



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

22 July 2025

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm Meeting ended: 7.17pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hunter) in the chair

Councillors:

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

Note - The presentation by Mr Tony Guy had been postponed.

Mayors Announcements

The Mayor thanked those Members who had attended the recent Bowls Match and gave a brief update on her recent engagements.

The Mayor also informed Councillors that the guest speaker at the September meeting would be from Widgit, a pioneering software company with a passion for symbols-based communication and expressed her aspiration for Stratford-upon-Avon to become a Communication Friendly Town.

24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Lee, Petrovic and Rashwan and accepted for the reason given.

25 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Rolfe and Smith disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 34 as the public open space (Tiddington) was in their ward.

Councillor Cleeve disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 37 as CEO of VASA.

The Mayor disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 36.

26 To receive written requests for dispensation

All Councillors who also serve as elected members of either the District or County Council declared this dual role at the meeting. This disclosure was made specifically in the context of discussions relating to the ongoing Local Government Re-organisation in Warwickshire, in order to ensure transparency and to avoid any potential perception of conflict of interest.

27 Public Participation

There were no public present.

28 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 June 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 June 2025 be approved.

29 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee Meeting held on 24 June 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 24 June 2025 be adopted.

30 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Civic Heritage Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2025 be adopted.

31 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meetings held on 13 May and 3 June 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meetings held on 13 May and 3 June 2025 be adopted.

32 To adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Open Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2025 be adopted.

33 To adopt the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Open Minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2025 be adopted.

Town Clerk's Open Report

34 Public Open Space

The Town Council considered offers from Persimmon Homes and L&Q Group to take ownership of Public Open Space (POS) at Sonnet Park on Banbury Road (Planning Ref: 20/02665/FUL) and land off Oak Road, Tiddington (Planning Refs: 15/02057/OUT and 18/01964/REM) respectively. Members noted that both sites included play areas and, in the case of Banbury Road, a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS).

The financial and legal implications of taking on either site were discussed, including insurance responsibilities, regular inspections, future maintenance costs, and the need for legal input to ensure appropriate safeguards were in place which brought significant long-

term maintenance and liability concerns. The Town Council currently owned no play areas and had no current budgetary provision for the adoption and ongoing upkeep of such assets. Questions were raised regarding the adequacy of the proposed commuted sum for the Banbury Road site, with concern that it may fall short of future requirements. Furthermore, no commuted sum had been tabled for the Tiddington site at the time of consideration.

In light of the current uncertainty surrounding Local Government Reorganisation, and the potential for future responsibilities to transfer from the County/District Council, Members agreed that this was not the right time to take on such commitments and accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That, at the present time, the Town Council would decline the current offer to adopt the land off Oak Road, Tiddington and that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to decline the Public Open Space at Sonnet Park, Banbury Road, when the official offer was received, unless matters had substantially changed and would be reported back to Council.

35 Financial Regulations

Consideration was given to an update to the Financial Regulations regarding the current debit card limit.

Members were advised that the existing £1,000 limit was no longer sufficient for the Council's operational needs and was increasingly causing delays in processing urgent payments, particularly when authorising signatories were unavailable due to leave or part-time working hours.

In order to improve efficiency and allow for smoother financial operations, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Town Council approves an increase in the debit card limit from £1,000 to £2,000, and the Financial Regulations be amended accordingly.

36 Mayoral Visit to Ireland

The Town Council considered a request for support for the Mayor's proposed visit to Shannon, County Clare, Ireland, following an invitation to attend a Civic Reception being arranged in her honour.

The invitation has been extended by a former classmate of the Mayor in recognition of Councillor Hunter becoming the first Irish-born female Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Members were advised that the visit carried personal and cultural significance, as the Mayor was born and raised in Shannon before relocating to the UK. The Civic Heritage and Events Committee had previously considered the matter at its meeting on 8 July 2025 and expressed their support for the proposal.

The Mayor confirmed that she would fund her own travel and accommodation costs and requested that only a small contribution from the Mayoral Allowance be used for incidental civic hospitality, such as official gifts or refreshments. The timing of the visit would be arranged to ensure there was no disruption to scheduled civic duties in Stratford-upon-Avon.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED	That the Town Council supports the Mayor's proposed visit to Shannon, County Clare, in response to the invitation to attend a Civic Reception, and approved the use of a small contribution from the Mayoral Allowance towards incidental civic hospitality.
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37 Appointment to Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the appointment of Town Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies.

Councillor Fojtik was duly proposed and seconded to serve as the Town Council's representative on the Christmas Lights Committee, it being noted that he was currently the Chairman.

Councillor Alcock was proposed and seconded as the Town Council's nominee for the Town Council appointment as Trustee to the Friends of Stratford Shopmobility.

Organisation	Councillor
Age UK Warwickshire	One Vacancy
Alveston Relief in Need Charity	Smith
CCTV Forum	Cleeve
Christmas Lights Co Ltd	Fojtik
Community Builder Project	Petrovic
Fred Winter Centre	Rashwan
Friends of Shakespeare's Church	Macdonald
Historic Buildings Preservation Trust	I Fradgley
Historic Spine	Macdonald
Shakespeare Line Promotion Group	J Fradgley
Stratford Shopmobility (Friends of)	Alcock
StratFire Historical Research Project	Harding
Stratford-in-Bloom	J Fradgley Duck
Stratfords of the World	Cleeve
Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust Term of office is 4 years starting on 1 June and ending 31 May	Sarah Summers 2028* Lewis McNaught 2028* **
Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership	Vos L MacDonald (observer)
Stratford Town Transport Group	Councillor I Fradgley (Deputy as substitute) MacDonald
Two Shires Greenway	Albon
VASA	One Vacancy

38 Town Clerk's Verbal Report

The Town Clerk reported the following

- Councillor Fojtik would be joining the Personnel Committee.
- Stratford in Bloom had sent invitations to all Councillors for their Awards evening (copy circulated to all members)
- Town Councillors passed on their best wishes to Charles Wilson who was currently on sick leave.

39 Update reports on Outside Bodies

Stratford in Bloom – Councillor Fradgley
Stratfords of the World – Councillor Cleeve *
Stratford Town Trust – Lewis McNaught*
CCTV – Councillor Cleeve*

*circulated after the agenda published.

40 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Fojtik - Clopton Family Fun Day
Councillor Alcock - Bishopton Family Fun Day (30 August 2025)
Councillor Smith - Recreation Ground, The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever (2 August 2025)

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 16th September 2025 – 6:30pm

Mayor :