Full Council meeting

Minutes

From the meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 1 September 2026

At: St Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the Full Council at this meeting are at minutes **31**, **35** & **36**.

Present

Councillors:

- James Atkinson
- Kate Bessant
- Sam Blackwell (Chair)
- Kevin Elliott (Vice-Chair)
- Andy Gordon
- Alex Kay
- Ghika Savva
- George Simmonds
- Chris Spence
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Meeting clerk:

- Chris Stringer – Deputy Town Clerk

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28. Agenda item 1

Questions and comments at the start of the meeting are noted in appendix A.

Questions and comments on the traffic update (agenda item 7) are noted in that minute.

29. Agenda item 2 – Apologies

From Town Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Councillor Ben Reed

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30. Agenda item 3 - Declarations of interest

None.

31. Agenda item 4 – Minutes from the previous meeting of the Full Council

Proposed by Councillor Andy Gordon

Seconded by Councillor Chris Spence

And with all in favour, it was unanimously **resolved**: to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 12 July 2026 as a true record of that meeting.

32. Agenda item 5 – Matters arising

None.

33. Agenda item 6 - To note the minutes of the meetings of the committee meetings since the last Full Council meeting.

The minutes from the following committee meetings were noted:

- Environment & Green Spaces on 30 June 2026
- Community & Wellbeing on 28 July 2026

34. Agenda item 7 – Chair's update

Councillor Sam Blackwell presented his update.

Councillor Blackwell also added to his report at the meeting:

- Mentioning that Wiltshire Council's scoping consultation for the Local Plan runs from Wednesday 2 September to Wednesday 30 September – and that this is an opportunity for everyone to participate and have their say in the Local Plan.
- Highlighting the upcoming West Wiltshire Business Expo in Trowbridge on Thursday 8 October.

35. Agenda item 8 – Presentation from Wiltshire Council

The Chair introduced and welcomed officers from Wiltshire Council's Sustainable Transport and Traffic Engineering teams:

- Martin Aldam, Senior Transport Planner
- Kirsty Rose, Principal Engineering Manager

Martin presented an update on behalf of Wiltshire Council.

The presentation focused on proposals to improve the pedestrian space on Silver Street, with wider pavements, courtesy crossings and an improved pedestrian route from The Shambles to Kingston Road.

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The proposals include restrictions on cars, motorcycles and goods vehicles travelling up Silver Street during busier daytime hours, for example between 7am and 7pm.

Wiltshire Council's officers summarised that the proposed road changes would reduce traffic on Silver Street and improve conditions for pedestrians, businesses and residents - but stressed the need to retain current bus routes at all hours and a road layout that can accommodate two-way traffic (at least during quieter hours)

The proposals could be designed and put in place using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (sometimes referred to as an ETRO – or ETO)

An ETRO would be in place for a minimum of 6 months – and up to 18 months.

During this time, the proposals would be on trial - allowing for the changes to be tested and monitored, and for evidence on their impacts to be gathered.

Following the presentation, the Chair confirmed he would take comments and questions from the public – before councillors discussed the presentation.

Questions and comments from the public

There was about an hour of questions and comments from the public – with responses from both Martin and Kirsty (on behalf of Wiltshire Council) and from the Chair.

There were a number of questions and comments about the bus services that run in (and through) the town – with some feeling that the scheme being proposed for Silver Street has been designed with disproportionate reverence to the bus services.

A number of people in the audience still favour a one-way system for the town (like the one that operated during Covid)

Some countered that by highlighting that the data and modelling prepared by Atkins suggests that a one-way system wouldn't work.

There were concerns about how displaced traffic might impact the rest of the town.

And some comments that the proposal seems to (only) focus on Silver Street – without thinking about the wider town. Meaning that it could be a local solution – but not a town solution.

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Other comments and questions mentioned:

- Whether there could be a pedestrian crossing at the Bullpit (for people who've crossed the bridge on the left-hand side of the road – and then want to get back across the road)
- Access in and out of Mill Lane
- The impact of roadworks on the traffic network – and whether it might be possible to introduce temporary one-way systems when roadworks happen, depending on where the roadworks are (and the extent and duration of the works)

Councillor discussion

Councillors acknowledged the complexity and difficulty of the problem.

And it was mentioned that the town council had helped to fund the Atkins study, when it now seems to be the case that none of the modelled options were suitable from the start because they included a bus gate – and it appears that a bus gate isn't feasible.

There was some uncertainty about whether the ETRO would work, too.

But overall, there was positivity that something was (finally) happening in the town in an attempt to address the longstanding traffic problems. And a desire to put an ETRO in place to make some changes 'on the ground' and to see (and test) whether those changes work.

It was also stated that councillors hoped this would be a first step – or the first piece of a puzzle – in addressing traffic concerns across the town.

As part of this, councillors restated their ambition to see a 20mph limit put in place across the whole of the town.

Following the discussion, Councillor Sam Blackwell suggested the following motion:

That the town council asks Wiltshire Council's engineers to design, detail and cost the full set of road and pedestrian improvements for Silver Street – for review by the town council.

Proposed by Councillor Blackwell

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

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And with all in favour, it was unanimously **resolved:** to ask Wiltshire Council to design and cost the full set of road and pedestrian improvements for Silver Street – for review by the town council.

With the agreed improvements to be put in place using an Experimental Traffic Order.

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36. Agenda item 9 – Confidential business

Councillors voted to take the meeting into confidential business – to discuss agenda item 10.

Proposed by Councillor Blackwell

Seconded by Councillor Elliott

And with all in favour, it was unanimously **resolved**: to enter into confidential business.

37. Agenda item 10 – Further asset transfer

The minutes from this item are confidential at this time.

In due course, the minutes may be wholly or partially published.

38. Next meeting

The next Full Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 November 2026.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

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Appendix A:

Questions asked and comments made during agenda item 1.

(Q1) What is the status of the town council's ownership of the Shoulder of Mutton allotment site?

The Chair confirmed that the town council manages and looks after the allotments on a leasehold basis from Wiltshire Council.

As such, Wiltshire Council remains the owner of the land.

The Chair explained that the council would not make the lease available to the public because of its sensitivity.

(Q2) A resident asked if (and when) the Thursday afternoon tea dance would resume.

The Chair and the Town Clerk confirmed that the tea dance is set to return to St Margaret's Hall. This will happen as soon as possible – with dates to be confirmed.

(Q3) A resident questioned whether the wording used on the agenda for item 9 is correct and in line with the legislation that allows the town council to discuss matters confidentially.

The Chair said that Officers would check the wording for accuracy and clarity.

(Q4) A resident was pleased that the People's Emergency film – and asked the council to promote this screening since the film is so important.

The Chair agreed with these sentiments- and confirmed that the screening would be widely advertised and promoted.

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