



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

24 March 2026

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm Meeting ended: 8.25pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hunter) in the chair

Councillors:

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

107 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Coles, Duck and Smith and accepted for the reason given.

108 Declarations of Interest

All Councillors disclosed interest in Minute 120 as members of Local Authorities.

109 To receive written requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations.

110 Public Participation

At the invitation of the Mayor, Joshua Turner addressed the meeting and reported he had been running a petition in order to highlight that

while Stratford-upon-Avon offers plenty for tourists, there was very little affordable or accessible activities for young people aged 10–16, leaving many without meaningful activities. He urged the Councils to focus more on the needs of its younger residents rather than prioritising tourism, and to take action to better support future generations.

The Mayor thanked Joshua for attending and noted that several Councillors also served on District and the County Council, and would be able to take his concerns back to their respective authorities.

111 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor thanked those Councillors and officers who had helped out and attended her two recent charity events, the Silent Disco and Murder Myster night, which had both been great successes.

112 To approve the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 6 and 20 January 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 6 and 20 January be approved.

113 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2026 be adopted.

114 To adopt the Draft Minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Draft Minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2026 be adopted.

Town Clerk's Open Report –

Note - *in order to expediate matters the order of Agenda items was altered – these Minutes reflect the order that they were discussed.*

115 Auction Land, Darlow Drive and Midsummer Meadow

Note – Councillor Coles had written to all Councillors with her observations

Councillor Petrovic, as Ward Member, reported that Public Open Space (POS) within the Midsummer Meadows estate has recently been advertised for sale via auction, prompting local concern regarding future use and ownership.

Residents had indicated an interest in exploring alternative management options, including potential community ownership, to maintain the land's amenity value and ensure ongoing public access.

Members noted the concerns raised but acknowledged that further information was required, including clarification of land ownership, planning obligations, and any restrictive covenants and other POS within the town, before a decision could be made.

Members acknowledged these concerns but, due to insufficient information regarding ownership, planning obligations, and covenants, were unable to make a decision. Councillor Petrovic indicated that the District Council had been in contact with the vendor and had indicated they would be open to negotiation.

It was emphasised that obtaining high-quality legal advice would be critical to forming any decision in taking on POS.

Accordingly, given the lack of detailed information available, Councillors were unable to make an informed decision at this meeting. Members agreed to establish a working group to consider the matter further.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council formally requests a delay to the auction of the land to allow sufficient time to explore alternative options, acknowledging that these may not be viable, and that a Working Group be established for this purpose.

116 Arts and Culture Strategy

Councillor Rolfe now disclosed a Personal Interest in the item as the Strategy sponsor and indicated that she would not vote on the item.

Members considered the endorsement of the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Arts and Culture Strategy 2026–2036, prepared through the Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership. Aaron Corsi, BID Manager presented the Strategy and answered questions.

It was noted that the Strategy had been developed following an extensive consultation, including input from over 1,000 individuals, and in collaboration with key local organisations. The document set out a ten-year vision to support and develop arts and culture in the town, building on its heritage while encouraging wider participation and innovation.

Members further noted that a detailed Action Plan would follow, expected by Autumn/Winter 2026.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Arts and Culture Strategy 2026–2036, be endorsed.

117 Town of Culture 2028

Due to the Town Clerk's annual leave, the BID Manager and District Council had prepared the submission.

Aaron Corsi, BID Manager, presented the bid and responded to questions.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Town of Culture Bid 2028, be submitted by the deadline of 31 March 2026 and that thanks be given to Stratford-upon-Avon BID and the District Council for their assistance.

118 Investment Strategy

Finance and Audit Committee had recommended the Investment Strategy for adoption.

Accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Investment Strategy be adopted.

119 Appointment of Council's Chaplain 2026/27

Members considered the appointment of the Council Chaplain for the municipal year 2026/27.

It was noted that this matter had not been included on the agenda for the Personnel Committee and was therefore presented directly to Full Council for formal approval.

Members were advised that the Mayor Elect had confirmed Revd Dr Paul Edmondson as her preferred nominee.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That Revd Dr Paul Edmondson be appointed as Council Chaplain for the 2026/27 municipal year.

120 Local Government Re-organisation

The Government were consulting on the two proposals relating to Local Government Re-organisation in Warwickshire, with the consultation closing on 26 March 2026.

The Council's Local Government Re-organisation Working Group had considered the consultation and prepared a response for Council's consideration. Councillor Fojtik tabled an alternative response he had prepared for the Town Council's consideration and submission. Following a vote this was not supported.

Accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the response prepared by the Working Group, at Appendix A be submitted as the Council's response.

121 BT Payphone Removal Consultation – Manor Road

Members considered the consultation from British Telecom regarding the proposed removal of a public payphone in Manor Road, Stratford-upon-Avon. The payphone was identified for removal due to low usage, good mobile coverage in the area, and no evidence of emergency or special need. The consultation offered three options: agree to removal, adopt for community use, or object to removal.

Both Ward Members had been consulted and confirmed their views at the meeting. Councillors considered a number of suggestions for the kiosk and considered there was benefit in setting up a Working Group to consider future use of all of the former BT telephone boxes.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council agrees to adopt the Manor Road payphone for community use.

That a Working Group be established to consider the future of all public phone boxes owned by the Council (Councillors Cleeve, Harding, Hunter and Vos).

122 Stratford in Bloom – Appointment of Representative

Following Councillor Duck's resignation, a vacancy had arisen on the Outside Body. As no volunteers came forward, the Town Clerk recommended deferring the matter to the next meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED Any appointment be deferred to a future meeting.

123 Social Media Policy

The Council was asked to adopt a Social Media Policy for use in Town Council business, which had been recommended by the Website, Social Media, & Newsletter Panel.

It was noted that the policy required the removal of the term “Twitter,” as the Council has chosen not to use this platform and its replacement. Councillor Alcock also highlighted recent changes in the District Council’s guidance and suggested an amendment to Section 4 to emphasise that councillors remain subject to the Code of Conduct when posting on social media, whether in a personal or official capacity.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That subject to the amendments above, the Social Media Policy be approved.

124 Town Clerks Verbal Report

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the Market Contract which would be considered at the next meeting of the Civic Heritage and Events Committee.

125 Update Reports on Outside Bodies

Councillor Cleeve – CCTV and Stratfords of the World
Verbal updates:
Councillor Alcock – Shopmobility
Councillor Fojtik – Christmas Lights

126 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Rolfe – Highways update
Councillor Alcock – Bishopton Spring Clean

127 Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership Meeting Minutes

That the Minutes of the meeting of 5 February be noted.

128 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Meeting and Mayor Making

Friday 15 May 2026 – 12 noon

The annual photograph will also be taken on this day.

Mayor :