



Community and Wellbeing committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025

At United Church Hall, 10 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute [1](#), [2](#), [4](#), [7](#), [9](#), [10](#) & [11](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Alex Kay
- Sam Blackwell
- Katie Vigar
- James Atkinson
- Ghika Savva

Town Council Officers:

- Sarah Hawkins

Meeting clerk:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Guest Speaker

- Sergeant Gemma Rutter – Wiltshire Police, Neighbourhood Policing
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Andy Gordon
 - Kate Bessant
 - Jack Vittles
-



1. Election of Chair of the committee

Cllr Alex Kay began the meeting by asking for nominations for Chair of the Community & Wellbeing committee. Cllr Vigar was nominated and as there were no further nominations:

Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by: Cllr Savva

And with all in favour **resolved**: Cllr Vigar was elected as Chair of the Community & Wellbeing committee for the current administrative year 2025-26.

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

Cllr Vigar thanked the previous Chair, Jennie Parker and updated on Aldhelm Court Club and the Chatty Café which Jennie supported and are both thriving groups. Cllr Vigar reported that she attended the Skate Jam on Saturday and that a great number of people were there enjoying the event. Also, following the recent article in the Council's newsletter regarding a fabric reuse group, she had been contacted by a resident who starting a group 'Bee Creative'.

Cllr Vigar had also been discussing the Mighty Girls project on Youth Outreach with Cllr Bessant, which is discussed in the youth update.

2. Election of Vice-Chair of the committee

Cllr Bessant was nominated as Vice Chair; there were no further nominations:

Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by: Cllr Savva

And with all in favour **resolved**: Cllr Bessant was elected as Vice-Chair of the Community & Wellbeing 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 Cllr Atkinson
Seconded by Cllr Kay
And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 8 October 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising
None.

6. Update From the Police
Sergeant Rutter (Gemma) introduced herself and her Neighbourhood Policing team, PC Robert Dentry and PCSO Laura Wallace. Gemma explained the role of the Neighbourhood team and that her intention was to spend a bit more time in Bradford on Avon in future and would be attending future Community and Wellbeing meetings.

Gemma pointed out that the team's priority will be engagement with the young people in Bradford on Avon and is keen to work with schools and the youth club to achieve this.

The Council offered the opportunity to have an article in its quarterly newsletter and/or in its fortnightly email bulletin.

The Chair thank Gemma for attending.

7. Grants Panel
The Chair moved the grants item forward in the agenda due to the attendance of one of the applicants.

The recommendation from the grant advisory group:

Grants awarded:

BoA Walkers Are Welcome	£410
Wiltshire Rural Music	£600
Read Easy North & West Wiltshire	£500



Unsuccessful application:

Baby Beats – This application was not eligible due to being a private business.

Proposed by Cllr Kay

Seconded by Cllr Atkinson

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: To award the grants as recommended by the advisory group.

8. BoA Youth Update

The update was discussed and noted. Councillors pointed out how please they were with the development of this service since the Town Council had taken on responsibility from Wiltshire Council. Particularly the weekly numbers attending and the activities offered.

The summer club, first introduced in 2022 with the aim of being affordable for all, had proven to be a success and this year's sessions are almost fully booked.

9. Media and Communications Policy

The Chief Executive & Town Clerk introduced the amended Media and Communications Policy, which reflected how the Council would manage its various communications strands with the aim of ensuring consistent and timely messaging.

Proposed by Cllr Savva

Seconded by Cllr Blackwell

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Media and Communications Policy is adopted.

10. Residents Panel

The Chair introduced the report on the future development of the residents panel following Full Council's decision to continue running the panel and refer its development to the Community & Wellbeing committee. The panels have helped inform the Council's decisions and develop services and is a useful tool for engagement with residents.

Councillors agreed with the suggested refinements apart from:



Suggestion i) rather than limit the panel to 200 members it was agreed not to have an upper limit.

Suggestion iii) councillors agreed to the suggestion, but wished to increase the age range from under 20's to under 24's.

Proposed by Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by Cllr Atkinson

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: To approve the concepts identified in the report, with the two amendments.

- i) No upper limit on number of panel members
- ii) Not to attempt to replicate the demographics of the town
- iii) Investigate the possibility of an annual/bi-annual 'Youth Panel'
- iv) Produce 2 panels per year, September and March
- v) Develop scene setting and reporting methodology

11. Outside Representatives

Councillors discussed the requests for representatives to sit on outside bodies committees. It was explained that these roles were completely voluntary.

Proposed by Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by Cllr Atkinson

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: To appoint the following councillors:

- i) The Hub
 - Cllr Kate Bessant
 - Cllr Kevin Elliott
- ii) Lord Fitzmaurice Trust
 - Cllr Kate Bessant
- iii) Mount Pleasant Centre
 - Cllr Katie Vigar
 - Cllr Ghika Savva

12. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 21 October 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.20pm



Appendix A: Comments and Questions from the Public and Councillors

There were 4 members of the public present.

Q1. Had the Council considered a community 'buy out' of the golf course?

It was explained that whilst the site was in the draft local plan, it would be considered development land and therefore the cost would be far greater than that of amenity land. This would mean that it would very unlikely a community scheme would be able to afford to purchase. In the discussion it was pointed out that it was believed that the covenant on the land had been dealt with and no longer applied.

Q2. Is the Town Council interested in becoming a 'Wellbeing' town?

The whole reason for this committee is to look at developing the wellbeing of the town, so the simple answer is yes. In the auspice of being a fairtrade town there is a national organisation that sets the standards and then grants/awards the title. The Council is not aware of such an organisation for wellbeing, so will look into this.

Q3. Request to improve safety and safeguard the environment of Barton Farm by considering the current evening behaviours in the area.

A resident local to Barton Farm reporting a number of activities she had witnessed in the area, including underage drinking, loud music, trespass, inappropriate behaviour and wanted the Council to consider what actions, with the suggestions of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and CCTV.

Sergeant Rutter suggested that a lot of these issues were things that the police could tackle and encouraged residents to report these as they happen either via 999 (if an emergency) or 101. She agreed to take the intelligence of these reports and discuss with her team and then see what action she could take.

Sergeant Rutter also suggested that a PSPO could take up to a year before being implemented and that this was a Wiltshire Council process and that she believed these would soon no longer be actioned.

Q4. There has been a complaint regarding the noise from The Castle pub during the music festival and that this clashed with a lecture in the church and made it difficult to hear the lecture.



Sergeant Rutter said that she would consult with a colleague who deals with licencing and see what The Castle's licence allows and perhaps visit and discuss with the landlord.

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