



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

15 September 2026

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm Meeting ended: 7.18pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor McNaught Barrow) in the chair

Councillors:

Alcock	Lee
Cleeve	MacDonald
Coles	Petrovic
Duck	Rashwan
I Fradgley	Rolfe
J Fradgley	Smith
Hunter	Vos

Presentations:

Karen Jones, on behalf of Shakespeare Soroptimists, gave a presentation to the Council highlighting the work of the group. She explained that they were a community group based in Stratford-upon-Avon, dedicated to supporting girls and women locally, nationally and internationally. Karen highlighted some of the projects they had worked on, as well as an upcoming project taking place between 25 November and 10 December 2026 calling on people everywhere to wear the colour orange and take action to end violence against women and girls.

Karen asked whether there was anything that the Town Council could do to help 'turn Stratford orange' for the three days during this period, by lighting the Town Hall and/or other buildings orange or hosting an 'orange' coffee morning or other event.

50 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Albion, Fojtik and Harding and accepted for the reasons given.

51 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations at this point.

52 To receive written requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations.

53 Public Participation

James Gordo, on behalf of the Stratford Skate Park project, spoke to the Council and outlined the current state of the skate park which had been open since 1999. He added that he had not been able to secure progress to discuss the next steps and highlighted that a petition relating to the skate park had attracted more than 1000 signatures.

He then asked the following two questions:-

- Will Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council formally support the principle of redeveloping Stratford's aging skatepark into a modern, high-quality facility designed around the needs of local users with experienced skatepark designers involved?
- Will the Town Council nominate a councillor or officer to act as a point of contact for our community group so that we can sit down together, establish the next steps and start turning this ambition into something real?

Members suggested that James should try and get a group together to fundraise towards the refurbishment, and it was noted that Councillors Rashwan and Rolfe would be interested in being the point of contact.

The Mayor then responded to the questions which were agreed by Council:-

- That the Town Council was broadly supportive of the principle of redeveloping Stratford-upon-Avon's skatepark into a modern, high-quality facility, subject to the necessary finance being secured and the appropriate approvals being obtained.

- Councillors Rashwan and Rolfe would be happy to act as the point of contact to establish the next steps.

54 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that this would be the final meeting to be attended by the Mace Bearer, Mr Ken Ryman, before his retirement from service. Ken was first appointed as a Mace Bearer in 2019, as Ludford Mace Bearer, and in 2025 took on the role of Sadler Mace Bearer. His long and dedicated service had been a valued and constant presence within the Council.

RESOLVED That the Town Council's thanks be recorded to Mr Kenneth Ryman for his loyal and committed service as Mace Bearer to the Town Council since 2019.

The Mayor highlighted two recent events, namely:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning held on Monday 14 September had raised £500. She thanked everyone who had donated cakes, the Councillors who had turned up to help and the amazing Town Hall staff for running the event.
- Chairman's Charity Golf Day had raised over £9,000.

She also welcomed Mel Harris, the new Democratic Services Officer, to her first meeting.

55 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 July 2026

It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 July 2026 be approved.

56 To adopt the draft Minutes of the Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee meeting held on 4 August 2026

Councillor Hunter introduced the following recommendations to Council for ratification:

RECOMMENDED

- That the principle of re-establishing a Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Town Council be supported and that a Working Group be established to investigate proposals for the re-establishment of a Youth Town Council
- That the Working Group report back to Council with detailed recommendations.
- (The Working Group: Councillors Cleeve, Hunter and Petrovic and Officer Manager alongside youth representatives).

Minute 30 - Christmas Light Switch-on

RECOMMENDED That the further allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding (£4,600) for additional Hostile Vehicle Mitigation be approved to support the delivery of the Christmas Light Switch-on 2026.

Josh Turner was then invited to address the Council in respect of the Youth Town Council item.

Accordingly, it was unanimously

RESOLVED That the Minutes and recommendations of the Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee meeting held on 4 August 2026 be adopted.

57 Terms of Reference for Council

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Terms of Reference for Council be noted.

Town Clerk/Chief Officer's Open Report

58 Local Government Reorganisation

The Council considered a report updating Members on the Local Government Reorganisation programme in Warwickshire following the Government's recent announcement that the process had been paused.

The Town Clerk advised that she had written to the District Council in relation to the potential transfer of assets and was advised that it was too early for any decisions to be made and, at the present time, it was also not feasible to provide a breakdown of the costs associated with the public open spaces within the town.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to the District Council again, expressing the Town Council's interest in receiving this information as soon as possible, to assist members in considering any potential assets that the Town Council may wish to explore further.

Accordingly, it was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED

- 1 That the Government's decision to pause and review the Local Government Reorganisation programme in Warwickshire be noted;
- 2 That the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Working Group continue to monitor the ongoing programme and bring forward any recommendations where there are potential implications or opportunities for the Town Council;
- 3 That an appropriate budget provision be made for 2027/28 to enable any business cases to be prepared for any assets that may be offered to the Town Council, to ensure that the financial, operational and other implications of any potential transfer can be properly assessed.

59 Members' Allowances

The Council considered the annual review of Members' Allowances.

Councillors reaffirmed that Town Councillors should continue to not receive an allowance, although they would still be able to claim reimbursement for any expenses incurred while carrying out official Council duties.

Discussions took place regarding any potential changes that may arise in relation to Local Government Reorganisation. It was proposed that no further action be taken at the moment but that the matter could be reconsidered should any developments arising from reorganisation affecting the Town Council or the duties and responsibilities of Councillors.

Following discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED That no further action be taken at the present time with the matter reviewed should Local Government Reorganisation result in any changes ahead of the next Annual review.

60 Proposal of a relationship with Skien, Norway – Ibsen Bicentenary

The Council considered an approach from Skien in Telemark, Norway, the birthplace of the dramatist Henrik Ibsen, to establish a relationship between the two towns in connection with the bicentenary of Ibsen's birth on 20 March 2028.

Councillors noted that this was not a formal town twinning request and expressed their willingness to be as supportive as possible for the benefit of the town.

However, with no dedicated support available at the Town Hall for this purpose, it was agreed that the Mayor look to continue the conversations with interested parties.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED That the Mayor initiate discussion with interested parties and Skien to explore the potential for a cultural and heritage relationship.

61 National Salary Award 2026/27

RESOLVED The Council noted the 2026/27 NJC pay award of 3.3% with effect from 1 April 2026.

62 South Warwickshire Local Plan – Regulation 19 Consultation

RESOLVED That the Town Council's response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan had been submitted as part of the Regulation 19 Consultation.

63 Standing Orders

The Council considered the suggestion of forming a working group to work alongside the Town Clerk in reviewing the Standing Orders.

RESOLVED That Councillors Alcock, Coles and J Fradgley be appointed to the Standing Orders Working Group.

64 Town Clerks Verbal Report

No verbal update was provided.

65 To receive any update reports on Outside Bodies

Councillor J Fradgley – Stratford in Bloom

66 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Cleeve congratulated the Stratford-on-Avon CCTV team for receiving British Standard Accreditation, which recognises good management and practice, for a nineteenth consecutive year.

67 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 24 November 2026 – 6.30pm

Mayor :