



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 1 July 2025

At United Church, Bradford on Avon,

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute [1](#), [2](#), [4](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#) & [11](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Sam Blackwell
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Ghika Savva
- Katie Vigar

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:

- Andy Gordon (Vice Chair)
- Jack Vittles



1. Election of Chair of the committee

Councillor Kate Bessant in her role as Deputy Mayor began the meeting by asking for nominations for Chair of the Environment and Green Spaces committee. Councillor Kay was nominated and as there were no further nominations:

Proposed by: Councillor Vigar

Seconded by: Councillor Blackwell

And with all in favour **resolved**: Councillor Kay was elected as Chair of the Environment and Green Spaces committee for the current administrative year 2025-26.

Councillor Kay then took the Chair and presided over the rest of the meeting.

2. Election of Vice-Chair of the committee

Councillor Gordon was suggested as Vice Chair in absentia. As there were no further nominations:

Proposed by: Councillor Bessant

Seconded by: Councillor Blackwell

And with all in favour **resolved**: Councillor Gordon was elected as Vice-Chair of the Environment and Green Spaces committee for the current administrative year 2025-26.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Vigar

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 4 March 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

None.



6. Agenda item 8 - Chair's Update

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

- BoA Town Council Carbon Footprint – an order has been placed for the assessment of town council assets and operations to establish a baseline. This will allow the Council to evaluate a forward plan.
- There is a Big Butterfly Count between 18 July and 10 August 2025. The survey time is only 15 minutes between these dates. (See their website for details)
- Frome Wardrobe Collective, radical evening on textiles and clothing – 8 July 7-9pm Holy Trinity Church, Frome. (See their website for details).
- Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) success with volunteer efforts to restore and replant over 28,000m of hedgerow. (See their website for details).
- This year Fairtrade fortnight is from 22 September to 5 October 2025.
- The BoA Flood Forum will take place in Trinity Church on 21 July 2025 2 – 6.30pm. Residents can chat with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, Wessex Water and the town councils flood wardens.

7. Agenda item 9 – Appointment of Consultants to produce a Becky Addy Wood Management Plan.

The Green Spaces Officer referred to his report as supplied with the agenda and asked councillors if they had any questions. Councillor Vigar asked how long the proposed appointment will be for and how long does the council need to use experts in this matter. The Green Spaces Officer confirmed that the commitment is to produce 1 management plan. The length or lifetime of the plan will be determined by the experts.

The Chair thanked the Green Spaces Officer for all his efforts.

Proposed by: Councillor Bessant

Seconded by: Councillor Vigar

And with all in favour **resolved**:



- a) to approve the appointment of a consultant ecologist and consultant arborist to jointly produce a woodland management plan for Becky Addy Woods.
- b) To approve the appointment of Johns Associates as the consultant Ecologist and Duramen Consulting Ltd as the consultant Arborist.

8. Agenda item 10 – Appointment of Contractor to undertake urgent tree works

The item was introduced by the Green Spaces Officer who began by confirming that the council has a Tree Policy and Tree Management Plan in place. He then referred to his report as supplied with the agenda. Councillor Vigar asked when the works are likely to take place. The Green Spaces Officer confirmed that, although the contractors have not yet been appointed, there is a provisional start date of 14 July 2025. The relevant applications have also been made to Wiltshire Council to do the works. It was also confirmed that information about the tree works will be published in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Savva

And with all in favour **resolved**: to approve the appointment of Becks Tree and Landscape to carry out necessary tree works on behalf of the town council.

9. Agenda item 11 – Adoption of Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity Policy Statement.

Following on from public questions it was confirmed that there would be minor alternations due to a typo and that the policy represented some overarching aims of the town but did not go into every detail.

Proposed by Councillor Kay

Seconded by Councillor Bessant

And with all in favour **resolved**: to adopt the town's Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity Policy Statement.



10. Agenda item 12 – Town and Country Planning Association

Bradford on Avon town council has been used as a case study by the Town & Country Planning Association. The Association came and spoke to the council and the subsequent document (attached to the agenda) was produced. Any other relevant information can be found on the Association's website.

11. Agenda item 13 – Bradford on Avon Scout Hut – Relocation of badger sett

The Green Spaces Officer referred to his report as supplied with the agenda. He added that the habits of this particular clan have been surveyed to ensure the badgers are likely to respond well to a move. The badgers are also protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Councillor Savva asked what the implications for the Strips would be as the relocation site. The Green Spaces Officer confirmed the new sett would embed into the bank in a quiet area well away from footpaths.

Proposed by Councillor Savva

Seconded by Councillor Bessant

And with all in favour **resolved:**

- a) to approve the relocation of the badgers sett currently under the scout hut to a location in the Strips.
- b) To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to make necessary legal arrangements between Bradford on Avon Town Council and 1st Bradford on Avon (Lord Fitzmaurice Own) Scout Group to enable this.

12. Next meeting date

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 16 September 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.57pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 7 questions/comments from members of the public at the meeting. There were 5 members of the public in total.

[Q1] One resident asked 4 questions:

- (i) Is anyone doing anything about the planters at Lambs Yard. Some are in a dilapidated state?

The planters belong mostly to the management company, First Port, but the town council will have a word with them. The Chair also thanked the resident for the planters she maintains around town.

- (ii) What is the latest on the allotments?

The Green Spaces Officer confirmed a lot has been done to update the allotments and reduce waiting lists. Full details can be found in the Minutes of the 4 March 2025 Environment and Green Spaces meeting.

- (iii) Does the Council have a policy on antisocial behaviour in Westbury gardens?

The Town Council attitude is to monitor rather than move revellers on and keep in touch with the Police. Rough sleeping is reported to Wiltshire Rough Sleepers.

- (iv) Who has cut back the ivy on tress in the Strips?

The Town Council owns the strips and monitors and maintains the ivy. It is not responsible for this work and so it is likely a poster will go up asking people to leave the ivy alone.

[Q2] A resident is disappointed with the Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity Policy Statement believing it does not go far enough, reflect the high standards in the town nor does it reflect the Climate Emergency Declaration.

The Chair confirmed she had already been in correspondence with the resident on the matter but that the policy is an overarching statement indicating the direction of travel not dealing with the details. It was agreed to sort out a typo on the statement.

[Q3] A resident thanked the town council for all their help supporting and promoting the Wild River festival. Communities along the Avon organised 45 separate events and responded by strongly supporting biodiversity events and showing a clear appreciation for the river environment. An Early Day Motion has also been given to the Environment Secretary by Brain Mathew M.P.



entitled 'The protection of rivers and the role of the Wild Rivers Festival as part of that effort'.

The Chair thanked the resident for all her hard work and comments.

[Q4] Councillor Bessant also thanked the resident for her contribution to the Wild Rivers festival and was inspired by the evening she organised discussing amongst other things nature-based solutions to improve river ecosystems. Councillor Bessant had information regarding an initiative called the Horizon project where funding is available for climate change mitigations. She attended a talk at the Watershed in Bristol where a 4-woman panel discussed their relationship with rivers and finally Councillor Bessant had details of a testing initiative called Bactiflow to assess bacteria levels in rivers. This will be discussed with the Town Clerk.