



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 16 September 2025

At United Church, Bradford on Avon,

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute [14](#) & [19](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- Sam Blackwell
- Andy Gordon
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers

- Ian Brown – Town Clerk
- Chris Stringer – Deputy Town Clerk
- Chris Hogg – Green Spaces Officer * Arrived about 7.40pm

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Ghika Savva



13. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Vittles declared his membership of the Cricket Club.

14. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Vigar

Seconded by Councillor Vittles

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 1 July 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

15. Matters arising

None.

16. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

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

- The Big Butterfly count results are available and although butterfly numbers this year are 'improved compared to 2024', this is still seen as a decline in numbers compared with numbers expected in a warm, dry year.
- Fair Trade fortnight events: a stall at the market on 9 October, a Christ Church craft event from 1pm on 8 October in conjunction with some Christ Church school children, a world food event collecting donations for the BoA Hub and includes promotion of Fair Trade at Wiltshire Heights on 15 October from 2pm.
- A Sustainable Food and drink event at Sweet Pea Kitchen on 29 September at 7pm
- Avoncliff weir temporary repair of 5 years ago is now breaking down. Consideration needed to decide the importance of the weir to the town and the Chair suggested we seek advice from the EA.
- Climate Friendly BoA are showing the film 'Water is Love' on 6 October at the Quaker Meeting House.
- Councillor Gordon fed back on the Wild Summit event in Bristol and will bring a summary of the key points at the next EGS meeting.



17. Agenda item 7 – Becky Addy Wood Year 1 Action Plan.

The Green Spaces Officer's report, as supplied with the agenda, was noted. The Town Clerk confirmed that in year 1 the focus will be safety to ensure the right of way is safe and stabilise the wood. Councillor Gordon asked if any grants have been secured. The Town Clerk confirmed that grants are usually available for replanting.

18. Agenda item 8 – Green Spaces Update

The Green Spaces report as supplied with the agenda was noted. The Chair commended the report.

19. Agenda item 9 – Terracycling in Bradford on Avon.

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced his report and proposed a change of use for the Terracycle station.

Demand for or use of the station has dropped in line with improvements by supermarkets and refuse collection to take a variety of waste for recycling.

It is proposed that the building is used by BoA Youth and the town wardens instead.

The Chair agreed with the proposal but also suggested the council promote a new campaign highlighting local recycling options and also Wiltshire Council's new arrangements coming into effect in 2027.

Proposed by Councillor Kay

Seconded by Councillor Gordon

And with all in favour **resolved**: to stop using the outside building as a TerraCycle station and use it to support Youth Centre activities (and support town warden's work) instead.

20. Agenda item 10 – Tennis Courts

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. Before the tennis courts were renovated and were free of charge it was very difficult understand who was using them and how busy the courts were. Since the renovations, in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), and the introduction of charges 161 household memberships have been taken out and 520 pay as you play hour long slots have been booked. Overall, 2400 sessions have been booked in the last 12 months.



As part of the agreement with the LTA a certain amount of money has to be put aside for maintenance of the courts. The target amount for the first year was £4,200. However, £10,000 has been raised in the last 12 months. This will allow some money to be used for other green spaces improvements.

Councillor Bessant asked about a point of contact for volunteers to help coach. The town council had previously asked for volunteers to coach and received a low response but will push forward with another promotion. Councillor Vittles suggested some of the surplus revenue could also be used to employ coaches.

21. Agenda item 11 – Cricket Nets

The town's Cricket Club is thriving with Men's and Women's teams as well as boys and girls. The Club has leased space next to the tennis courts to erect new nets and these have proved very popular as a facility. There have been some complaints that the nets are in the wrong place. However Councillor Vigar felt the nets would soften over time and she had witnessed girls making use of them after school on a damp evening, which was very pleasing to see.

22. Agenda item 12 - Realtime River Testing

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda which was noted. The Chair confirmed that once set up the testing should reveal any pollution events within 15 minutes or so. In other monitoring situations Apps can be downloaded which allows bathers and water users to check pollution levels. Councillor Bessant said that once the testing equipment is in place a talk should be organised for the public to understand the planning and engineering that goes into this sort of set up and the monitoring of water quality.

23. Agenda item 13 - Carbon measuring

The Council has appointed Carbon Footprint Ltd to assess the council's carbon footprint.

A survey will be completed by the council to capture data. Once Carbon Footprint have assessed the data, they can help the town council make some adjustments as necessary to further reduce the TC's carbon footprint.



24. Next meeting date

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 25 November 2025.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.57pm

Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 5 questions/comments from members of the public at the meeting. There were 3 members of the public in total.

[Q1] A resident does not like the new cricket nets and is hoping no precept was used to complete the project. Also, surely, they could have been placed at the other end of Culver Close near the Bowls club.

Councillor Vittles confirmed a town council grant (procured through the correct channels) did form part of the fund-raising process. He also indicated he was very happy with the nets.

The Chair added that young people in the town do need facilities for recreational use and to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

The Green Spaces Officer also confirmed during the meeting that there is a flooding risk at the other end of the cricket pitch which makes it an unsuitable site.

[Q2] Will the bench be reinstated next to the tennis courts and new cricket nets.

The answer was yes.

[Q3] There seem to be a lot of cars parking in Culver Close. Some did not disappear until the following morning.

Councillor Vigar commented that rules have been agreed between the town council and the Cricket Club regarding parking which should only be under the direction of stewards. It was agreed that if there appeared to be any inappropriate parking to contact the town council who will speak to the Cricket Club however compromises do need to be sought to share the space at Culver Close.



[Q4] A resident asked where the tennis shed had gone and is also upset about the cricket nets.

Councillor Vittles confirmed that no-one owned it or used and it was dilapidated, so it was removed when the nets were installed. The Green Space officer noted that it was unsafe.

[Q5] A resident complimented the organiser of the Flower and Produce Show. The resident also complained that several allotment plots at Bancroft are neglected. Does anyone own them, can the plots be revoked if not kept up. It was confirmed that once an allotment holder has paid for their plot it is not easy to insist on a certain level of upkeep. Overall, the process to letting allotments has been streamlined recently.

Whilst TC have been contacting allotment owners and working on the unused plots, it was agreed to look further into this and report back to next E&GS. Officers offered to review the plots at Bancroft.

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