



Sustainable Travel committee minutes

Minutes

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

At Youth & Community Centre, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute [19](#) & [23](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Dave Garwood
- Tim Trimble (Chair)
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles (Vice-Chair)

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown – Town Clerk

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Sam Blackwell
 - Sarah Gibson
 - Simon McNeil-Ritchie
 - Jennie Parker
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18. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Trimble

Seconded by Councillor Vigar

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 15 October 2024 be accepted as a true record.

20. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

21. Agenda item 6 – Chair's Update

The Chair presented his update as supplied with the agenda.

Additionally:

- Air Quality monitoring – the Chair reiterated that PM2.5 particulates are very fine and therefore extremely hazardous as they can be absorbed straight into the blood stream. It is hoped that PM2.5 particulates monitors, once available, could be sited around public buildings such as schools.
- The bus funding award – as Wiltshire has been awarded £5.7m from central government to improve bus services and infrastructure the Chair has consequently resubmitted his request for an electric bus service for the town taking in one or two outlying villages.
- Traffic Count Surveys – the Police have now confirmed that St Margaret's Street and the Frome Road can become Community Speed Watch locations.

22. Agenda item 7 – Traffic Scheme update

The Chair read out the update as supplied with the agenda.

Councillor Vittles confirmed that he had not yet received a response from Wiltshire Council to his email dated 20 January 2025 but would chase up a reply for the next Full Council meeting set for the 11 March 2025.



23. Agenda item 8 – Local Highways and Footways Improvement group (LHFIG)

The recommendations from the most recent LHFIG delegated group meeting, considering new requests and supplied with the agenda, were noted.

- New request for a pedestrian crossing and traffic calming along the Winsley Road between Downs View and Wine Street – traffic engineer confirmed that a pedestrian count survey is the first step to determine whether and what sort of pedestrian crossing might be appropriate. This would cost £1000 and LHFIG are looking for a 50:50 split. The delegated group are therefore proposing a £500 contribution from the town council to complete the survey.
- Proposed by Councillor Trimble
Seconded by Councillor Vigar
And with all in favour **resolved:** to commit £500 towards the cost of a pedestrian survey count for the Winsley Road near the Grove Leaze junction.
Additionally:
- The delegated group supports the provision of a handrail at the top of the Budbury Close footpath steps.
- The delegated group supports the investigation by LHFIG as to whether the Police might enforce a drop in the speed limit from 40 to 30mph along the Bath Road on the northern edge of town beyond Ashley Road.

24. Agenda item 9 – Auto Speed Watch volunteers

The Chair read out the update as supplied with the agenda and confirmed that some Community Speed Watch volunteers have formed a subgroup, Auto Speed Watch volunteers, to verify speeding vehicles observed on the Auto Speed Watch camera and forward the data onto Wiltshire Police.

25. Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)

The Chair referred to his update as supplied with the agenda. The Plan is a large 350-page overarching document with 'lots of good details.' The LTP4 includes suggestions such as the introduction of mobility hubs, provision of E-bikes for hire, 20mph zones as standard around schools



and introduction of demand responsive schemes. A lot of these suggestions formed part of the previously compiled local 'Town Vision for Transport' document. He observed that funding will be the major issue for progressing these ideas. Also, the government has mandated an 81% increase in annual house building in Wiltshire and this is not reflected in the LTP4. However, the proposed introduction of the Mayoral Strategic Authority – Heart of Wessex – which Wiltshire hopes to join may unlock extra funding for projects.

26. Next meeting date

The next committee meeting was arranged for Tuesday 25 March 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.27 pm

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Appendix A - Comments and questions from the public

There were around 5 comments and questions from the public and councillors at the meeting. There were 5 members of the public present.

[Q1] Question regarding Agenda item 7 - the town's traffic management scheme and why it is being 'blocked' by the need for bus routes along certain roads and the provision of bus stops.

Councillor Vigar confirmed that the scheme is not being blocked, but contraflow for buses is needed along Silver Street should the one-way system be introduced. Very elderly people should not have to walk too far to reach a bus stop.

Isn't this a large impact to the scheme to accommodate buses?

Councillor Trimble conceded that a bus contraflow was not a highlighted parameter before the modelling process began, but Wiltshire Council have declared a bus contraflow will need to be worked into any one-way scheme. However, bus contraflow schemes can be very simple as in 'no entry except buses' signage. He went on to explain that the footfall and traffic levels along Silver Street mean that the area is an accident black spot and although a bus contraflow would limit the prospect of widening pavements, heavily reducing the amount of 2-way traffic along Silver Street would be very beneficial to pedestrians.

[Q2] Question regarding the state of bus stops around town

The Chair referred to his Chair's Update and the £5.7m central government award to improve bus services and infrastructure which will hopefully include money to refurbish bus stops.

[Q3] A statement was provided to councillors prepared by Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon's Sustainable Travel Group

The resident highlighted two proposals on the statement:

- (i) A weight limit of 7.5 tonnes on the town bridge reducing the current limit from 18 tonnes. The group would like this added to the proposals sent out to Wiltshire Council for the traffic management scheme.



- (ii) The introduction of cycle lanes on certain streets around the town.

Apparently both proposals have already been discussed previously and positively with Wiltshire Council.

The Chair thanked the resident for his suggestions and offered to discuss them at a later date. Councillor Vigar added that the weight limit on the bridge had already been discussed at various points along the process.

[Q4] A request for air quality monitors along the towpath particularly in winter as there are a lot of wood burners in use

The Chair confirmed that he has already spoken to WC's public protection officer about the matter and that low-cost particulate monitors could be useful in this case.

[Q5] A question over whether the Police would accept video footage of driving offenders sent in by the public

The Chair confirmed he would mention it at the next Area Board meeting where Police representatives are expected.