



## Minutes

From the Environment & Green Spaces committee meeting on  
Tuesday 29 August 2023 at 7pm in St Margaret's Hall

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## Decision making

No decisions were made by councillors at this committee meeting.

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## Present

Councillors:

- Alex Kay
- Katie Vigar
- Emma Franklin
- Jack Vittles
- Alison Potter.

Town Council officers:

- Ian Brown, Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- Chris Stringer, Deputy Town Clerk
- Chris Hogg, Green Spaces Officer.

Meeting clerk:

- Matthew McLaughlin, Communications Officer.
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## Apologies

Apologies received from councillors unable to attend the committee meeting:

- Sarah Gibson
  - Tim Trimble
  - Kate Bessant.
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## 25. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

## 26. Minutes from the previous committee meeting (13 Jun 2023)

Councillor Emma Franklin noted that under agenda item 13 (Green Spaces Officer Update) that the word “orchards” should be “orchids”.

This means that the sentence would read: “The improvements in biodiversity are already apparent with *orchids* in the cemetery and a greater diversity of wildflowers around the library and bowling green than previously seen under more rigorous cutting regimes.”

Proposed by Councillor Emma Franklin

Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting subject to above change.

## 27. Matters Arising

None.

## 28. Chair’s Update

The chair summarised her update supplied with the agenda.

The chair said that the Running Out of Time relay (5 July) which came through Bradford on Avon was a success. A resident said that the organisers were so pleased with Bradford on Avon that they were already in touch about next year.

There was continued support for the development of the Eco:Fest at Wiltshire Music Centre on Saturday 18 November 2023.

The chair said a number of residents and councillors took part in the RiverBlitz which is organised by Bristol & Avon Rivers Trust. During July they sampled water from the sailing club to the Avoncliff Wier and that all those samples would be considered poor quality due to the levels of nitrates and phosphates: only 1 of 239 samples across the catchment area would be considered clean.



If attendees are interested in climate change, the chair suggested signing up for the Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon email newsletter.

## 29. Air Quality Management Plan from Wiltshire Council

The chair said she wanted to raise the profile of the consultation from Wiltshire Council – which was due to close on Monday 4 September.

Councillor Tim Trimble forwarded, a 2 page plan by the Active Travel committee which includes further ways to improve air quality in the town.

Councillor Vigar added that members should liaise with Councillor Tim Trimble on this and requested the information should be fed back to the organisation undertaking the traffic modelling on behalf of Wiltshire Council.

A resident pointed out some inaccuracies in the plan and the chair said that any information in the plan should be correct and more holistic to represent the complexity of the traffic system. She also questioned the 3 action points highlighted. Residents were also encouraged to complete the consultation and give their thoughts.

The town council has been sent a letter from Blink Charging – which supplies to energy for the 2 EV chargers at the Youth & Community Centre. Blink Charging intend to promote cleaner air and to mark World EV Day (Saturday 9 September) by donating to charities working to eradicate lung disease. The chair says that the town council will promote this and suggested a possible donation.

## 30. Wiltshire Local Plan Update

Wiltshire Council will start consultation on the Local Plan on Wednesday 27 September with a closing date of Wednesday 22 November 2023. The plan is considered an improvement over the former plan which saw 200 objections from Bradford on Avon but it was still important to comment on the current plan.

However the “old golf course” was still at risk of planning as it was marked under “reserve”.

Wiltshire Council is planning 16 drop in consultations at libraries and leisure centres around the county. The session for Bradford on Avon will



take place at the library on Monday 2 October from 3pm to 7pm. There will also be webinars.

More information: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19-autumn-2023](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19-autumn-2023)

### **31. Low Energy Cooking Project**

At the previous meeting (Tuesday 13 June 2023) councillors agreed to provide £250 towards the purchase of new low energy cooking appliances such as slow cookers. This funding would be matched by Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon.

The aim of the project is to encourage low energy cooking and the purchase of healthier, high quality foods.

An event is booked for Saturday 14 October in St Margaret's Hall to launch the project and provide some low energy cooking demonstrations. The event will be a drop in market style event and combined with the Domestic Heating project.

