: Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Press: None present

Public: The County Councillor for Stratford North was present throughout and two members of the public were present for part of the open session.

116) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dyer, Jackson and Lee and were accepted for the reasons given.

Councillor Wall was absent from the meeting.

117) Declarations of Interest

Councillors J Fradgley, Rolfe and Vos declared an interest in agenda item 15 minuted as 130.

Councillor Curtis declared an interest in agenda item 16.3 minuted as 132.

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

None were received.

- 119) To grant any requests for dispensation

None were received.

- 120) Public Participation

Elizabeth Dixon, from Accessible Stratford spoke for the allotted three minutes, outlining her serious concerns for the future of Shop Mobility having received information that Stratford-on-Avon District Council would cease funding the facility after 2022. She also raised misgivings over some aspects of the Fred Winter Centre, which are not compliant with DDA.

It was AGREED that this would be an agenda item for the next Community Services Committee to which Elizabeth would be invited in order to fully brief the Town Council on the situation.

- 121) Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25 January, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25 January, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

- 122) Draft Open Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 22 February, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 22 February, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

- 123) Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 8 February, and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 22 March, 2022

RESOLVED: The Open Minutes Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 8 February, 2022 and the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning

Consultative Committee Meeting held on 22 March, 2022 be approved and adopted.

The scheduled meeting to be held on 1 March, 2022 was cancelled.

- 124) Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 1 February, 2022

RESOLVED: Draft Open Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 1 February, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 125) To Adopt the Draft Open/Confidential Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 8 March, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of Finance & Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 8 March, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 126) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 14 March, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 14 March, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 127) To Adopt the Notes from the Stratford Support Meeting held on 1 March, 2022

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Notes of the Stratford Support Meeting held on 1 March, 2022 be approved and adopted.

- 128) To Adopt the Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 10 March, 2022

Prior to presenting the minutes, Councillor Cleeve paid tribute to the Town Council's Admin/Communications Clerk and PA to the Town Clerk, who has recently resigned her position. She stated that 'Lisa had been instrumental in setting up the Youth Town Council and on behalf of the Chair and the rest of the Youth

Council, she would like their sincere thanks to be recorded and wished he well for the future.

Councillor Cleeve went on to present the minutes.

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Youth Town Council Meeting held on 10 March, 2022.

A briefing by Stephen Rumble from Warwickshire County Council on the forthcoming public consultation for the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Centre Improvements was the next agenda item, but he was unavoidably delayed. The Mayor moved on to the next issue and Stephen joined the meeting after agenda item 16.1 minuted as 129.

129) To adopt the new Code of Conduct and appoint one member to attend the training conducted by SDC

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To adopt the new Code of Conduct and appoint Councillor Coles to the training session on 4 April, 2022.

However, following the government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) report on local government ethical standards, the Town Council concurred with NALC's disappointment, as the response falls woefully short of taking seriously the changes needed to address and improve standards in local government, including the introduction of sanctions for poor behaviour which NALC called for and the Committee agreed with.

As a result, it was further Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Council writes to Stratford-upon-Avon MP, Nadhim Zahawi, urging him to press ministers to have a rethink in order to help stamp out poor behaviour in councils at all levels, where it exists.

130) To Welcome and Receive a Briefing from Mr Stephen Rumble from Warwickshire County Council on the public consultation for the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Centre Improvements

Stephen Rumble, Transport Planning Team Leader for Warwickshire County Council, briefed Council on the public consultation which started last week and will end on Sunday 5 June, 2022. He advised that so far, they had received 190 completed surveys. It was noted that there was much traffic in the Herald and social media on the subject. It was AGREED that the Town Council should make every effort to urge people to respond but through the proper channel, as it will be the survey responses that will be analysed to influence future direction by Warwickshire County Council.

Concern was raised that not everyone is able to respond using technology and Stephen and the Town Clerk agreed to pick this up outside the meeting, following a suggestion that a computer could be made available in the Town Hall so that those who were unfamiliar with technology could come to the Town Hall where they would be helped to complete the survey either by a member or an officer.

