Community and Wellbeing committee minutes

Minutes

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

At St Margaret's Hall, St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon

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Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minute 13, 16, 19, & 20.

Present

Councillors:

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

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown – Chief Executive and Town Clerk
- Sarah Hawkins – Accountant
- George Tomlinson – Community and Engagement Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe

Guest Speaker - none

Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Sam Blackwell
- George Simmonds
- Jack Vittles

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Agenda item 4 - 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 19 May 2026 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

14. Matters arising

None.

15. Agenda item 6 - Chair's Report

The Chair began by thanking all those who have been involved, led by the Deputy Town Clerk, in the renovation work at St Margaret's Hall after the flooding of November 2024. She confirmed it is a pleasure to be back in the hall.

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

Additionally:

- BoA Join In – the Chair thanked the Community and Engagement Officer and staff team for all their hard work putting the event together.
- It was agreed amongst several councillors present that the provision of summer holiday activities for ages 7-13 by the town council was to be encouraged and supported. A useful, affordable and accessible resource providing support for parents and their assisting grandparents.
- The Chair reiterated the town council's policy that there should be no barbecuing on town council land at any time but especially during the current, verging on drought like, conditions.
- National Emergency Briefing film – an additional showing would be a good idea in St Margaret's Hall with town council promotion. To be confirmed.

16. Agenda item 7 - Grants Panel

The Chair referred to the report supplied with the agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Bessant
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

And with all in favour **resolved:** to approve the recommendations of the Grants panel which met on 15 July 2026.

Grants have been awarded as followed:
Friends of BoA Station – community garden – c.£1000
The Cowshed – Polytunnel - £3,304
Men's Shed – Bandsaw and accessories - £1,454
BoA Lock (canal) – Defibrillator for lock-side - £390

17. Agenda item 8 - BoA Youth update

The Community and Wellbeing Officer's report was considered.
The recruitment of a deputy youth co-ordinator and additional youth worker was highlighted. Councillor Bessant also reiterated that the provision of youth services by the town council was an important service to offer along with the Summer Holiday Club.

18. Agenda item 9 – Residents Panel

The report from the Community and Engagement Officer was considered as supplied with the agenda alongside a preliminary report following a volunteering survey.
The Chair began by stating the main theme of the of the panel this time was about understanding support for wildlife in gardens. In fact, the wildlife elements of the panel questions form a 'nature chain' survey which the town council is running. Plenty of residents have completed the survey and it is still available to download on the town council website.

There were also questions about volunteering following on from the BoA Join In day. The Chair flagged up that of those who do not currently volunteer, 33% were potentially interested in joining a volunteering

organisation. The Chair saw this is encouraging as with the right publicity around volunteering opportunities new recruits seem possible.

The findings from the panel therefore include the Environment and Green Spaces committee to investigate the results gathered from the wildlife in gardens questions and the development of a volunteer bulletin. The usefulness of a volunteer bulletin was also borne out from the volunteering survey, the preliminary results of which were also available. The groups that took part in the Join In event were canvased and a significant number would like a bulletin to be published, ideally, once a quarter.

50% of volunteering groups who responded were also interested to meet with the town council to discuss opportunities for council support.

19. Agenda item 10 - Town Council and Events

The report from Town Clerk was considered as supplied with the agenda. The Chair began by confirming this had been a full year of events with the new council in place. The town council has chosen to prioritise the provision of free events for the benefit of residents and businesses, who appreciate the extra income.

Working parties exist for major events with two councillors siting on the committees. Other events are so long standing or small scale so no working parties and in the event of an issue the mayor or deputy mayor will be consulted.

The Chair continued that the key principle is to ensure events largely remain free as they support the community and keep events accessible. Additionally, it is simpler to manage if problems develop, easier for security of the event as no need to separate ticket holders from everyone else and bring people into town. Stallholder fees, sponsorship and donations are collected to recoup some of the expenses.

Proposed by Councillor Atkinson

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

And with all in favour **resolved**: to endorse the current approach to the staging of events in town.

20. Agenda item 11 – Arts Trail 2027 – preparation

The report from the town clerk was considered as supplied with the agenda. Handmade in Bradford on Avon would like town council support in setting up an Arts Trail in town mainly using existing galleries and shops as venues.

Proposed by Councillor Bessant

Seconded by Councillor Savva

And with all in favour **resolved**: to partner Handmade in Bradford on Avon in setting up an Arts Trail in BoA in 2027.

21. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on 27 October 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.25 pm

Appendix A: Comments and Questions from the Public and Councillors

There was 1 members of the public present, and no questions were asked.

[Q1] -