

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change Working Group

Notes of meeting held in person on 20 July 2026
Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF
Start: 4:01pm End: 5:11pm

In attendance:

Councillors: J Fradgley, Harding, Petrovic, Rashwan

Officer: Lisa Campion

Apologies: None received

Invited guests: Janet Palmer (Net Zero)

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received. Cllrs Coles and Duck were not present at the meeting.

2. Disclosures of Interests

Cllr Petrovic declared an ongoing interest as a volunteer with Net Zero Stratford and Cllr Harding declared that his partner, Amanda, is involved with the People's Emergency Briefing screenings.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2026 were approved.

4. Stratford Swift Town Project Update

Installation Progress

The first swift box has been installed at Stratford Primary School. Concerns were raised regarding installation arrangements:

- Town Council operatives arrived without suitable equipment.
- School staff provided a ladder.
- Future installations may require specialist equipment, scaffolding or access platforms.
- Health and safety considerations need further review.

Future Installations

Suggested approach is for school caretakers to install boxes where appropriate, subject to the school's agreement and insurance arrangements.

KES may be able to assist with access equipment (cherry picker) where difficult installations are required.

Swift Calling Systems

A battery-powered calling system has been purchased and can be trialled next spring. Alternative calling systems have been identified, including lower-cost options from Graham Fell Calling Systems. Solar-powered systems are also available but are significantly more expensive.

Potential New Locations

Falstaff Court was identified as a priority site for future swift boxes. Following building renovations, the previous swift population has declined and the site may provide a suitable opportunity for re-establishing nesting locations.

Wildlife Grant Opportunity

A Warwickshire Wildlife Trust grant opportunity (£500-£3,000) is available through SWAN. A potential joint project with Stratford in Bloom was discussed to provide insect-friendly plants that support swift food sources.

Website Development

Members agreed that the Swift Town project should have a dedicated page on the Town Council website linked to the Climate Change section. Photographs, project information and educational materials will be added when available.

ACTIONS

• Draft and send approach to KES regarding swift boxes and potential cherry picker assistance.	Town Clerk
• Contact schools to establish whether caretakers would be willing and able to install swift boxes.	J Fradgley
• Amend project proposal to reflect installation options and remove undecided elements.	Janet Palmer
• Send revised Swift project information and supplier details to Lisa for website content.	Janet Palmer
• Identify contact at Falstaff Court/Municipal Charities and progress discussions regarding swift boxes.	Jenny Fradgley

• Contact Stratford in Bloom regarding a joint biodiversity/planting project.	Jenny Fradgley
• Develop dedicated Swift Town webpage.	Lisa Champion
• Obtain educational materials, photos and links for website publication.	Jenny Fradgley / Janet Palmer

5. Grants Update

Members reaffirmed the previously agreed allocation of £1,000 towards biodiversity and planting initiatives linked to the Swift Town project. Discussion took place regarding providing suitable insect-friendly plants alongside swift box installations. Stratford in Bloom was identified as a potential delivery partner and promotional avenue.

6. Update on Asbestos and Solar Panels (PVs)

Officers met with the Town Council's heritage architect, Stephen Oliver, in June regarding the feasibility of solar panels.

Work is ongoing to:

- Obtain quotations.
- Seek listed building and planning advice.
- Consider insurance and maintenance requirements.
- Members agreed that momentum is needed on the project.

A joint meeting was proposed involving:

- Stephen Oliver
- Tony Guy
- Electra Smart Energy
- Bradley Environmental
- Climate Change Working Group members.

ACTIONS

• Request update from Stephen Oliver on PV feasibility work.	Town Clerk
• Arrange October stakeholder meeting regarding PV installation project.	Lisa Champion

- Supply contact details for Electra Smart Energy and Bradley Environmental.

Letty Petrovic

7. Land Behind Tesco

Progress remains limited due to difficulties engaging with Orbit and other stakeholders. An independent valuation remains outstanding. Initial indications suggest a valuation could cost up to approximately £2,000, which members considered may not be proportionate at this stage. Members agreed further efforts should be made to establish stakeholder commitment before committing expenditure. It was noted that if no meaningful progress is achieved by the next meeting, the project may need to be reconsidered or paused.

ACTIONS

- Continue engagement with Orbit and clarify valuation requirements/costs relating to land behind Tesco.

Letty Petrovic

8. Any Other Business

STC Climate Change Website Page

Members agreed that more content should be added to the Climate Change webpages. Swift project materials, guidance documents and external links will be incorporated.

People's Emergency Briefing

Members noted the success of the People's Emergency Briefing screening. Attendance exceeded 300 people. Several further community screenings are now taking place locally. A report was shared following the event from Amanda Evans-Waters and this was shared with members.

External Contact

An approach from a climate-related business contact was discussed. Any future engagement should be handled formally through council processes.

4. Date for next meeting

Monday 9 November 2026 4pm via TEAMS.