The forthcoming public exhibitions start with a stand on Rother Market on Friday 1 April manned by WCC and PJA and two exhibitions in the Town Hall on Saturday 2 April from 10:00am until 4:00pm and Monday 4 April from 1:00pm to 7:00pm. Town Council representation, to meet and greet, will be undertaken by those who volunteered:

2 April: Cleeve, How and Vos

4 April: Alcock, Coles, Dowling, I Fradgley, J Fradgley, Rolfe and Warren-Howles

It is understood that County Councillor Sinclair will also be attending the sessions.

A further consultation event will take place at the BID office on Wednesday 6 April for the business community.

Following the briefing, Stephen answered a number of questions from the floor. He confirmed that as yet, there was no funding for the scheme although WCC will be making a submission for

the second round of levelling-up funding. When questioned about how much the scheme is likely to cost, he advised that it would be in the region of £18 million, with a local contribution of 10%. This does include a large contingency.

The Mayor thanked Stephen for his comprehensive briefing and he then withdrew.

- 131) To pass the motion to show support for the petition calling on the government to change legislation to permit remote/hybrid meetings

With alacrity, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To write to the Secretary of State and the MP in support of the motion.

- 132) To pursue the acquisition of land for the provision of additional burial space

The Mayor called upon Councillor Curtis to open the debate, for although having previously supported the acquisition of this land, he now had reservations following representation by residents in his constituency, and believed that issues and questions should be resolved before proceeding with the purchase.

The Town Clerk advised that Council had already resolved to acquire the land, but her report had made it clear that in order to fully understand the complexities and the stages required in turning the land into useable burial space, the assistance of a specialist cemetery development company would be required. In her report, it was also recommended that the Council sets up a Cemetery Task & Finish Group to oversee proceedings throughout the development, which will include closer communication with the garden plot tenants, who are, in complying with the General Data Protection Regulation, unknown to the Town Council at this time.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Preliminary Agreement is passed to the Council's solicitor to handle the conveyancing and the Town Clerk enters

negotiations with Cemetery Developers to progress the matter further.

133) To approve the proposals in the report on the 2023 Boundary Review

This was considered most perplexing and nebulous, with no hard evidence or information.

It was very evident that members were considerably troubled by the uncertainties, and it was finally Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To write to the Boundary Commission for England to object to the boundary changes as this will impact on Town Council wards and the Town Council has not been consulted.

134) To consider support for Ukrainian Refugees

It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would circulate the presentation made at a specific Warwickshire County Council Meeting to brief the sector on what Warwickshire is doing to welcome Ukrainian refugees and will report on the outcomes from the Stratford Support Meeting on 30 March which was called specifically to determine what support can be offered by the parish sector and its partners.

Particular mention was made regarding safeguarding, which was the top priority of Warwickshire County Council and should be at the forefront of all partner organisations when assisting in the temporary settlement of the Ukrainian refugees.

135) Written Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

None received.

136) Ward Reports

- **Councillor Alcock**

Advised that there had been a spate of burglaries in Bishopton ward and not just when homes were unoccupied. Houses were being broken into at night and car keys stolen, and subsequently

the car. There had also been thefts of bicycles, sheds being broken into, and vans being raided. She voiced concern that the thieves may move on to neighbouring wards.

Councillor I Fradgley and Warren-Howles agreed, as this is also happening in their wards. It was considered essential that residents must report the incidents as this will build up the record for the police to act upon.

- **Councillor Rolfe**

Informed members that the work to the Alveston roundabout, due to start in February has now been postponed until the Autumn. When pressed for the reason, she responded 'it's called legal'!

- **Councillor J Fradgley**

Reported on the 'Carpets for the Queen' initiative and paid tribute to Councillor Warren-Howells whose work on the project had facilitated its introduction.

Councillor Warren-Howles responded that it was very much a community effort, for although it was being facilitated by the Town Council, the residents had embraced the project and will be taking over the management of the carpets going forward.

Councillor Fradgley urged members to log exactly where the carpets are in each ward and those in the planning, as WCC and SDC need to know so they can suspend grass cutting of these mini meadows. She went on to advise that a small Health & Safety form must be completed for each carpet.

- **Councillor Cleeve**

Reminded members of the forthcoming meeting between the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Councillors taking place on 11 April, 2022.

137) Town Clerk's General Verbal Report for Information

The Town Clerk had nothing to report.

138) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The next Meeting of the Town Council will take place at 6:00pm on Wednesday 6 April, 2022.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:20pm