

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change Working Group

Notes of meeting held in person on 20 July 2026
Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF
Start: 4:01pm End: 5:11pm

In attendance:

Councillors: Duck, J Fradgley, Harding, Petrovic and Rashwan

Officer: Lisa Campion

Apologies: None received

Invited guests: Janet Palmer (Net Zero), Bill Wright, Jo Ryder, Jo Ingram and Rosel Musgrave

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received. Cllr Coles was not present at the meeting.

2. Disclosures of Interests

Cllr Petrovic declared an interest as a Volunteer for Net Zero.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 8 June 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

Agreed: That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 8 June 2026 be approved as a correct record.

4. Stratford Swift Town

Janet Palmer of Net Zero talked to the meeting about the importance of providing boxes for Swifts in the town and that local enthusiasm is gaining momentum for the siting of boxes. LC shared with the meeting that two local schools – Holy Trinity Primary School and St Gregory's Primary School had expressed an interest in hosting a box and Janet advised that Stratford Primary School had also said they would be keen to site one.

Local residents are also keen to be involved with this project.

Phase 1 would be to visit schools and share more information with them. This could be connected with a link to gardening for wildlife to help insects (food for the swifts). A possible collaboration with Stratford in Bloom could

also work.

Janet informed the meeting that the Eco Workshop will make the boxes at around £20 cost per box. Decorated boxes will also be available. 5 boxes have already been made and are available to purchase. Other bird boxes are available to purchase.

Bill Wright advised that calling systems to attract the swifts would need to be installed on premises having the boxes. It can take up to 2 years for swifts to select nests. They have a process referred to as 'knocking' where they fly against the boxes to find out if other birds have nested in them.

It was agreed that boxes need to go up before the end of this year in order to start the process.

Cllr J Fradgley asked the question of can the Town Council Open Spaces Team install the boxes and calling systems under Town Council insurance. This to be discussed further with the Town Clerk.

Grants for the purchase of these boxes and calling systems could be applied for from Stratford District Council and Stratford Town Trust.

It was further suggested that for new building properties, could developers be asked to include a swift brick being built into the houses. Could this point be raised by the Planning Committee. It could also be taken to a Climate Change meeting at Stratford District Council.

There is a lack of insects at present to feed the birds, this is due to extreme heat. Could a programme of planting wildflowers and water sources be encouraged across the town. Gardening habits are changing due to challenging conditions. Rosel Musgrave informed the meeting that land near her property, possibly owned by Birmingham University, has been cut very short and she would contact them about the possibility of having a wilding area left for insects and wildlife.

Action:

LC to send dates to Janet Palmer and Cllr J Fradgley for a meeting to be held with the Town Clerk to discuss installation of the swift boxes. This meeting would also discuss the finer details of organising the project to include locations, costs and gardening for insects.

5. Grants update

LP advised that grants are available from Stratford District Council. A grant could be applied for the solar panels for the Town Hall.

6. Solar Panel Update

Cllr J Fradgley has been in touch with Tony Guy – this project has gone quiet, not heard further from him. The Asbestos Report has not been shared – LC to request this from the Town Clerk. Cllr Duck has a contact linked to solar panels and he would get their details. Members discussed having an independent report carried out on the building regarding the asbestos. Cllr J Fradgley asked Cllr Harding to lead on the matter. Cllr Petrovic is to speak to Stephen Norrie (Net Zero) further about the matter.

Action:

Cllr Duck to speak to his contact regarding solar panels.

Cllr Harding to lead on the matter and seek permission for an independent report.

Cllr Petrovic to speak to Stephen Norrie.

7. Update on land behind Tesco

Cllr Petrovic updated members on the land behind Tesco. She had emailed the relevant parties for a potential site meeting next week to view the land. Cllr Petrovic had spoken to Orbit – they have funding for the project and are wanting to contribute to the purchase of the land. Cllr Petrovic will update members following this meeting. Cllr Petrovic to discuss with the Town Clerk, the opportunity of seeking an independent valuation of the land in question.

Action:

Cllr Petrovic to lead on this project and to speak with the Town Clerk regarding obtaining the valuation of the land.

8. Love your local park event

LC shared with members the event taking place on Wednesday 29th July at the recreation ground. The Town Council are attending the event and will be promoting climate change projects together with responsibilities of the Town Council. LC has put together goody bags that contain activities such as growing a cress head (all items are provided for this task), the Mayor's Summer Challenge – a sheet to be completed relating to insects, wildflowers etc. Councillors have been asked to attend for an hour slot – several have

signed up for this.

9. AOB

Cllr Harding informed members that Cllr Grocott (SDC) is using money from her delegated budget for the planting of trees on Henley Street, these will provide welcome shade for visitors.

Cllr Petrovic informed members that the land at Darlow Drive did not sell at auction and the Management Company had offered the land at a price of £9,000 to the Town Council, this price is offered for 28 days. This matter would be taken to the Devolution Working Group to be discussed further. Cllr Petrovic had enquired with Open Spaces companies the fees for maintenance of the land and this would be approximately £1,000 per year. This would be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr J Fradgley discussed with members the planting of flowers throughout the town and could contact be made with Warwick Town Council regarding their planting and what flowers/plants the use. Some great displays had been seen in Warwick. Cllr J Fradgley suggested speaking to Craig Bourne at Stratford District Council to find out a list of plants suggested for the town.

Action:

Cllr J Fradgley to contact Warwick Town Council and Craig Bourne regarding plants used in open spaces.

10. Date for next meetings

Monday 7 September 4pm via TEAMS.