

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change Working Group

Notes of meeting held on 16 March 2026

Via TEAMS

Start: 16:02 End: 16:51

In attendance:

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

Officers: Lisa Campion

Apologies: Duck

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillor Duck.

2. Disclosures of Interests

None were declared.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 19 January 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

Agreed: That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 19 January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

4. Solar Panels – update on roof report

Victoria Flynn, STC Finance & Facilities Officer provided an update on the Solar Panels:

The Town Council's Heritage Building Advisor (Stephen Oliver) completed a Quinquennial of the building in June 2025.

From this report, it became apparent that the Town Hall needed an updated Asbestos Survey. Bradley Environmental were instructed to complete this survey on 9 March 2026. We are now awaiting the results from this survey.

At a meeting with Stephen Oliver on 25 February 2026, the Town Clerk gave the go ahead for urgent repairs and maintenance required to the roof (as identified in the Quinquennial report). We are awaiting definitive costs for this work. Further roof works may be required.

The repair works to the roof are yet to be scheduled. The next step would be to consider which part of the roof would be appropriate and to seek advice from the Conservation Officer at the District Council.

ACTIONS:

- **To chase the Asbestos Report if it isn't received in the next two weeks.**
- **LC to circulate the Report once received with the working group.**
- **JF asked LC to find out what the CC budget is at present. This will be requested from Georgina Kerrigan, RFO and to circulate this information.**

5. Update on Grants

JF spoke about the Small Grants Application Form and how do people groups or individuals request funds for projects. Concerns were raised over legitimacy of requests and would it be appropriate for money to be given out. EC raised the point that the TC purchase items for them rather than handing out money as there wouldn't be an audit process and it is public money. This would add workload to whoever is responsible for this process. If purchased through the TC, any VAT could be reclaimed.

JF had been approached regarding two applications – one relates to the purchase of a lawnmower to cut areas on Summerton Way and the other relates to the purchase of Swift boxes but these are both requests from residents not organisations.

EC referred to the process that Stratford Town Trust offer – link here: <https://www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk/our-grants/how-apply-grant> could we base our application on theirs. JF asked if a meeting could be organised with the Town Trust to raise our queries and to see if any advice could be gained this way.

ACTIONS:

- **JF to speak to Georgina Kerrigan (RFO) to discuss how this process would work.**
- **EC to look at the Town Trust process and list some questions to ask them, then have a meeting with LP and the Town Trust.**

6. Update on the land behind Tesco

LP shared Orbit's response as the main current blocker, noting Orbit is interested in supporting the project and potentially leading on purchase/match funding, but needs clarity on cost, ownership, management, restrictions and the long-term handover before progressing. Members agreed the town council does not want to take on additional liability at this stage and that ownership is not an option, with the main routes being either Orbit taking the lead, the town

taking the lead, or Net Zero/the allotment society pursuing ownership as a separate strand. There was concern that the asking price (up to £90k) appears significantly above the land's likely value, particularly given its limited development potential and strong agreement that the council should not commit to an inflated price or underwrite speculation. The agreed immediate next step is for the Town Council to obtain an independent written valuation of the land to establish a clear baseline; once that is received, a formal meeting should be convened between the Town Council, District Council and Orbit (with Net Zero continuing its own funding/ownership exploration in parallel) to decide the most appropriate delivery model and the level of any council contribution.

ACTION:

- **JF to speak to CN in order for an independent valuation to be carried out on the land.**

7. Update on Green Week

JF shared that Green Big Green Week will take place from 6–14 June. It was reported that the launch event will be held in Long Marston/Meon Vale, which falls outside the town, and therefore the Town Council is not expected to be invited. An exhibition is being considered as part of local activity, although no arrangements have yet been confirmed; the three information boards previously displayed at the Town Council Annual Meeting could be reused for this purpose.

Discussion turned to the possibility of organising a ward-based tidy-up afternoon, including cleaning street and road signs, alongside a potential exhibition at the Town Hall. It was suggested that a message be circulated via the Councillors' WhatsApp group to gauge interest, with councillors signing up by ward and aiming to clean at least two signs per ward, with photographs taken to record the activity. These could then be shared on social media to raise awareness and encourage wider resident participation. It was also suggested that the minutes of this meeting be shared with all councillors.

ACTION:

- **JF to share a message on the Councillor WhatsApp group regarding Ward involvement.**

8. Update on posting on the Town Council Website

LC advised the meeting that a page now existed on the TC website. It currently displays the Biodiversity Policy, draft Meeting Notes from the last

two meetings. Members will send information to LC if it needs adding to the website.

Frequency of meetings was discussed, meetings will be arranged for every 6 weeks, three meetings were to be arranged via TEAMS and 1 meeting face-to-face. LC will send out future meetings dates to the group, these will be issued as a meeting request in outlook calendars. Next two meetings to be via TEAMS and then a face-to-face meeting.

ACTION:

- **LC to organise future meetings.**

9. AOB

There was not further business to be discussed.

10. Dates for next meetings

Monday 27 April 2026, 4pm - TEAMS Meeting

Monday 8 June 2026, 4pm – TEAMS Meeting

Monday 20 July 2026 4pm – Town Hall