



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 17 October 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [38](#) & [41](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Emma Franklin
- Sarah Gibson
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Jennie Parker
- Alison Potter
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- Matthew McLaughlin – Communications Officer
- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting: There were no apologies.



36. Agenda item 1 – Presentation by Wessex Water

Julian Okoye, the Strategic and Commercial Manager at Wessex Water gave a presentation; Sewage Spills and Storm Overflows: Spotlight on Bradford on Avon, answered a few questions from residents and asked for feedback using his QR code given in the presentation.

Please find the link to his presentation here:

<https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Delivered-171023-Bradford-on-Avon-Town-Council-Storm-overflow-presentation-Excl-Video-.pdf>

37. Declarations of interest

Councillor Vittles declared his interest in the Cricket Club.

38. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

There was a comment that the Wiltshire Council Group 'Warm & Safe' had been written as 'Safe & Warm'. It was agreed to amend the name. Proposed by Councillor Emma Franklin.

Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar.

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 29 August 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting with the amendment of the name Warm & Safe not Safe & Warm.

39. Matters arising

None.

40. Agenda item 7 – Chair's Update

The Chair summarised her update which was supplied with the agenda. Additionally, she added that preparations for the Eco:Fest are continuing and the concert has nearly sold out, so act fast to secure tickets.

The Chair also stated that point 4 of the Chair's update should read Westbury Water Recycling Tour not cycling tour.

41. Agenda item 8 – Cricket Nets Presentation and Proposal

Paul Vooght from the Cricket Club gave a presentation looking for councillor support and town council assistance with a planning application for the installation of new all-weather cricket nets at Culver Close. Examples of the type of thing proposed were shown. The site will be next to the tennis courts between the single one and the footpath skirting the cricket pitch. The old tennis hut will be demolished, and



nearby litter bins and benches will be re-sited. Those that make regular use of the tennis courts have been approached and are ok with the proposal.

The Cricket Club has several youth teams as well as adult teams so that during the summer season Culver Close pitch and practice areas are in use virtually every day. The proposed new nets would help ease the congestion.

The challenge will be the topography of the space due to the slope so to level the ground the contractors would have to either dig down or build up. No decision on the best course of action has been taken yet.

Councillor Gibson stated that the proposed site was an excellent location in a forgotten corner, the digging down or building up question will require careful consideration as lowering the level could cause damp problems. The new pavilion for Culver Close should support any tennis players requirements in the absence of the old tennis hut.

The Chair asked about the tennis courts improvements which have been in the pipeline for a while. The Town Clerk stated that Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) can be applied to for a grant to assist with resurfacing and a general spruce up and was on the 'do to' list.

There was also a question about security. Additional fencing is possible but expensive and potentially aesthetically unpleasant in the green belt. Alternatively, a lock on the gate, the judicious planting of hedging and insurance might be the best way forward. Various councillors thought insurance over additional fencing would be more appropriate in the circumstances. Councillor Bessant thought it was great that the club is so inclusive and well supported, nets might help to keep the more elite players within the club. A question was asked about the costs. It is thought in the region of £50,000. The Club has £10,000 and various grants can be applied for including from the English Cricket Board (ECB).

Councillor Vigar was pleased that cricket as an elitist sport was not an issue in Bradford on Avon and the Town Clerk confirmed that the council could put in the application on behalf of the Club if the proposal is supported by councillors.



It was proposed by Councillor Vigar and seconded by Councillor Gibson and with all in favour **resolved** to support the installation of all weather cricket nets next to the tennis courts at the proposed site and for the town council to assist with a planning application on behalf of the Cricket Club.

42. Agenda item 9 – Recycling and food waste in Bradford on Avon

Sainsbury's have announced they are withdrawing all their recycling centres and only continuing with batteries and a specific type of plastic. All their previous recycling options are largely covered by kerbside recycling. It is thought that tourists and canal boat residents might struggle to recycle as a result. As a reminder, the council runs a Terracycling point at the Youth and Community Centre with details of what can be recycled under 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' on the town council website. Additionally blister drug packets can now be recycled at Superdrug stores with a pharmacy and plastic free toiletries at the following link <https://lifesupplies.com/> .

Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon have also produced a new plastic free leaflet with recycling ideas which is available at the library or here:

<https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/A5-PLASTIC-FREE-leaflet-Sept-2023.pdf> .

43. Agenda item 10 – Low Energy Cooking Initiative and Domestic Heating Event

The Chair confirmed that the event had been well attended and wished to thank Ros Edwards and other members of Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for all the help with the organisation of the event. Jackie who stepped in to help with cookery demonstrations, Jonathan from Avonleigh Orchards, Kate from Hartley Farm, Vicky from Riverford Organics, Joanne from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and Jeremy for running the domestic heating survey table. There was a raffle which has raised £56 for the Hub. The Chair also thanked the Town Warden Stewart, and Officers Matthew, Chris and George for all their help with the preparations.

Meanwhile the low energy cooking appliances loan scheme has now launched with a good list of sign ups from the event. There are 3 slow cookers, 3 air fryers and a pressure cooker. The scheme allows residents



to borrow the items for one month for a refundable deposit of £20. Guidelines are being drawn up for the for the pressure and slow cookers and the air fryer has an information booklet with forms available for those who have signed up to borrow from the end of the current week.

44. Agenda item 11 – Healthy Rivers Projects

No further developments regarding these projects for now. Some members of the public have done the River Fly sampling training.

45. Agenda item 12 – Green Spaces Officer Update

The Green Spaces Officer gave a verbal update. The council is still in the first year of the management of the green spaces across town after the asset transfer from Wiltshire Council. A combination of town wardens and local volunteers from sports clubs, CLuB (Clean up Bradford on Avon) and the Nature Volunteers have been involved however the council could do with a few more nature volunteers if anyone has any spare time.

Grass cuts are coming to an end with that work being replace by the clearing of vegetation, cutting back of some hedgerows, meadow cuts and the sowing of wildflower seeds. Leaf clearing is also about to start. Tree surveys are planned over the winter period.

The town has been awarded Silver Gilt from the Southwest in Bloom judges 2023 with a presentation due soon. The judges were pleased to see shops and businesses taking part around town.

Finally, wardens are still cleaning public toilets and emptying bins and encouragingly complaints regarding overflowing bins have fallen considerably over this last year.

Councillor Vittles remarked on the removal of all bins from along the canal by the Canal and Rivers Trust. The Town Clerk stated he had written to the town about the matter and the wardens were keeping an eye on any rubbish build up.

46. Agenda item 14 – Allotments Update

The Town Clerk confirmed that a new system to manage the allotments has been installed. Officers are being trained on it at the moment.



47. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 5 December 2023.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.33 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There was one question from a member of the public at the meeting. There were around 25-30 members of the public in total.

Question on hornbeam trees

Hornbeam trees in Culver Close are growing very vigorously. Will they be trimmed?

The Chair invited the Green Spaces Officer to comment. He confirmed that all trees on council land are surveyed regularly and the hornbeams trees had been considered recently. He said he would go along and check them out when was next passing Culver Close.