Councillor Franklin said that Riverford Organic Farmers do a lot of recipes for cooking different vegetables and that she could contact the company to ask if they could do demonstrations at the event. The chair said Riverford were the type of group she would want at the event and asked Councillor Franklin to invite them.

The chair asked if Warm & Safe – a Wiltshire Council group – could attend.

Councillor Jack Vittles said it was important for the promotion to reach those who the project could help most. The chair said this would be a start for the project and that reaching the right people will always prove difficult.

Councillors suggested promoting the event through schools, the HUB and BoA Youth.

### **32. Healthy Rivers Project**

The chair summarised the RiverBlitz as mentioned in her Chair's Update adding that she has been pushing for more regular analysis of the river – but in conjunction with the rest of the catchment area.



She said that the town council had discussed joining the River Detectives which it has now changed its name to Wessex Water Guardians. The town is on the list for the programme. This would allow a small group of volunteers to be trained and equipped to analyse the river for nitrates, phosphates and other contaminants on a monthly basis. The chair added that she is still awaiting a response.

Additionally, the chair said they would like the town council to take part in Riverfly – which samples water looking at changes in smaller life forms which could indicate change in water quality. 3 volunteers – including the chair – will receive this training on Wednesday 13 September.

### 33. Green Spaces Update

The Green Spaces Officer reported that this year was a big change due to taking over grass cutting from Wiltshire Council's contractor – with some areas, such as Bearfield – having areas of wildflower meadows.

The town council is also caring for the trees planted earlier this year – giving each tree 50 litres of water per week. A survey of these trees will be done, as the Forestry Commission funding would allow for any trees that did not survive to be replaced in winter.

Increase publicity around volunteering has attracted new volunteers to the town council's Nature Volunteers. Additionally, members of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's wellbeing programme to continue volunteering after the wellbeing sessions ended.

Another corporate volunteer day is planned for Barton Farm Country Park in October 2023.

### 34. Allotment Status Update

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk gave an update on the town council's allotment sites. After identifying weaknesses and areas of learning in the process following the asset transfer, officers are in the process of identifying who holds which allotment plot and building a new harmonious system.

This system would include:

- monthly inspections
- proactive management of the waiting list



- improved identification of abandoned allotments
- review allotment arrangements
- review rent.

### 35. Next meeting

The date of the next Environment & Green Spaces committee meeting is Tuesday 17 October.

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End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8pm



## **Appendix A**

### **Question on Becky Addy Wood**

A resident asked why Becky Addy Wood was not on the meeting agenda. She believed that residents were not being told what the town council was doing in relation to the woodland.

Councillor Kay (chair) passed the question to the Green Spaces Officer to answer. Currently, the town council is under legal advice where detail must remain private while the legal case is active.

Councillor Vigar added that an article about Becky Addy Wood was included in the most recent town council newsletter. Further to this, the chair said she believed there would be an update at the next Full Council meeting on Tuesday 5 September 2023.

### **Question on the management of the Colonel William Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity (CWLPEC)**

A resident asked why there were so many “derelict” allotments in the town and if the town council was “happy and satisfied” with its administration of the educational charity.

The chair noted that the management body for CWLPEC was different to the town council and that there would be an update on allotments at agenda item 12.

### **Question on Air Quality Management Plan from Wiltshire Council**

A resident said that the plan notes that Bradford on Avon Town Council undertook a consultation on the one-way system – which was in place during Covid-19. He believed that this statement was incorrect and should be removed from the Wiltshire Council document. This was because the consultation was on the Future of Transport. He asked if town council would refute these assertions in its response to the Wiltshire Council consultation.

The chair agreed that those details should be changed and added that the town council should put together a message on what is wanted. She added that there was no referendum on the subject.

### **Questions on the Community Environmental Toolkit approach**

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A resident emailed questions to be answered during the meeting. The questions asked if the town council was using the Community Environmental Toolkit approach, if this was being fed into the Neighbourhood Plan and how residents could get involved.

The Green Spaces Officer said that the town council worked with Wiltshire Council on building the toolkit and that there was a lot of work done to improve biodiversity in Bradford on Avon. The chair said that detail about this is on the town council website.

She said this information would help inform the Neighbourhood Plan which is under review.

The chair added that the best way to get involved was to join Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon and the group would be on the list to ask for help.