



Environment and Green Spaces committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026

At United Church, Bradford on Avon,

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [2](#) & [8](#)

Present

Councillors:

- Kevin Elliott
- Alex Kay (Chair)
- Andy Gordon
- Ghika Savva* arrived 7.15pm
- Katie Vigar

Town Council Officers

- Ian Brown – Town Clerk
 - Meeting clerk - Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Kate Bessant
- Jack Vittles



1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Alex Kay

Seconded by Councillor Katie Vigar

And with **all in favour** it was **resolved**: that the minutes of the last committee meeting held on 28 April 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting with the addition of 'additional sites' at the sentence: The Green Spaces Officer said he would look into this but *additional sites* would need Wiltshire Council Highways approval.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Update

The Chair referred to her report as supplied with the agenda. She began by remarking on the supercell thunderstorm event on 22 June 2026. This hour-long storm caused flash flooding, a tree falling into the Avon in the vicinity of the library, problems with drains and sewage flooding the Tithe Barn workshops. The Chair went on to say the damaged caused shows all efforts towards resilience and carbon reduction are even more important. Additionally, to her written report:

- Hanging Baskets – despite looking pretty the hanging baskets have struggled in the heat. Town Wardens have taken them down through the worst of the heat wave. Consequently, perhaps it's time for a new solution due the limitations of displaying baskets including: high maintenance, expensive, of little biodiversity value. The Chair suggested money could be redirected to a self-watering living wall for the side of St Margaret's Hall and suggested a project looking into this. Other councillors suggested they were interested in associated costs.
- The Chair also wished to thank the organisers of the Secret Gardens event. She was pleased to see some gardens are taking ecological and biodiversity issues seriously.
- The Wild Waters Festival had a couple of events cancelled due to extreme heat. The 'Taking water for granted' talk is to be rescheduled.



5. Agenda item 7 – Green Spaces Update

The Green Spaces Officer was absent and so the Town Clerk provided a short update.

Due to recent heatwaves, the town wardens working hours have been adjusted however all the usual activities are still being carried out.

One of the heritage phone boxes has been completely renovated, town wardens will move onto the others as time allows.

Restoration of Westbury Garden wall will take place in mid-July. Checks to ensure no bats are roosting in the wall must be completed ahead of the work.

South West in Bloom are due to visit at the end of July. The theme is 'resilience and recovery'.

The town council has been able to take parts from a set of closed public toilets in Westbury as spare parts for Bradford on Avon's public toilets. Town Wardens have consequently fixed a door so far.

Both the Chair and councillors thanked the town wardens for all their hard work in the extreme heat.

6. Agenda item 8 – St Margaret's Hall Sustainability project with Climate Friendly BoA

Contractors have been asked to provide options to decarbonise St Margaret's Hall. A meeting was held recently. The town clerk is hoping to have various proposals to consider over the course of the next month. A proposal will come to the next Environment and Green Spaces committee meeting in October.

7. Agenda item 9 – Nature Chain BoA

This is a survey to gather wildlife information from gardens, other green areas and small water bodies. The information can be used to map out green corridors and develop further projects perhaps with neighbouring settlements such as Winsley and Freshford who have also asked residents to complete similar surveys.

The chair provided an update. Promotional postcards cards have been printed using photos from a local undergraduate and excellent wildlife



photographer. One of the cards has tips for how to make your garden wildlife friendly and a link for rewilding tips from Freshford's Nature Chain project. The second card has details on how to access the garden survey. Additionally, the survey has been or will be promoted via Facebook, the library, formed part of the Resident's Panel, the newsletter and Holy Trinity street market. There was also a discussion over whether the information could be circulated via school newsletters.

The link to survey is provided here: [Wild Bradford on Avon](#)

Around 60 surveys have already been completed. Councillor Gordon thanked the Chair for all her efforts with this project. As a side note Anna Hislam was thanked for her upkeep of the spectacular 'no dig' flower and vegetable beds along the river near the swimming pool.

8. Agenda item 10 – River Charter following Wild Waters Festival

The Chair referred to the charter supplied with the agenda. This charter was set up by neighbouring Winsley Parish Council. The Chair thinks it would be good for the town to embrace the ethos described in the charter as a consequence of the community projects and activities along the River Avon such as Wild Waters Festival, Nature Chain and the healthy rivers project.

Councillor Vigar clarified that the charter recognises the rights of the water in the River Avon rather than the council be responsible for the river. The Chair confirmed Councillor Vigar's clarification.

Proposed by Councillor Kay
Seconded Councillor Gordon

And with all in favour **resolved**: Bradford on Avon Town Council adopted the River Charter as set out at Appendix B.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 13 October 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.50pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were 2 questions from members of the public at the meeting. There were 7 members of the public in total.

[Q1] A resident asked where the seat down by the willow maze has gone?

The Town Clerk thought it had probably been taken away by the Men's Shed for renovation. The Men's shed are doing several around town at the moment.

[Q2] A question was asked about the horse chestnut tree down in the river.

The Chair confirmed the Kayak Club has cut some of it up, but the Environment Agency has been informed, and it is ultimately their responsibility to sort out.



Rights of the Bristol Avon and Bioregion

1. Right to exist, thrive, and evolve naturally

To maintain the river's entire life cycle absolutely without obstructions or extractions that detrimentally affect ecological function where reasonably practical

2. Right to flow sustainably

Through naturally functioning patterns that support the resilience of the river's ecosystem where reasonably practical

3. Right not to be polluted

To maintain good ecological health absolutely and be free from detrimental levels of known and emerging pollutants

4. Right to biodiversity integrity

To promote good biological health through the existence and flourishing of diverse species and unique habitats

5. Right to regeneration and restoration

To recover to full ecological function and be resilient to the ecological threats caused by human-derived climate instability

6. Right to cultural and community connection

To recognise the value and interconnectedness of all living entities, including human, with the river and the bioregion

7. Right to representation and advocacy

To have an active and influential voice to speak on behalf of the river and to uphold the river's rights