

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change Working Group

Notes of meeting held on 24 November 2025
4.00pm –4.56pm

In attendance:

Councillors: J Fradgley (Chair), Coles (Vice Chair), Petrovic, Rashwan, Duck

Officers: Business Support Officer

Apologies: None

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Disclosures of Interests

Cllr Petrovic declared a disclosure of interest as a standing volunteer with Stratford Net Zero.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 29 September 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

Agreed: That the Minutes the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 29 September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4. Solar Panels for the Town Hall – Tony Guy from Heart of England Community Energy

Tony Guy provided an overview of Heart of England Community Energy's available funding and community support activities.

Heart of England would cover architectural checks, structural assessment, project management and installation costs. They would also pay for all solar panels and electrical connections. They would provide a "soft loan" repaid solely through energy savings. STC and Heart of England would each receive 50% of energy savings until the installation is repaid (typically 12-15 years; written off at 20 years if not repaid)

Discussion surrounding the asbestos issue on the flat roof, planning permission and listed building consent. Architect had concerns regarding installing solar panels due to asbestos, recommended exploring other parts of the roof. Awaiting updates regarding costs for ongoing Town Hall maintenance.

ACTIONS:

The Business Support Officer to:

- Investigate the feasibility of reducing or removing the asbestos altogether.
- Send Town Hall inspection report and previous flat roof quotes to the group
- Obtain written advice on planning permission and listed building consent

Tony Guy to:

- Send out documents shared in meeting via email
- Forward Richard Straus' (structural engineer) contact

5. Budget

The Business Support Officer confirmed that the budget proposal had been submitted to the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Aim for consideration at the next Community Services and Environment Committee meeting on 7 January 2026 and then at the next Finance Committee meeting ahead of Full Council budget-setting.

ACTION:

- The Business Support Officer to forward the budget to the Chair of Community Services and Environment Committee and the Town Clerk.

6. STC Website - Small Awards Grant and Biodiversity Policy

The Small Awards Grant application draft, prepared by the Town Clerk, was circulated.

The Biodiversity Policy had been ratified at the previous Town Council meeting and would be uploaded to the website once the Small Awards Grant has been approved at the Town Council meeting (20 January 2026).

ACTION:

- Review and approve the Small Awards Grant application draft via email by Friday 28 November 2025

7. Climate Public Meeting and Exhibition

Proposed for Saturday 7 March 2026 (after the Town Meeting on 5 March 2026). Exhibition materials can be reused for The Great Big Green Week (6-14 June 2026).

Community Orchards declined invitation to participate, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust showed interest. Bill Wright (Stratford Wildlife Friends) would be willing to contribute a narrated video walk-through of green spaces. Cllr Lee would make adjustments to green spaces map (A1 print).

ACTIONS:

- The Business Support Officer to confirm if display boards can be set up on 5 March 2026 for the Town Meeting. These will then be used at the Climate Exhibition on 7 March.
- Cllr Petrovic to create an online contact list for all stakeholder communications. All members to add contact details to list to avoid duplication.

8. Audit of Energy Saving Opportunities

Discussed recommended projects from the Future Leap Decarbonisation Study. Smart metre has been installed, and plant room valves have been insulated. Remaining items (lift sensors, windows upgrade and radiators) may be costly but could be revisited.

ACTION:

- The Business Support Officer to prepare a table summarising recommendations from the decarbonisation study, what has been completed, reasons for any items not progressed and next steps. This will eventually be uploaded onto the STC website following approval.

9. Allotments Purchasing

Discussion on purchasing land behind Hodgson Green (Orbit/Tesco access issue).

ACTIONS:

- Cllr Coles to contact Tony Crook to enquire about allotments
- Cllr Petrovic to invite SDC and Orbit stakeholders to the next Climate Change Group meeting to discuss funding for allotment purchase.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr J Fradgley reported progress on station greenery projects.

Hedgerow whips to be installed 5 December. Tree planting planned. Target completion by spring (around Shakespeare's Birthday weekend).

STC may wish to fund signage.

11. Date of next meeting – 19 January 2026, 4-6pm, Stratford Town Hall

Extended meeting to accommodate for allotments stakeholder meeting.