



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

18 November 2025

Meeting commenced: 6:30pm Meeting ended: 8.05pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hunter) in the chair

Councillors:

Albon	Lee
Alcock	MacDonald
Cleeve	McNaught
Coles	Petrovic
Fojtik	Rashwan
I Fradgley	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Smith
Harding	Vos

Presentation:

- Maureen Beckett gave a short presentation and update on Geese Peace, a practical method used to help manage the goose population on the River Avon.

60 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor announced that this would be the final meeting for the Mace-Bearer, Mr Mick Love, whose service to the Council had been long and steadfast. Appointed as a Relief Mace-Bearer in 2000, he went on to become the Ludford Mace-Bearer in 2011 and, in 2019, the Sadler Mace-Bearer.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That the Town Council's thanks be recorded to Mr Alfred William Michael Love MBE for his loyal and committed service as Mace-Bearer to the Town Council since 2000.

61 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Duck and accepted for the reason given.

62 Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

63 To receive written requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations.

64 Public Participation

Archie Parsons addressed the meeting regarding the purchase and future use of the town's redundant telephone boxes, highlighting the kiosk opposite the Town Hall which he requested be purchased by the Town Council. He explained the support of Rubbish Friends and the Shakespeare Lions in pursuing the project.

The Mayor thanked Archie for his contribution and invited him to remain for the remainder of the meeting, when the matter would be formally considered.

Mr Chaddock addressed the meeting on a project for an eco pod for affordable housing, requesting use of the land the Town Council proposed to purchase for cemetery expansion on Evesham Road. The Town Clerk explained that as the Town Council did not currently own the land it would be more appropriate to direct the question to the District Council in the first instance.

65 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 September 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 September 2025 be approved.

66 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 23 September and 14 October 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 23 September and 14 October 2025 be adopted.

67 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 7 October 2025 be adopted.

68 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meetings held on 9 September and 11 November 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meetings held on 9 September and 11 November 2025 be adopted.

69 To adopt the notes of the Emergency Response Panel held on 9 September 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the notes of the Emergency Response Panel held on 9 September 2025 be adopted.

70 To adopt the notes of the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Review Group held on 29 September 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the notes of the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Review Group held on 29 September 2025 be adopted.

Town Clerk's Open Report

71 BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

For ease of discussion, the two reports on the BT telephone kiosks were taken together.

Members in noting BT's intention to remove the red telephone kiosk located opposite the Town Hall welcomed the opportunity to consider the adoption of it under the "Adopt a Kiosk" scheme and that BT had agreed to defer its removal until 20 November 2025 to allow the Council time to make a decision.

Council also reviewed the position regarding the four kiosks already adopted in 2020 at Shipston Road, Baker Avenue/Masons Road, Justins Avenue/Birmingham Road, and Tiddington. It was noted that no maintenance had been performed on these, aside from the Tiddington kiosk, which remained in good condition and actively used by a community group, the other three were in poor condition and had been secured temporarily pending refurbishment.

Consideration was given to the indicative costs for restoration and the practical concerns such as the removal of the power supply and the potential for misuse in high-footfall areas, highlighting the importance of ensuring that any future use would be safe and sustainable.

Councillors fully supported the adoption of the kiosk opposite the Town Hall and the refurbishment and maintenance of the four existing kiosks. It was also requested the Council work with Archie Parsons, who had spoken earlier in the meeting, and the community to develop the kiosks for community use if considered appropriate.

It was also considered that Community Infrastructure Levy funds should be used to preserve the kiosk as a heritage asset and enable its use for community purposes.

Following consideration, it was proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED

1) That the Town Council adopt the Telephone Kiosk – Corner of Sheep Street and High Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.

2) That, Community Infrastructure Levy funds be

used for the refurbishment and preservation of all five kiosks owned by the Town Council.

- 3) That the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the relevant Ward Members and any interested parties consider the future use of the telephone kiosks.

72 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Planning Committee to establish a Working Group tasked with reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Stratford-upon-Avon. The objective being to ensure that the NDP remained consistent with national and local planning policies and accurately reflected ongoing development within the parish.

