



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

14 July 2026

Meeting commenced: 6.30pm Meeting ended: 8.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor McNaught Barrow) in the chair

Councillors:

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

Presentations:

Jonathan Toney, on behalf of The Wild Wood Connection Project, gave a presentation to the Council highlighting the work of the community group. He explained that the project runs a men's talking group, providing a safe and supportive environment where there is no pressure, judgement or expectation to 'fix' problems. The group aims to reduce isolation, encourage open and honest conversation, foster shared experiences, and enable participants to build positive connections with others through nature.

The presentation from Soroptimist International was postponed

28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Coles and accepted for the reason given.

Councillor Lee had given his apologies for lateness and arrived during consideration of Minute 38.

29 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations at this point.

30 To receive written requests for dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations.

31 Public Participation

There was no public participation at this point.

32 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked Stratford in Bloom for their wonderful floral displays, including the planters and hanging baskets that have enhanced the appearance of the town.

Reference was also made to the forthcoming 'Love Your Park' event on 29 July 2026, and Councillors were asked whether anyone else would be able to volunteer an hour to help staff the Town Council's stand.

33 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 June 2026

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 June 2026 be approved.

34 To Adopt the draft Minutest of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 27 May 2026

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 27 May 2026 be adopted.

35 To Adopt the draft Minutes of the Governance, Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026

Following consideration of the specific recommendations to Council, namely

Minute 8.4 Council Reserve Policy

RESOLVED That the Financial Reserves Policy be approved.

Minute 8.5 Professional Fees Expenditure

RESOLVED That the additional expenditure for Valuation be approved and met from reserves, if required

Minute 8.8 Document Retention Policy

RESOLVED That the Document Retention Policy be adopted.

Minute 8.9 Flexible Working Policy

RESOLVED That the Flexible Working Policy be adopted.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes and recommendations of the Governance, Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026 be adopted.

36 To Adopt the draft Minutes of the Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee meeting held on 30 June 2026

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee meeting held on 30 June 2026 be adopted.

37 To Adopt the draft Notes of the Cemetery Extension Working Group meeting held on 6 May 2026

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That the draft Notes of the Cemetery Extension Working Group meeting held on 6 May 2026 be adopted.

Town Clerk/Chief Officer's Open Report

38 Restoration of the historic Hopwood & Tilley and Shand Mason fire engines/Bicentennial of the Stratford Moreton Railway

The Council considered a report outlining a proposal for the restoration and preservation of the historic Hopwood & Tilley and Shand Mason horse-drawn fire engines owned by the Town Council.

Mr David Austin presented his proposal and responded to Members' questions. Members sought clarification on the likelihood of securing the external funding required to deliver the project.

The Council acknowledged the heritage significance of the fire engines and the opportunity to preserve these important assets through a community-led restoration project involving volunteers, educational initiatives and potential future public display. However, Members noted that no budget provision currently existed for the project.

Councillor Harding informed Members that, at the request of the Town Clerk/Chief Officer, he had attended the site visit with Mr Austin to inspect the fire engines. He advised that he would be interested in being involved in the restoration project on behalf of the Town Council.

Following discussion, Councillors agreed that a Working Group should be established to explore the proposal in greater detail, including potential funding opportunities, project costs, governance arrangements and future options for the restoration and long-term preservation of the fire engines, before making any recommendation to Council.

Members also considered a request regarding the production of a commemorative souvenir booklet marking the bicentenary of the Stratford–Moreton Tramway. The Town Clerk/Chief Officer reminded members of the small budget set aside for Town Initiatives.

Accordingly, it was Proposed, Seconded and

- RESOLVED**
- 1 That the proposed restoration project for the Hopwood & Tilley and Shand Mason horse-drawn fire engines be supported in principle

and that a Working Group, comprising Councillors Alcock, Duck, Harding and J Fradgley, be established to consider the proposal and recommend a way forward.

- 2 That funding of up to £1,000 towards the production of the Stratford–Moreton Tramway Bicentenary souvenir booklet be approved in principle, with the final details to be agreed by the Town Clerk/Chief Officer.

39 Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership – New operating structure

The Council considered a revised operating structure for the Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership.

Members noted the important role of the Partnership in bringing together key stakeholders to support the future prosperity and vitality of Stratford-upon-Avon and welcomed the proposed governance arrangements, which aimed to strengthen leadership, accountability and delivery of the Town Vision and Neighbourhood Development Plan priorities.

Accordingly, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED

That the revised Strategic Partnership operating structure, as set out in the report and appendix, be approved to provide a clear governance framework that supports effective partnership working.

That the Council approve, in principle, the recruitment of a fixed-term Strategic Partnership Monitoring Officer/Project Support Manager, to be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocation, and delegate authority to the Town Clerk/Chief Officer, in consultation with Councillor Vos as the Council's representative on the Strategic Partnership, to develop the role specification, agree the appropriate recruitment

process and progress the recruitment of a suitable candidate, with any further funding approvals or financial commitments to be referred back to the Council for consideration where required.

40 Community Infrastructure Levy – receipt of funds

The Council noted the receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from Stratford-on-Avon District Council in June 2026 amounting to £12,357.85.

41 Community Infrastructure Levy – Community Builder Project

Councillor Fojtik now disclosed a personal interest as a member of Clopton Community Action Group.

The Council considered a request to continue supporting the Community Builder Project in Bishopton and Clopton.

Members acknowledged the positive contribution made by the project in strengthening community resilience, encouraging volunteering, supporting wellbeing and developing community-led initiatives.

Accordingly, it was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That funding of £5,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) be approved for the Community Builder Project for 2026/27, with the continuation of funding for 2027/28 and 2028/29 delegated to the Town Clerk/Chief Officer, subject to an annual review of the project's performance, partnership arrangements, and the outcomes achieved.

42 Community Infrastructure Levy – Hostile Vehicle Mitigation/Civic Events

The Council considered a recommendation from the Community, Wellbeing and Place Committee regarding the continued use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to support Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures at major civic events.

Members recognised that HVM measures formed part of the wider public realm infrastructure required to support safe and effective use of town centre spaces during large-scale events.

Following consideration, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That Community Infrastructure Levy funding continue to be used to support Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures, where required and subject to the availability of sufficient balances, for the following Town Council civic events

- Remembrance Parade;
- Shakespeare Birthday Parade; and
- Christmas Lights Switch-On event (market element)

43 Market Forum – Appointment of Councillor

Following the resignation of Councillor McNaught Barrow from the Forum, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That Councillor Rolfe be appointed as one of the Town Council's representatives on the Market Forum.

44 Town Clerks Verbal Report

The Town Clerk/Chief Officer informed Members that Stratford-upon-Avon had been unsuccessful in being shortlisted for the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition. Whilst this was disappointing, Members noted that the competition had been highly competitive, with only 15 towns shortlisted from 398 applications.

She thanked Stratford BID, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the many organisations, businesses and individuals who had supported the bid. Members were advised that the work undertaken would continue through the implementation of the Town's Arts and Culture Strategy, building on the partnerships and momentum established during the bid process.

Local Plan

Members were advised that Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Regulation 19 consultation on the emerging Local Plan would commence on 21 July 2026. It was noted that this represented the final stage of public consultation before the Plan was submitted for independent examination.

Climate Change Working Group

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Harding had joined the Council's Climate Change Working Group.

45 To Review Outside Bodies for 2026/27

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED That there be no changes to the appointment to Outside Bodies for 2026/27.

Note – there remained vacancies on Age UK Warwickshire and Stratford in Bloom.

46 To receive any update reports on Outside Bodies

Councillor J Fradgley – Stratford in Bloom
Councillor Cleeve – CCTV Partnership
Mrs Sarah Summers – Town Trust

47 Verbal Ward Reports

Councillor Fojtik – Clopton Community Day – 18 July
Councillor Alcock – Bishopton Community Day – 29 August
Councillor Smith – Wuthering Heights Day – 1 August
Councillor Hunter – Orchard Hill Ward and incidents of graffiti on the Town Council owned bus stop. She thanked the Open Spaces team for swift action at cleaning.

48 Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026 were noted.

49 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 15 September 2026 – 6.30pm

Mayor :