



)Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [36](#), [39](#), [42](#) & [43](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Emma Franklin
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Alison Potter
- Katie Vigar
- Ian Brown – Town Clerk
- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Kate Bessant (Vice Chair)
- Sarah Gibson
- Tim Trimble
- Jack Vittles



35. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

36. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Emma Franklin

Seconded by Councillor Alison Potter

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 17 September 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

37. Matters arising

None.

38. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda and added that she had provided a talk about the Healthy Rivers project to Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon. The river festival project, taking place next summer, is now called the Wild River Festival and has 13 towns and parishes taking part.

39. Agenda item 7 – Bradford on Avon Town Council Draft Tree Safety Plan

The Green Spaces Officer introduced the item and his report. The Tree Management Policy was agreed at the last Environment and Green Spaces meeting in September. The next stage is the Tree Safety Plan which outlines the process of surveying trees on town council land. The National Tree Safety Group 2024 brought out guidance recently including the 'Common sense risk management of trees' which has been considered in the production of the safety plan. A table sets out high, low and negligible use zones for trees present on council land and surveys will be conducted with a frequency based on the use of those zones. High use zones, and therefore higher risk, with plenty of footfall, possibly near a main road and/or with nearby buildings particularly, say, listed would be surveyed every 3 years. Low and negligible use zones increasingly away from people, buildings and higher traffic areas will be surveyed every 5 years. The first round of surveying would be with a view to establishing how frequently some areas will subsequently need to be surveyed. Within any zone some trees may also need surveying more or less frequently. There are also strike zones to consider which assess branches of varying size breaking off a tree and falling to the ground and the risk they present.



Ash Die Back is currently increasing the risk of disease in Ash trees and therefore may increase the surveying frequency, other diseases may also affect the frequency of surveys.

The proposal at this stage is to survey on the basis outlined above and review over the next 5 years.

The Chair commented that if members of the public get in touch with the council, if concerned about a tree, its risk level may increase leading to a greater surveying frequency. It was also confirmed that tree experts would be appointed to carry out these surveys, it is not a matter for the Green Spaces Officer as such.

Proposed by Alex Kay

Seconded by Katie Vigar

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: to adopt the draft Tree Safety Plan.

40. Agenda item 8 – Healthy Rivers Project Update

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. The Chair updated members with some details from her report as supplied with the agenda. Also,

- BART has trained up several new volunteers and 5 new sites along the canal are now part of the testing programme.
- Wessex Water and the town council have started exploring the idea of performing some real-time testing in Barton Country Park as it is used so widely and heavily.

41. Agenda item 9 – Wiltshire Council sustainable and local food provenance marque

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda and accompanying links to a new website set up by Wiltshire Council. The website showcases local and sustainable food producers. The Sustainable Food Group in Bradford on Avon approached Wiltshire Council about such an idea and have been delighted with Wiltshire Council's response and the creation of the website.



42. Agenda item 10 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Emma Franklin

Seconded by Katie Vigar

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved** to go into confidential business.

43.

44. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 14 January 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm

Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public at the meeting. There was 1 member of the public in total.