



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 March 2025

At Youth & Community Centre, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LE

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute [57](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant (Vice Chair)
- Sam Blackwell*
- Emma Franklin
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Jennie Parker*
- Alison Potter
- Tim Trimble
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers

- 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:

- Sarah Gibson

*Councillors Blackwell and Parker also attended as present for the preceding extraordinary Full Council meeting.



56. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

57. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Potter

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 21 January 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

58. Matters arising

None.

59. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda and added:

- Officers are helping to organise a Biodiversity Eco-Fair for the 7th June 2025. Several groups have expressed an interest at being involved. The Chair asked councillors to also consider offering some help with the event.
- The GrowBoA initiative will have seedlings donated from the one of the local allotment organisations, Roots Allotments, at the local seed swap stations.

60. Agenda item 7 – Becky Addy Wood liaison committee.

The minutes from the first liaison committee meeting as supplied with the agenda were noted. It was reiterated that the first meeting had gone well and the structure of the meetings, twice a year and with 3 members each from the town council and FROBAW, has been signed. The liaison committee agreed to advise the council to appoint an expert arborist and ecologist to independently prepare a management plan for the woods. A draft plan will be discussed at a future meeting. Other matters discussed at the liaison meeting included whether to apply for Local Nature Reserve status. Councillor Franklin thanked the Green Spaces Officer for preparing detailed minutes.



61. Agenda item 8 – Wiltshire Digital Drive

The update from the Communications Officer was noted. Councillor Trimble asked about the removal of data from donated devices. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Digital Drive clear all data before reconditioning devices but that a factory reset before donation is always a good idea. Councillor Blackwell asked who can access refurbished machines, officers agreed to investigate.

62. Agenda item 9 – Allotments

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

The arrangements at the Bancroft site were discussed. Larger plots will be split up into 2 or 3 plots to make them more manageable and help reduce the waiting list. It was confirmed that complaints have now been dealt with and the Green Spaces Officer thanked Lucia and the town wardens for all their work to tidy up the allotments and streamline the administrative process.

63. Agenda item 10 – Green Spaces Update

The Green Spaces Officer supplied a verbal update.

Hedgerow work has been completed to comply with new legislation to protect nesting birds. Town wardens are now moving onto grass cutting. Meadow cuts in some areas will encourage the growth of wildflowers.

Westbury Gardens fenced section of wall: the growth of the trunk of the London plane tree near the river is causing cracks along the wall facing the river. There are a couple of options the town council are considering to resolve the issue:

- Expand the park, which is expensive and quite an engineering feat.
- Remove the compromised section of wall to investigate the condition, install a new fence round the tree, ground works and finally prune back the tree. Drawings from an engineering firm are being supplied for this second option.

Poulton Park at Bailey's Barn properties: surface water has been gathering after heavy rainfall. Previously Wiltshire Council installed a flood management feature to deal with surface water. Ownership of the land in that area is split between the Canal and Rivers Trust, residents



and the town council. The town council has written to the Canal and Rivers Trust to discuss the issue.

64. Agenda item 12 – Yellow Fish project

The Chair described the campaign led by the Environment Agency to stencil or glue yellow fish beside drains and gullies on roads around town to remind everyone that only water should be put down drains.

Wiltshire Council will have to be approached to seek permission to attach the fish to the highway.

A consignment of yellow fish emblems has now arrived for community groups to distribute.

Councillors voted to continue supporting the initiative and roll out of the yellow fish emblems.

65. Next meeting provisional date

The next committee meeting is provisionally arranged for Tuesday 10 June 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.35pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 4 questions/comments from members of the public at the meeting. There were 3 members of the public in total.

[Q1] Jonathan Francis from Avonleigh Orchard provided the committee with a list of needs to support his green spaces, wellbeing and connection to nature initiative. Officers agreed to look at the proposed list of needs to see if the town council can help. The town council responded positively to the initiative at the previous meeting on 21 January 2025.

[Q2] A resident thanked the committee and the Chair for all their hard work over the last 4 years. In particular with regards to Becky Addy Wood.

[Q3] Question from Councillor Bessant. Is the council planning any events to support or celebrate Earth Day, 22 April? Councillor Bessant suggested a litter pick as there are no 'clean up' events in the immediate area. The Town Clerk confirmed officers would look into promoting the idea.

[Q4] Councillor Bessant also commented that the town council's Climate Emergency initiative, logos and content are not so prominent on the new town council website. Can the information be made more visible? The Town Clerk again confirmed he would discuss this with officers.