



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026

At United Church, Bradford on Avon,

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [51](#) & [57](#)

Present

Councillors:

- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Ghika Savva
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

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:

- Kate Bessant
- Andy Gordon



50. Declarations of Interest

None.

51. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Savva

Seconded by Councillor Vigar

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the minutes of the last committee meeting held on 27 January 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

52. Matters arising

None.

53. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

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

Additionally:

- The Wessex Water real-time testing is likely to be installed in about a fortnight.

54. A recent Sustainable Food and Drink Group meeting has discussed a range of sustainable food projects helping food security. This included a Wiltshire Council funded pilot scheme supplying the Hub with free vegetables through the summer. Vegetable farmers at Hartley Farm and Avonleigh are involved.

55. Agenda item 7 – Green Spaces Update

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

Additionally:

- South West in Bloom's Pride in Parks certificates have been awarded. Barton Country Park received 5 stars, and a plaque has been sent. Poulton Park received 4 stars. The pitches at Poulton need renovation and have been attended to with a mixture of scarifying, verti-draining and seeding.
- Becky Addy Wood: the town council has received confirmation there is no requirement to go back to court, all matters have been completed. There will be a tree and ecological survey to prepare a plan for the



coming year. Meanwhile litter has been removed and there has been some clearance of dead trees across public footpaths.

- Councillor Savva asked about the removal of a badger set at the Scout Hut premises. The Green Spaces Officer confirmed it is sitting with the Scouts to address and will likely be in the early autumn.
- Councillor Vigar suggested a few benches in other spots around town besides the green spaces to assist those who might appreciate a chance to sit down. One at the top of Whitehill replacing the previous planter/seat was raised. The Green Spaces Officer said he would look into this but it would need Wiltshire Council Highways approval.

56. Agenda item 8 – Watermark Town award

Wessex Water is hosting a launch event on 6 May with a couple of councillors meeting Wessex Water beforehand. This is the first engagement with the town to promote saving water, keeping water clean, considering energy costs etc.

57. Agenda item 9 – Carbon audit of the town estate

The report from Carbon Footprint Ltd has been received and considered by councillors and officers. A baseline level of emissions has now been established across the estate. St Margaret's Hall needs the most work and the council can now have a look into some of the suggestions to reduce the council's carbon footprint such as procuring utilities in an eco-friendlier way.

58. Agenda item 10 – St Margaret's Hall Energy project

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

Estimates for surveys to assess how to reduce the carbon footprint in St Margaret's Hall have been acquired and will be given to the Town Clerk for review. Councillor Vittles asked the Chair for a rough guide as the value of these estimates. The Chair confirmed in the region of £2,500 to be split between the town council and Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon.

Proposed by Councillor Kay

Seconded Councillor Vittles

And with all in favour **resolved**: Bradford on Avon Town Council and Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon to agree to work together as a shared



project to decarbonise and increase the resilience of St Margaret's Hall, including expert studies, fundraising and project planning.

This could be flagship opportunity in a central community and heritage building.

59. Agenda item 11 - Nature Chain Bradford on Avon

The Chair is hoping the survey questions agreed at the previous Environment and Green Spaces meeting will appear on the next Residents Panel. There is a meeting in May to agree the content for the next panel to be sent out in June. The Green Spaces Officer is to help with the questions. Councillor Vigar suggested the panel is primed/prompted beforehand and other residents should be offered the chance to either join the panel or answer the survey separately to gather as many responses as possible.

60. Agenda item 12 – Wild Water Festival

Currently 25 events are to be held across 10 communities along the River Avon including:

- Thank you for the Rain - Film - 10 June St Margaret's Hall
- Taking water for granted – Discussion forum and stalls – 18 June St Margaret's Hall
- Wildlife walk along the river – evening walk - 24 June
- Biodiversity treasure hunt in the library also as part of Library Green Book week and Great Big Green Week
- Folk music at the Wiltshire Music Centre

61. Agenda item 13 - Great Big Green Week 2026

This has largely been incorporated into the Wild Water Festival this year but is 6 - 14 June.

62. Litter Bins

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

The Green Spaces Officer reported that this is going well and the Chair added that she is very proud of the wonderful work the town wardens do.

The Chair and Councillor Vittles agreed the project to assist neighbouring villages with emptying some of their litter bins was a sound decision but would have preferred the project proposal was run past a couple of councillors to gain approval before it began.



63. Provisional date of the next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 30 June 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.07pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 4 questions and one comment from members of the public at the meeting. There were 5 members of the public in total.

[Q1] A resident asked whether the town council are likely to do anything about the rise in the number of herring gulls in Wiltshire/Somerset and therefore also Bradford on Avon.

Gulls are invading inland ecosystems, have a lifespan of around 12 years, no natural predators inland. As a consequence the young have much improved survival rates and gulls are predatory on inland bird species

The resident is concerned if gulls become a pest it will make Bradford on Avon less attractive as a tourist destination.

An aim could be to prevent nesting on flat elevated surfaces.

The Chair confirmed there was not much the council could do beside keeping litter and litter bins under control. The town council would not support any culling.

Councillor Vigar suggested a bit of research into how other towns may have tackled this where there have been issues.

The Green Spaces Officer confirmed a licence is needed to replace gull eggs with decoys but could be employed. It was generally agreed limiting food waste and litter around town would be the best option initially, if gulls become a problem.

[G2] A resident thanked the Green Spaces Officer for his assistance with the local Girl Guides who have been completing their Biodiversity Badge recently. The Green Spaces Officer helped the Guides in Bearfield orchard mulching, renovating the bug hotel and setting up a mud scrape for the nesting house martins.

[Q3] A resident asked three questions summarised by the responses given:

Water fountains around town are opened up for the summer and covered over during the winter months so frost does not affect the workings.

The plane tree in Westbury Gardens has been trimmed/pruned. The wall next to the tree will be rebuilt starting in June after the fish/swan breeding season. Councillor Vigar suggested a social media update in this regard.



Dilapidated fencing down by the railway bridge in the station carpark is the property of Network Rail and the town council has requested improvements. The council will ask again.