



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 25 June 2024

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [12](#), [13](#) & [17](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Alex Kay
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council officers:

- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer
- Ian Brown – Town Clerk

Meeting clerk:

- Chris Stringer – Deputy Town Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Emma Franklin
- Sarah Gibson
- Alison Potter
- Tim Trimble



12. Election of the committee's chair and vice-chair

Proposed by Councillor Kate Bessant
Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar
And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that Councillor Alex Kay continue as the chair of the Environment & Green Spaces committee.

Proposed by Councillor Alex Kay
Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar
And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that Councillor Kate Bessant was elected as the vice-chair of the Environment & Green Spaces committee.

12. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Katie Vigar
Seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant
And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the minutes of the last committee meeting held on 23 April 2024 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

14. Matters arising

None.

15. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

Councillor Kay Chair presented her update to the committee.
Councillor Kay highlighted the upcoming Running Out of Time relay – and Fairtrade Fortnight in September.

16. Agenda item 7 – Healthy Rivers Project

Councillor Kay presented her update on the River Detectives project.



17. Agenda item 10 – Culver Close tennis courts

Ian Brown, the Town Clerk, confirmed that the council has been discussing the possibility of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) paying for the public tennis courts in Culver Close to be resurfaced.

The LTA is expecting to have funding in place to do this in late summer or early autumn.

The funding would be available to the council based on the LTA's model that the council implements and manages a new online booking system for the courts – and that there are charges to play on the courts (with the income from the courts paying for their future maintenance and upkeep)

It was confirmed that the LTA was planning to offer 100% of the capital required for the project.

And that officers will aim to keep the cost(s) of court bookings as low as possible – whilst still making enough money to ensure the courts can be looked after properly in the future.

Proposed by Councillor Jack Vittles

Seconded by Councillor Kate Bessant

And with all in favour it was **resolved**:

1. That the council agrees to work with the LTA on the resurfacing of the tennis courts in Culver Close.
2. That the council introduces an online booking system for the courts – and introduces charges for the use of the courts.

18. Agenda item 11 – Contact details

Councillor Kay asked whether it might be possible to have useful contact details for the Environment Agency and Wessex Water in prominent and relevant locations in the town – so people can easily report concerns and issues relating to the river.

19. Agenda item 12 – Sustainable projects

Councillor Kay presented the update on the council's sustainable projects.

20. Agenda item 13 – Great Big Green Week

Councillor Kay presented the update on the events and activities that happened during Great Big Green Week.



There was discussion about the nature walk – which only had a few people attend (and less people than some of the other walks)

However it was also pointed out that all the walks were very informative and interesting – and the suggestion was put forward that more walks during the different seasons would be great.

21. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is provisionally arranged for:

- Tuesday 17 September 2024.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.50pm

Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were reports that:

- The path across Culver Close is overgrown.
- The path leading to Pond Lane is untidy.
- The bus shelter by the library car park is looking tatty and uncared for.
- Chris Hogg said he would check on these reports.

There was a question about the recent work at Sladesbrook allotments.

- Was the work necessary – it seems like lots of fertile soil was stripped and removed from the plots that were being worked on.
- Chris Hogg said that some of the plots needed clearing and covering so they could be re-let to new tenants.
- Chris said he would check what happened with the amount of soil that was removed, too.

There was also a question about whether the freehold of the Shoulder of Mutton allotments site was transferred to the town council from Wiltshire Council.

- Chris Hogg confirmed that the town council has a 99-year lease to manage and look after the site.
- This lease is with Wiltshire Council (as the landowner of the site)