

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

In accordance with s78 of the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

30 March, 2021

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Present: The Mayor (Councillor Jackson) in the Chair

Councillors:

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

Clerks: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and for part of the meeting, an Admin Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: There were five members of the public present, with one remaining throughout the meeting

Prior to declaring the meeting open, the Mayor called on the Council's Chaplain to give his contemplative 'thought for the day'.

141) Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Fojtik and Wall and accepted for the reasons given.

142) Declarations of Interest

The Mayor and Councillors Cleave and Coles declared a personal interest in item 16 minuted as 155.

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

There were no requests.

- 144) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

- 145) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

- 146) To Adopt Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 January, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

In accordance with current practice, the Mayor's electronic signature will be appended to the minutes.

- 147) To Adopt the Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 2 March and the Draft Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 23 March, 2021

RESOLVED: The Minutes of Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 2 March and the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March, 2021 be approved and adopted.

It was noted that the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting scheduled for 9 February, 2021 had been cancelled.

- 148) To Adopt the Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 16 February, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open and Confidential Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 16 February, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 149) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 9 March, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 9 March, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 150) To Adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Civic, Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 16 March, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Open Minutes of Civic, Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 16 March, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 151) To Adopt the Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 26 January, 2 February, 9 February, 16 February, 23 February, 2 March, 9 March, 16 March, and 23 March, 2021

RESOLVED: To Adopt the Draft Notes of the COVID-19 Stratford Support Meetings held on 26 January, 2 February, 9 February, 16 February, 23 February, 2 March, 9 March, 16 March, and 23 March, 2021.

- 152) To Adopt the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 4 February and the Draft Notes of the Meeting held on 4 March, 2021

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 4 February and the Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March, 2021 be approved and adopted.

- 153) White Ribbon Campaign

The Mayor welcomed Dr Bob Williams, Ambassador for the White Ribbon UK campaign in the Stratford on Avon area.

Using a Power Point presentation, Dr Williams explained the White Ribbon mission is to end male violence against women. He explained that the organisation works with men and boys to

challenge male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence.

Following the presentation, there was a lengthy question and answer session, and although the Council appeared to fully support the ethos in principle, the Mayor advised that there was not time to fully debate the issue at the Town Council Meeting, due to the sizeable agenda.

Dr Williams was assured that this issue would remain on the Council's radar and that he would be contacted in due course once the Council had time to consider the issue further.

The Mayor thanked the presenter who subsequently left the zoom meeting platform.

154) Project Damascus – Travel Spirit

Messrs Simon Herkon and Adam Tapley joined the meeting to present and explain their work on Project Damascus – Data-Driven Micro-Logistics Authenticated with Smart Contracts Using Satelites.

Their research explores the feasibility of a micro-logistics platform for last-mile delivery consolidation operations. Increased real-time visibility and transparency of contractual arrangements and parcel tracking data will, they claim, enable greater efficiency in managing deliveries and minimise the overall transport costs and carbon footprint.

The aims of Project Damascus under the umbrella of the Travel Spirit Foundation, a not-for profit research organisation, sits comfortably within the Town Council's environmental strategy aims and objectives. The Chairman of the Environmental Strategy Panel, Councillor J Fradgley, remains in touch with Mr Herko and will bring further updates on progress to Council as things develop.

Messrs Herko and Tapley then left the meeting.

155) Executive Summary of Stratford Town Trust Strategic Plan 2021/25

The Chief Executive of the Town Trust, Sara Aspley, joined the meeting to update Council on the findings of their consultation to formulate the Trust's Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Following a comprehensive presentation, Ms Aspley confirmed that the key themes for the coming year were:

- Young People.
- Creating Connections.
- Placemaking.

The Trust's top priorities for 2021 are:

- Restore income to 2019 levels as there income stream had been seriously undermined by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Take an innovative approach to the Trust's commercial property portfolio.
- Change the approach to grant making to make more of diminished financial resources.
- Re-connect with existing members and increase membership the aim being at least 1,000.
- Re-open and celebrate the Foundation House family.
- Work with the Strategic Partnership on post Covid-19 economic recovery.
- Commit to the environment via the Lench Meadows and Rowley Fields.
- Deliver a second phase of conservation for the Guild Chapel wall paintings.

