

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL YOUTH 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

7 January, 2021

Open Minutes pages 1 – 5

Present:

Youth Councillors:

Kerry Alcock	Oli Hughes
Amelia Betts	Saul McDougall
Danni Cleeve	Bianka Pawlowska
Aiden Drinkwater	Alfie Walker

Town Councillors: Gill Cleeve, Philip How, Tony Jackson

Clerks: Town Clerk, Admin Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: Elizabeth Dixon, Disability Advisor for Accessible Stratford
Neil Rendell, Co-ordinator for Laptops4Learners

28) Apologies

Apologies were received by Eva Key and William Winter.

Hope French was absent from the meeting.

29) Declarations of Interest

None.

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

There were no requests.

31) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

32) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

33) To Approve Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 10 December, 2020

RESOLVED: The Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 10 December, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

34) Stratford Youth Forum (SYF) Feedback

Alfie gave feedback on the projects that SYF have been working on in recent months. These include:

- Careers project – collating interviews with different professions to share within schools and on social media;
- Continuing with SYF recruitment in order to expand writing and social media teams;
- Raising awareness of endometriosis;
- Mental health project;
- Supporting Pride and LGBTQ+ people.

It was AGREED: That 'Joint Ventures with Stratford Youth Forum' should feature on the agenda for the next meeting.

35) Disability Presentation

Members welcomed Elizabeth Dixon to the meeting. Elizabeth began her presentation by giving a little bit of information about herself. Elizabeth worked for West Midlands Police for 20 years before she was injured on duty. She is now a wheelchair user and calls herself a "happily retired willing volunteer".

When Elizabeth moved to Stratford-upon-Avon, she began getting involved in advising venues and organisations on areas which they could be more accessible. She went on to explain that physical disabilities refer to hearing, sight, and mobility impairments, but that there are also many hidden disabilities and that inclusion should be possible even if there has to be a reasonable adjustment. She advised that reading the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Equality Act 2010 for more information.

With this in mind, Elizabeth eventually went on to establish Accessible Stratford and works with various organisations such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, Stratford BID and more. She also produces an access guide for the town which provides up-to-date information for people with a wide range of disabilities who are looking to make the most of all Stratford-upon-Avon has to offer. It is available online: <https://www.accessiblestratforduponavon.co.uk/> and in a printed version across locations in the town.

Elizabeth suggested that a good way to support accessibility is to enrol on a British Sign Language course, of which there are many online.

Amelia thanked Elizabeth for her presentation and specified it was specifically helpful to her, having grown up with hearing loss.

It was AGREED: that Elizabeth and Amelia would discuss ideas together offline regarding how the YTC can further support this cause.

Members thanked Elizabeth for her presentation.

36) Laptops4Learners

Neil Rendell attended the meeting to explain Laptops4Learners, a project he set up two months ago which asks for old laptops – maybe with dead batteries or out-of-date-software – to be donated. These laptops can have Windows taken off them and Linux installed in order to be repurposed.

Neil reported that Laptops4Learners have given out 74 laptops locally so far and that 95% of these have gone to pupils from local primary and secondary schools.

Neil confirmed that the scheme needs money for replacement cables and hard drives but also would benefit from promotion and technical support.

It was AGREED: that the Youth Town Council would like to support this venture and will discuss offline on how best to do this.

37) Budget

It was AGREED: that a ballpark figure of £1,000 should be to be added to the STC budget for 2021/22.

38) Topics/Speakers

There were two suggestions for a speaker for the next meeting. These were:

- Daniel Browne, Chair of Trustees at Warwickshire Pride;
- @leogoldenchildofficial (Instagram username), Life Coach and Black Lives Matter Supporter.

It was AGREED: that we would invite Daniel Browne to the February meeting and Leo to the March meeting.

39) Date of Next Youth Town Council Meeting

The next virtual Meeting of the Youth Town Council will take place at 5:00pm on Thursday 4 February, 2021.

The Chair declared the virtual meeting closed at 6:13pm.