Due to the unavailability of government funding, it was proposed that the costs associated with the review be funded through the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund. Since the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) established the framework for local CIL allocation decisions, utilising these funds for the review was deemed appropriate and justified.

The Council's current Planning Consultant (Avon Planning Services) had informed the Planning Committee Members that a fixed quote for the NDP review could not be provided at this stage, as the full scope of the project remains undefined. The Working Group would look to evaluate the project's financial implications and timeline, including consultancy fees, community engagement costs, evidence gathering, and any necessary technical support.

Following due consideration, it was

- RESOLVED
- 1) To establish a dedicated Working Group, led by the Planning Consultative Committee (PCC), to progress the Neighbourhood Development Plan. **(Councillors Alcock, Fojtik, J Fradgley, Lee, MacDonald and Petrovic)**
 - 2) To engage Avon Planning Services on a time and materials basis, subject to a capped

value to be determined by the Working Group, with any recommendation to be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval.

- 3) That Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds be used to support the review and progression of the NDP.

74 Community Infrastructure Levy – Garden of Remembrance

At the Community Services and Environment Committee meeting held on 7 October 2025, Members had considered the condition of the path in the Garden of Remembrance. Following routine inspections, the Open Spaces Foreman reported that the path surface had become uneven in several areas due to wear, weathering, and minor subsidence, creating a potential trip hazard. This was particularly concerning given the vulnerability of many visitors.

In line with the Council's duty of care to maintain safe and accessible public open spaces, remedial works were deemed necessary to address health and safety risks and to improve accessibility for all users, including those using wheelchairs or pushchairs.

It was proposed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds be used to replace the path, as this constitutes an improvement to public open space infrastructure.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED That Community Infrastructure Levy funds be allocated for the replacement of the path in the Garden of Remembrance.

The Town Clerk be authorised to evaluate all submissions and award the contract to the contractor that best meets the Council's requirements, ensuring value for money and compliance with all applicable regulation.

75 UK Town of Culture 2028

Councillors considered a proposal to explore a bid for the new UK

Town of Culture competition in collaboration with the Strategic Partnership. The competition, recently launched, would celebrate small and medium-sized towns for their cultural contribution to the national story. The winning town would be awarded £3.5 million to deliver a cultural programme in 2028, while shortlisted towns would receive £60,000 to develop their bids.

RESOLVED That the Council's supports the proposal to explore a bid for the UK Town of Culture competition.

76 Terms of Reference – Committees

In line with the Council's Standing Orders, all committees were required to review their Terms of Reference for adoption by Council. All committees, with the exception of Personnel which would undertake its review in December, had reviewed.

RESOLVED That the Terms of Reference for the Civic Heritage and Events, Community Services and Environment Committees, Finance and Audit and Planning Committee be approved.

77 Town Clerk's Verbal Report

The Town Clerk reported that the District Council had just notified this Council of the allocation of S106 funding for allotment sites, with a requirement to commit the funds by 18 December. The Community Services Committee, which holds responsibility for allotments, was not scheduled to meet until late January 2026.

Accordingly, the Town Clerk sought guidance from Members regarding the acceptance and use of the funds for the benefit of the Town Council's allotments. Councillors agreed that the funds should be secured and applied to a project supporting and enhancing the allotments for the benefit of allotment holders.

In addition, Councillors instructed the Town Clerk to write to the District Council to express the Council's dissatisfaction with the lateness of this notification and the very limited timeframe to commit to a project, particularly given the date of the original legal agreements.

78 Update Reports on Outside Bodies

Councillor Cleeve – Warwickshire Association of Local Council’s AGM
Councillor Cleeve – CCTV
Councillor J Fradgley – Stratford in Bloom – circulated at meeting
Councillor Fojtik – Verbal update on Christmas Lights

79 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Hunter – Remembrance Sunday event
Councillor Alcock – Bishopton Flooding
Councillor Cleeve – Commonwealth War Graves – Remembrance Service
Councillor Smith – Airbnb support for Tourism – Grant

80 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 20 January 2026 – 6:30pm

Mayor :