Sara ended her presentation by advising that grant application is now live until 30 September, ideally for projects up to £20,000. She hoped that the Councillors would be able to spread this news amongst their network to get this message across.

The Mayor thanked the CEO for her update and Sara then withdrew.

156) Town Council Photograph and Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: To change the date for the Town Council Annual Photograph from 27 July to 15 June, 2021.

There were two further resolutions passed in relation to this issue:

RESOLVED: Two photographs would be taken, one of the current administration with Councillor Taylor as Mayor, and one taken retrospectively, featuring immediate former Mayor, Councillor Jackson, whose administration was not captured last year owing to the pandemic.

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the revised Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022.

157) Aims and Objective

The Mayor stated that, like everyone else, Council had been operating under extremely difficult circumstances over the past year, yet there had still be great achievement.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

158) Climate Change Emergency Review

Council was advised that the Environment Strategy Pan wished to review this issue further and the item was removed from the agenda.

159) Cessation of Virtual Council Meetings

There continues to be very real and serious concern that face-to-face meetings must recommence as from 7 May, 2021.

Although hybrid meetings may be the way forward in the future, members must be present at a Council Meeting for their vote to count.

The government, and the National Association of Local Councils have advised that meetings are kept as concise as possible and have therefore recommended that as many decisions as possible be delegated to the Head of Paid Service (Town Clerk and RFO). This proposal resulted in disquiet by some.

The Council AGREED in principle with the recommendation for this temporary measure, but before the emergency powers were bestowed to officers, the powers needed to be considered and approved by members. This will be done either via email or at an internal meeting of members.

The Town Clerk assured members that the decision-making process will always remain that of the Town Council and there were other means of communicating and agreeing than in a face-to-face meeting. However, any recommendation by Council or by an officer would require approval and ratification at a face-to-face meeting of Council or Committee.

Being mindful that the date for the cessation of virtual meetings is fast approaching, the Council was keen to ensure that physical meetings could still be streamed live, as the increase in 'public attendance' since Council Meetings had been streamed was significant.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: To accept the quote by Simpson Sound & Vision in principle, but that a detailed breakdown of the specification should first be submitted and carefully reviews by Councillor How, who has specific expertise in this field.

If, and when, Councillor How is happy that the quote represents value for money and will provide a system that is fit for purpose in the long term. Simpson Sound & Vision will be asked to expedite the work in readiness for Mayor Making on 21 May, 2021.

160) Town Meeting and Annual Meeting and Mayor Making

The recommendations of the WALC County Secretary were noted.

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: Whilst it is still possible to hold remote meetings, for the safety and comfort of all involved, the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 29 April, 2021 (the timing is yet to be confirmed) using zoom.

161) Verbal Ward Reports

161.1 **Councillor Taylor** requested that he be permitted to present a potential new Council initiative 'Stratford-upon-Avon Games', to the Civic, Heritage & Events Committee for scrutiny in the hope that it would be implemented in 2022 as an annual or a four yearly event. He received enthusiasm support and the matter will be taken to the C,H&E Meeting in May.

161.2 **Councillor Alcock** advised that from the 6 April, 2021 the humped-back bridge in Bishopton will be closed for six weeks although, with the help of a fellow member, it will remain open to pedestrians.

161.3 **Councillor Warren-Howles** reminded members that the articles for the time capsule should be delivered to the Town Hall by Friday 2 April, 2021.

162) Town Clerk's Verbal Report

162. 1 In line with the Government's road map to recovery, the Town Hall will gradually open to potential hirers and is the likely venue for Stratford on Avon District Council's Annual Meeting on 19 May to be held in the Ballroom/Anteroom. SDC is also interested going forward in using the Town Hall for some of its planning meetings, until such time as restrictions are lifted and their meetings can revert to their Council Chamber.

162.2 Although the deadline for applications for the Committee Clerk's position does not end until Friday 2 April, to date, no applications have been received.

163) Date and Venue of Next Town Council Meeting

The Virtual Meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 27 April at 6:00pm.

The Virtual Annual Town Meeting will be held on 29 April, 2021. The time has yet to be confirmed but it will be no earlier than 6:00pm.

The Mayor declared the virtual meeting closed at 8:59pm