



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2026

Meeting commenced: 6:30pm Meeting ended: 8:04pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hunter) in the chair

Councillors:

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

86 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor welcomed Mr Glyn Slade to his first meeting as the Council's Mace-Bearer. It was noted that this was the final meeting of the Responsible Financial Officer (maternity cover) and the Business Support Officer. The Mayor and Councillors thanked both officers for their valued service to the Council.

The Mayor reported on the recent Mental Health and Wellbeing event, which raised £600 for the Mayor's good causes. Forthcoming events include a Silent Disco on 7 February 2026 and a Murder Mystery Evening on 14 March 2026.

The Mayor advised that a Town Council communication board had been introduced within the Town Hall to support accessible, symbol-friendly communication.

87 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Lee, Duck and Rashwan and accepted for the reasons given.

88 Declarations of Interest

Minute 96 - Councillor Fojtik and J Fradgley disclosed Personal Interests as members of Christmas Lights Committee and Stratford in Bloom respectively.

89 To receive written requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations.

90 Public Participation

Mr David Austin addressed the meeting on the Stratford Museum project and outlined plans to commemorate the bicentenary of the Stratford-Moreton Tramway, including proposed heritage activities, exhibitions and collaborative events with partner museums and local history groups in 2026.

Mr Austin highlighted the Town Council-owned historic fire engines as heritage assets and outlined an intention to use the centenary period to support fundraising towards restoration and public display, potentially in connection with future exhibitions.

91 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 November 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 November 2025 be approved.

92 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 25 November and 16 December 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 25

November and 16 December 2025 be adopted.

93 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage & Events Committee held on 2 December 2025 be adopted.

94 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2025 be adopted.

95 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2025 be adopted.

96 Budget and Precept 2026/27

The proposed budget and precept for 2026/27 were considered. It was reported that the budget sought to acknowledge cost-of-living pressures and rising operational costs, while maintaining essential services, protecting reserves, and continuing to support local initiatives and events. The proposed budget also addressed the findings of the recent Organisation Review of the Town Council and the appropriate budget to deliver the recommendations which would allow for strengthened organisational resilience and support longer-term planning.

The recommendation from Finance & Audit Committee was that the precept increase should ideally be no more than 5%, with the proposed

increase presented as 4.99%.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED 1) That the Budget for 2026/27 be approved.

2) That the precept for 2026/27 be set at 4.99%.

Town Clerk's Open Report

97 Clopton Bridge Railings

A potential request for use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds (CIL) to carry out decorative maintenance of the Clopton Bridge Railings was considered. Councillors noted that Warwickshire County Council should be approached in the first instance as maintenance issued fell within their remit.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council supports Councillor Rolfe in written correspondence to the County Council, and that no commitment of Town Council funding be made at this stage.

98 Historic Fire Engines

The Stratford-upon-Avon Museum (SOAM) had recently approached the Council regarding a proposed centenary event in March 2026 to mark 100 years since the fire at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in 1926.

SOAM requested that the Council consider supporting the event, funding transport and remedial repairs of the Stratford fire engines, currently stored by the Town Council, to the RSC for display, and endorsing the launch and ongoing support of their restoration project.

Further information regarding anticipated and associated costs had not been requested but had not yet been received at the time of agenda publication. However, a representative had addressed the meeting at the start.

The Council considered support for the preservation, restoration, and

public display of the historic fire engines was worthy. However, it was reported that there was currently no detailed cost information and that the Royal Shakespeare Company had not confirmed participation in the suggested exhibition. Members emphasised that the engines are Council assets and highlighted the importance of obtaining professional assessment information at an appropriate time.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council does not fund transportation or event participation at this time and that any future consideration of support is subject to a confirmed proposal and full costings.

99 Community Infrastructure Levy

The receipt of the Community Infrastructure Levy of £62,326 was noted.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council noted receipt of additional CIL funding and that the CIL Working Group would be reconvened following the RFO's return to review priorities for spend.

100 Strategic Partnership

The Strategic Partnership (SP) which oversees the delivery of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), had recently created and consulted on their Vision document. However, there was currently no dedicated resource to progress this document and NDP priorities.

Members considered using CIL funds to create a time-limited Project Officer role to coordinate delivery, support partners, develop schemes, and seek external funding, without creating a permanent staffing commitment. It was noted that such a role, explicitly linked to NDP infrastructure priorities, would represent a lawful and proportionate use of CIL.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council supports the exploration of using

CIL to fund a fixed-term Project Support/Manager role to assist with Strategic Partnership activities, with any proposed costs to be brought to the Council for consideration where appropriate

101 Calendar of Meetings

Consideration was given to the calendar of meetings for 2026/27. It was noted that a Working Group had been established to review the Terms of Reference and propose names for future Committees. For expediency and to ensure Members could diarise meetings, a calendar had been prepared using generic committee names.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the calendar of meetings for 2026/27 be approved.

102 Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect 2026/27

It was proposed by Councillor J Fradgley, seconded by Councillor Cleeve and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor McNaught Barrow be appointed Mayor elect for 2026/27.

The Senior Councillor J Fradgley, confirmed that in accordance with tradition, she had contacted members of the Council to see whether they wished to be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect.

It was proposed by Councillor Alcock, seconded by Councillor Rolfe and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Petrovic be appointed Deputy Mayor elect for 2026/27.

103 Town Clerks Verbal Report (if any)

An update was provided via the Chair of Planning, Councillor Alcock, on the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group, including the need to update evidence and obtain data through a residents' survey and potentially a housing needs survey, subject to District Council input.

104 Update Reports on Outside Bodies

Councillor J Fradley - Stratford in Bloom
Councillor Coles – Fred Winter Centre
Councillor Fojtik – Christmas Lights

105 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Rolfe – Temporary traffic lights and Act on Energy referrals
Councillor Alcock – Kind community, Kind food event
Councillor Cleeve – Community safety walks with local policing teams

106 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 24 March 2026 – 6:30pm

Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 5 March 2026 – 7:30pm

Mayor :