



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 27 January 2026

At United Church, Bradford on Avon,

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [42](#) & [46](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Kate Bessant
- 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
- Jack Vittles



41. Declarations of Interest

None.

42. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Savva

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 25 November 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

43. Matters arising

None.

44. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda.

Additionally:

- The Wild Waters Festival dates are still to be confirmed but likely to dovetail with the Great Big Green Week which starts at the end of the first week in June. The Chair would like a panel discussion about water and domestic gardens as part of the festival (ideally in St Margaret's Hall).

45. Agenda item 7 – Green Spaces Update

The Green Spaces Officer referred to his update as supplied with the agenda.

Additionally:

- South West in Bloom will be visiting in July. Millie's garden and Westbury Garden will be tidied up in line with the visit.
- Westbury Garden Wall repairs – the permit to complete the works has been granted by the Environment Agency. A prop will be used initially and once the river levels become more predictably lower the work to repair the wall can commence.
- The Chair enquired whether volunteers such as from CLuB (Clean up Bradford on Avon) might be interested in signing up to attend Dorset/Somerset litter free workshops to 'pick up' some hints and tips.
- A collaboration between Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon and the local Girl Guides involved refurbishing the bug hotel at in Bearfield



recreation field. The town council gave permission for the works to go ahead. The Guides are completing Entomology and Biodiversity badges.

46. Agenda item 8 – Watermark Town award

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda.

Wessex Water are keen for the town to become a Watermark Town and will provide a grant of £2,500 to facilitate community projects around water use and reduced wastewater.

Proposed by Councillor Kay

Seconded by Councillor Vigar

And **with all in favour** it was **resolved**: the town council supports the project with Wessex Water to attain Watermark Town status, by arranging events and projects involving the community, to raise awareness of water use and waste.

47. Agenda item 9 – Wild Gardens (Bradford on Avon) project

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda. The Chair is keen to start a Rewild Garden project, similar to Nature Chain in neighbouring Winsley and Freshford, to demonstrate what an excellent resource gardens are to allow wildlife to flourish. Ultimately the Chair would like to develop a Green and Dark Corridors policy to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped the residents panel will be used to gather some relevant data on wildlife in gardens to start off this project.

The Chair would also like the public to take part in the volunteers 'Join In' event in June where a map of the town's gardens will allow residents to add data on wildlife friendly gardens.

Councillor Savva commented that she loved the project but perhaps information and tips regarding the encouragement, identifying and reporting of wildlife for those who might need support might be a good idea. This was generally agreed upon.

All councillors voted to support this project and the use of the residents panel to ask wildlife related questions.



48. Agenda item 10 – St Margaret’s Hall refurbishment and carbon audit update
The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda. This was to summarise the town council’s priorities with the refurbishment works starting at St Margaret’s Hall.

A resident had written with several questions which were answered during the course of the discussion and the Chair added that information provided will go on file. These can be found at the appendix to the minutes.

Councillor Vigar thanked the Chair for a comprehensive report and confirmed that decisions around future proofing or flood resilience options for the fixtures and fittings are continuing. Councillor Vigar went on to say the council has to balance practicality with aspirational solutions. St Margaret’s Hall needs to meet the terms of its insurance and be refurbished as soon as possible.

The carbon audit process is nearing completion and covers the whole of the town council’s estate. A plan for decarbonising the council’s buildings and activities will commence once it is clear what actions need to be taken in conjunction with budgetary constraints. Councillors reassured the public that climate friendly options are **always** considered even if not executed.

49. Provisional date of the next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 16 June 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.50pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 7 questions and one comment from members of the public at the meeting. There were 7 members of the public in total.

[Q1] A resident has sent in a number of questions via email which were largely answered during agenda item 10 - St Margaret's Hall (SMH) refurbishment and carbon audit - and will be summarised here by the responses given:

- (i) Carbon audit: It began around 5 months ago, collecting data from the town council estate (6 buildings and other premises used). The survey has cost £2,500 for a baseline position. The council is currently awaiting the responses. The council wishes to set up a rolling plan to reduce the carbon footprint across the estate within budgetary constraints and prioritising the most impact.
- (ii) The current boiler at SMH was inefficient and unreliable, the flooding finished it off. A heat source pump is not part of the refurbishment plan for various reasons: poorly insulated building, no underfloor heating, could need planning permission as in the conservation zone (also may be controversial), would need to be very large to be suitable having a massive impact on cost. The priority at the moment is to get SMH back in commission and stay within budget. Any new conventional boiler will be hugely more efficient than the old one.
- (iii) Whilst the council has sought to 'future proof' the building where it can (e.g. flooring chosen, electrics arranged appropriately), expert advice has been sought to understand what would be needed for a decarbonised approach such as a heat source pump. Costs at this time are not budget friendly and the council's priority will be to spend money decarbonising where we can make most impact in a phased project of some years.
- (iv) Planning is not needed for the council to refit on a like for like basis. See above for heat source pumps.
- (v) Insurance: details cannot discuss at this time
- (vi) Upgrades to the building will include more resilient flooring (no carpet), electrics which can be set further up the walls and away from further flood water, improvements to flood gates, painting comprehensively throughout.
- (vii) Site visits are not permitted now the contractors are in situ for HSE reasons.



The resident also suggested that a heat source pump working in reverse can cool a building down which could be useful to keep vulnerable residents cool in the increasing hot summer weather.

Councillors felt residents interested in such a facility should be asked about the location of a cool hub. It was thought one of the church buildings nearby might be a more suitable option. Leaflets for composting toilets were taken to be kept on file for future consideration.

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