



Community and Wellbeing committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026

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 [2](#), [5](#) & [10](#).

Present

Councillors:

- James Atkinson
- Kate Bessant (Vice-Chair)
- Kevin Elliott
- Ghika Savva
- George Simmonds
- Katie Vigar (Chair)

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown – Chief Executive and Town Clerk
- Sarah Hawkins - Accountant

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe

Guest Speaker

- Michelle O'Connor
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Jack Vittles
- Sam Blackwell



1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Agenda item 5 - Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Atkinson

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 10 February be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Agenda item 7 - Chair's Report

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

Additionally:

- The Chair added that she and Councillor Bessant will be looking for ways to bring the town photo trail to the residents and the general public.

5. Agenda item 8 - Grants Panel

Proposed by Councillor Savva

Seconded by Councillor Bessant

And with all in favour **resolved**: to approve the recommendations of the Grants panel which met on 13 May 2026.

Grants have been awarded as followed:

BoA Walkers are Welcome – Walking Festival – c.£390

Men's Shed and Repair café – assistance with course for volunteers

BoACAN - 'The Iron Duke Festival' - c.£2,000

Post natal support group – possible assistance with venue and grant funding dependent on accreditations and check with health centre regarding need



6. Agenda item 9 – Wellbeing in Bradford on Avon

The Chair introduced the item and referred to her report as supplied with the agenda. The Chair believes the role of the committee is to support the wellbeing of the community: physical and mental health, those dealing with social isolation, carers etc. The town council has explored how residents feel about wellbeing through the development of the Town Vision and via Residents' Panel questions. Typically, a sound health service, access to well-maintained green spaces and good social connections feature in answers.

The Chair also believes collaboration with other groups and services could be beneficial:

- the Health Centre who have offered topic specific webinars and attendance at events such as fun runs
- a volunteer bulletin might work to promote volunteer groups around the town and recruit volunteers. Councillor Savva also suggested promotion of groups via the newsletter and Snippets.
- there was wide agreement the town council should consider supporting the creation of volunteer groups, including the awarding of grants, and to see if existing groups could expand where gaps exist
- Councillors Simmonds and Bessant mentioned the town wide accessibility audit which is to be carried out

In conclusion the Chair encouraged the development of ideas to be brought to the Community and Wellbeing committee for consideration.

7. Agenda item 10 – Blood Loss Kits

The Town Clerk referred to his report as supplied with the agenda.

Councillor Simmonds, who is also a Wiltshire Councillor, confirmed that Wiltshire Council will be rolling out 100 bleed/blood loss kits across the county placing them in a range of sites including leisure facilities, schools and major transport hubs. Chosen sites will be evidence based.

A Bradford on Avon resident has applied to the area board for funding for kits, to be match funded by Wiltshire Music Centre, Mount Pleasant Social Club, and the Bowls Club. The Chair confirmed the town council



supports his application and will consider the purchase of kits for St Margaret's Hall and the Youth Centre.

8. Agenda item 11 - Tennis Courts update

The Town referred to his report as supplied with the agenda. He confirmed the council is in the process of engaging a coach to offer paid and Free Park Tennis sessions as well as sessions (free for some) for children over the summer holidays. A grant from the LTA will initially pay for the coach.

The income generated from the hire of the courts is to pay for a programme of maintenance and also some initial landscaping and a new footpath.

9. Agenda item 12 - BoA Youth update

The Community and Wellbeing Officer's report was considered.

The Chair commented it was great to have the summer holiday club back up and running during the school holidays with lots of interesting activities planned.

10. Agenda item 13 - Free menstrual products project

Councillor Simmonds introduced the item to members and referred to his report as supplied with the agenda. He had contacted the local Hub who support the supply of period products in the public toilets around the town. He believes the supply of such products is only in line with the supply of soap, loo paper and hand drying facilities.

Councillor Bessant recommended a local supplier of sustainable period products be considered when sourcing suppliers. This company can also provide free to user vending machines. It was widely agreed the use of a robust vending machine would be a good idea.

The Chair thanked Councillor Simmonds for all his work in this matter and suggested St Margaret's Hall and Youth Centre as suitable venues too.

Proposed by Councillor Simmonds

Seconded by Councillor Bessant



And with all in favour **resolved:** to introduce a 12-month pilot scheme providing free menstrual products in selected public toilets, exploring donation systems and charity partnerships to keep costs low.

11. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on 28 July 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm

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Appendix A: Presentation from Michelle O'Connor – Clean Air for Kids
Clean Air for Kids (CAfK) campaign was started up by a parent in Bristol as part of a solution to make schools safer for students with compromised immune systems during the pandemic. The aims included improving indoor air quality.

Air has many pollutants including PM2.5s (fine particulate matter) pathogens, gases, volatile organic compounds, dust and pollen. CAfK wants to see as many pollutants as possible removed from air circulating around schools. Air quality has serious impacts on health leading to respiratory illnesses, asthma and cognitive impairment. Studies have shown the consequences of poor air quality also impact students' performance in school with improved air quality leading to increased learning and an increase in overall achievements.

The goal is therefore to provide healthy, clean air environments to facilitate better learning, improve attendance and reduce ill health.

Benefits would include reduced sickness and absence for students and their families, improved performance and learning experiences and reduced spending on supply staff as fewer permanent staff would be absent.

In order to achieve improved air quality the following solutions can be employed: ventilation, use of air filters, education, monitoring of carbon dioxide and staying at home when sick. (Michelle would like to see an improved culture around not dragging yourself into work and school to 'spread germs around').

Overall CAfK would like a national policy introduced to improve indoor air quality.

The Chair thanked Michelle for her time and interesting presentation and Councillor Simmonds added he hoped both town and Wiltshire councillors could move forward with this initiative.



Appendix B: Comments and Questions from the Public and Councillors

There were 6 members of the public present, 2 members of the police force and 1 question was asked.

[Q1] – A resident quoted the summary from the minutes of the previous meeting regarding the council’s plan to investigate the provision of blood loss kits around town. The resident also mentioned the recent introduction of Martyn’s law where any venues with a capacity of 200 or more need to provide bleed kits.

The Chair confirmed that research by the council had failed to reveal any recommended figures for kits per head of the population. A common-sense approach in terms of distribution would need to be employed instead. A full response was given at the agenda item.

2 members of the local policing team also provided a short statement to councillors. Some statistics were presented regarding the sorts of recently reported crimes. They are happy to provide any requested information in this regard and plan to attend future committee meetings. Councillor Bessant asked if there was any advice following the disclosure of a spike in break-ins of non-domicile property such as sheds and outbuildings. PC Dentry commented that it is mostly power tools and bikes being targeted and he added if anything stolen is found, to leave alone and cover so it is protected from the elements ahead of forensic examination.