

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025

MINUTES

Presiding: The Mayor (Councillor Jason Fojtik)

Councillors Present:

Alcock	Lee
Cleeve	MacDonald
Coles	McNaught Barrow
I Fradgley	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Petrovic
Harding	Smith
Hunter	Vos

Clerk – Town Clerk

Electors – 12

Press – None present

Apologies: Councillors Duck and Rashwan

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Town Meeting and advised that although it is a statutory provision for the Town Council to hold an annual meeting, it was not a Town Council Meeting. No decisions or resolutions passed would be binding by law (other than a call to provide allotments), as it was purely an opportunity for the electorate to air their views and concerns regarding current matters. The Council would, however, take into consideration that which was discussed.

The Mayor gave a brief introduction and invited all Councillors present of the Town Council to introduce themselves and the Ward that they represented.

At the commencement of the meeting The Mayor invited, Chris Freeman, Funding and Group Development Officer for Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) to give a presentation on his role and the valuable support of CAVA in the community.

1. Minutes

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2024

The Chairman of Finance and Audit Committee gave a brief overview on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, which was noted. The Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee gave a short update on the Council's Budget for 2025/26.

4. Annual Report 2024/25

This was presented to the meeting.

5. Parochial Matters Raised by Electors

The Mayor invited attendees to raise questions or matters of interest.

A question was raised on the decision to increase the Town Council's share of the precept. Councillor Smith responded to this by explaining that any percentage figure increase could be alarming, but that it was the actual amount which was important to quantify. She explained that the Town Council had had relatively low percentage increases in previous years, and it was now necessary to deliver a more balanced budget and meet the demands of residents and the Town Council's own reserve policy. The increase had been modest at 14p per week but the Council was facing a number of challenges including the changes in NI contributions.

Another question was raised on whether similar increases would now be a precedent for each future year. Whilst this was not the

intention, and the Town Council always aimed to deliver value for money, until budget setting time, it was difficult to gauge but it certainly was not the aim under the current administration.

The Mayor acknowledged the contributions and thanked participants for their engagement and declared the meeting closed at 7:55pm.