



## Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

### Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 23 April 2024

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

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### Decision making

The **decision** made by the committee at this meeting is at minute [2](#).

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### Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Alison Potter
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer
- Ian Brown – Town Clerk

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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### Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Emma Franklin
- Sarah Gibson (Vice-Chair)



1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Councillor Vigar noted that under the Chair's Update, Traffic modelling report the end of the last sentence should read:

'town council's response to Atkins' report would be discussed and voted on at a future council meeting **before a recommendation for the way ahead** is sent to Wiltshire Council.'

Proposed by Councillor Tim Trimble

Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 20 February 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting with the above amendment.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda.

In addition:

- The traffic engagement process will continue until the 12 May 2024.
- Running out of time relay will pass through Bradford on Avon on the 28 June 2024 around 12.40pm-1.40pm. A member of the Bradford on Avon organising committee for the event came to speak to members to reiterate the upcycled fashion theme, with music, Morris dancers and speakers also involved.

The Chair requested help from Officers with publicity through the usual channels, possibly printing and stewarding. The Preservation Trust are also hoping for help from a few Town Wardens on the day.

- The BOA Join In! event is at the start of Great Big Green Week (GBGW) offering some environmentally friendly options and activities. GBGW will also include a bat walk, tree walk, swift walk and nature walk with Roger Jones.



#### 5. Agenda item 7 – Healthy Rivers Project

The River Detectives Project organised by Bristol Avon River Trust (BART) is a river analysis project where monthly samples are taken at several points along a chosen stretch of river. 5 sites are currently being sampled in and around Bradford on Avon. The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda explaining that the sampling equipment (litmus-like strips vs. a digital tester) was providing somewhat conflicting information. A BART representative is therefore visiting to try and resolve the issues. There are potentially a couple of 'higher than one would like' readings at Greenland Mills and near the rowing club.

BART are also now planning to send out test strips at the beginning of each month to ensure their efficacy is not compromised.

#### 6. Agenda item 8 – Wessex Water work in Victory Field

Wessex Water have now confirmed that they have completed the sewage overflow work in Victory Field and the site will be commissioned in September/ October time. The hope is that there will be a reduction in overflows from an average of around 80 annually to more like 8.

#### 7. Agenda item 9 – Christ Church churchyard Grass cutting regime

The Green Spaces Officer provided a verbal update. The town council has been working with Discover Christ Church a project to carry out activities and restoration work at the Church to promote its place as a community hub including a biodiversity and rewilding programme in the churchyard. The town council are looking after the outside areas as it is now a closed churchyard and are planning to mow sensitively leaving some areas over the spring and summer and creating mown pathways around the site to allow for access. In conjunction with local school children, snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells have also been planted. The town council provided an eco-grant for such ventures and the opportunity to sample the area with transects with barely mown and frequently mown areas revealing large differences in the number and variety of plant species. The churchyard contains ground which has never been ploughed or treated with pesticides.



#### 8. Agenda item 10 – Pride in Parks

The Green Spaces Officer provided a verbal update. The Southwest in Bloom awards are mostly handed out in the autumn, but some are held back until the Spring. Poulton Park and Barton Country Park have been entered into the Pride in Parks category and have both been awarded 5 stars. Feedback on Poulton Park included praise for an ambitious rewilding plan of wild and cultivated areas, use of waterbags on trees, community tree planting and an ambitious skatepark. Barton Country Park was also praised for its planting and also orchard planting around the Tithe Barn.

#### 9. Agenda item 11 - Tree Grants

The Green Spaces Officer provided a verbal update.

A couple of years ago, as a pilot for Wiltshire Council's Treescapes fund, Bradford on Avon Town Council was awarded a grant of tens of thousands of pounds to purchase and plant trees around town which has been completed. Additionally, £9,200 has been given to plant trees over the last year and another £5,000 to help with the maintenance of newly planted trees.

#### 10. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is provisionally arranged for Tuesday 25 June 2024.

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#### End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm

#### Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public at the meeting. There were 2 members of the public in total.