

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15 May 2026

Meeting commenced: Noon Meeting ended: 12.50pm

Present:

Councillors:

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

1 **Election of Mayor 2026/27**

It was Proposed by Councillor Rolfe and Seconded by Councillor Fradgley, and with no further nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED That Councillor Samantha Jayne McNaught Barrow be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

The Mayor read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Ring of Office from the immediate former Mayor, Councillor Hunter.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Mayor's Acceptance Speech**

The Mayor thanked the Council for her election and presented the Consort's chain to her husband, Lewis McNaught.

Councillor McNaught Barrow then took over in the Chair.

5 **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor**

It was Proposed by Councillor Cleeve and Seconded by Councillor Harding and

RESOLVED That Councillor Hunter be thanked for her service in the position of Mayor during the Municipal Year 2025/26.

The Mayor presented Councillor Hunter with her Former Mayor's Badge and Councillor Hunter responded to the vote of thanks.

The Mayor then presented the Past Consorts Badge and a small token of appreciation from the Council to the outgoing Consort, James Hunter.

6 **Election of Deputy Mayor 2026/27**

It was Proposed by Councillor Alcock and Seconded by Councillor Harding and with no further nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED That Councillor Letty Petrovic be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

7 **Appointment of Council's Chaplain**

The Mayor thanked Reverend Doctor Paul Edmondson for his service over the last municipal year and confirmed his re-appointment as the Council Chaplain for the ensuing year.

Mayor McNaught Barrow signed the declaration of appointment and moved that it be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED That Reverend Doctor Paul Edmondson be appointed the Town Council's Chaplain for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

8 **Mayor's Communication**

The Town Clerk read official communications from:

Lieutenant General Sir Chris Tickell KBE – Colonel Royal Engineers on behalf of Chief Royal Engineer, Brompton Barracks Chatham

Flt Lt B Braddick
Squadron Commander Designated
605 (County of Warwick) Squadron RAuxAF

9 **Council Committee Structure**

Following the Town Council's recent Organisational Review, which included a detailed consideration of the operation of committees, a revised committee structure was presented for approval with the aim of streamlining the Council's governance arrangements and ensuring that responsibilities were clearly aligned.

It was therefore proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED That the new Council structure and Terms of Reference, the appointment of Councillors to Standing Committees and Sub-Groups and the revised Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27 be adopted.

10 **General Power of Competence (GPoC)**

Following the Town Clerk's successful completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration and confirmation that the required proportion of elected Members held the appropriate electoral mandate, the Council now satisfied the statutory eligibility criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011.

Accordingly, it was formally recorded that the Council met the conditions required to adopt the General Power of Competence

It was therefore proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED That Council formally confirms that it meets the eligibility criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011.

10 **Civility and Respect Pledge and Councillor Code of Conduct**

Council was asked to reaffirm its collective support for the Civility and Respect Pledge and confirms its continued commitment to the adopted Councillor Code of Conduct. In so doing, members acknowledged their understanding of the standards of behaviour expected of them and underscored the Council's ongoing dedication to fostering a culture of mutual respect, professionalism, and accountability in all its dealings. Accordingly, it was proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED That the Council reaffirm its support for the Civility and Respect Pledge and the adopted Code of Conduct.

11 **Mayor's Annual Report 2025/26**

The Mayor's Annual Report for the year 2025/26 was noted.

12 **Civic Service**

The Mayor invited Council to attend, with her, the Civic Service on Sunday 17 May 2026 at 10:00am at Holy Trinity Church.

13 **Drinks Reception**

The Mayor invited all those present to a celebratory Mayor Making drinks reception in the Anteroom.

Mayor: