APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY, WELLBEING AND PLACE COMMITTEE

13 October 2026

Extract of Minutes – Recommendations to Council

43	**Slate Events** The Stratford Pursuits Festival would enter its fourth year in 2027, continuing to build on the success, positive feedback and growing community support of previous festivals. Plans for 2027 included continuing the development of the festival, welcoming a diverse mix of participants while ensuring the event remained accessible, engaging and firmly rooted in the local community. Consideration was given to the request from Slate Events for the sum of £5,000 for the financial year 2027/28. It was proposed, seconded and	
	RECOMMENDED	**That £5,000 be allocated to the budget for 2027/28 for this initiative.**
44	**Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights Company** The Christmas Lights had been part of the town's heritage for over 40 years and an intrinsic part of the Christmas celebrations. The display was often thought to be one of the best in the UK and one of the largest, comparable in size of the town with lights stretching from Swans Nest Island south of the town to Greenhill Street in the north. The display of lights used the latest in LED technology reducing energy usage and constructed using a biodegradable plastic printing method alongside recycled aluminium. The presentation included an overview of rising costs and a reduction in, or in some cases, complete loss of sponsorship money. Consideration was given to the request for £35,000 for the financial year 2027/28. The Committee discussed the matter in great detail as they felt that other organisations should also be approached to support the Christmas Lights. Members suggested that £30,000 be allocated for 2027/28, with a possible further £5,000 subject to budget review later in the year. Members then considered a further request for £10,000 to support a funding shortfall which had been identified for the 2026/27 scheme. It	

	was recognised that this had not been budgeted for, but Members were, in this instance, willing to support at this late stage to enable the display to continue in its tested format. It was suggested that £5,000 could be allocated between the Town Projects budget and general reserves and that the Town Council would write to other organisations such as the District Council, Stratford BID and Stratford Town Trust to see if they would be willing to help contribute further to the 2026 Christmas lights shortfall. Members also agreed that the additional support should be for this year only and expressed the expectation that the Company would actively seek additional funding from elsewhere for future years. It was proposed, seconded and	
	RECOMMENDED	**1. That £30,000 be allocated in the budget for 2027/28 for this initiative, with a possible further £5,000 subject to budget review later in the year.** **2. In relation to the additional £10,000 to support the Christmas lights for 2026/27 the Committee supported an additional £5,000 with the Town Council approaching other organisations for matched support.**
45	**Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom** Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom would provide and maintain seasonal floral displays and sustainable planting in key areas of the town, incorporating pollinator-friendly plants and wildflowers to enhance the town's green spaces. Consideration was given to the request from Stratford in Bloom of the sum of £25,000 for the financial year 2027/28. Following consideration, it was proposed, seconded and	
	RECOMMENDED	**That £25,000 be allocated in the budget for 2027/28 for this initiative.**
46	**Stratford Literary Festival** The Committee was asked to consider a request from Stratford Literary Festival seeking support for an outdoor exhibition, Festival Faces, celebrating 20 years of the Literary Festival. The exhibition would	

APPENDIX D

	display images of speakers from the Festival over the past 20 years with the photographs having been taken by a local photographer. It was noted that there were three levels of sponsorship available and they were seeking funding of £1,000. However, they had indicated that any support would be welcomed. Following discussions, it was proposed, seconded and	
	RECOMMENDED	**That £1,000 be allocated from the Town Projects budget for this event.**
50	**Mayor's Car Update** The Committee considered the information contained in the report in relation to the future provision of a Mayoral car. In order to ensure the personal safety of the Mayor, it would be considered preferable for the Town Council to establish an arrangement with a single trusted provider for this service if Members were minded to withdraw the Mayoral car. Following discussion on the options, it was felt preferable to dispose of the Mayoral car at the earliest opportunity, ideally before the expiry of the current MOT to avoid incurring costs, and to explore options with a reputable taxi/chauffeur company. It was proposed, seconded and	
	RECOMMENDED	**That the Mayoral car be disposed of at the earliest opportunity and a reputable taxi/chauffeur company be appointed to transport the Mayor to Civic events, as required.**