

The Guildhall  
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## Minutes

**Meeting of** : Full Council  
**Date** : 6 March 2023  
**Meeting held** : The Guildhall  
**Commencing at** : 6:30pm

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Present:

Chair: Cllr T Corbin

Vice Chair:

Cllrs: A Bayliss, J Bolwell, J Broom, S Charleston, V Charleston, B Dalton, C Hibbert, S Hocking, J King, C McGrath, J Nettle, A Riddle, E Rimmer, R Rogers, C Stanway, I Tomes, J Wells and E Wills.

Officers: Annie Child, Estelle Sherry and Thomas Simpkins

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### **1218. Apologies:**

- 1218.1. Cllr L Blackwood gave her apologies
- 1218.2. Cllr C Corbin gave her apologies
- 1218.3. Cllr A Hoque gave his apologies.
- 1218.4. Cllr M Mewse gave his apologies.
- 1218.5. Cllr P Sample gave his apologies

### **1219. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

- 1219.1. No public questions or statements were received.

### **1220. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

- 1220.1. A Councillor statement was submitted by Cllr Hocking, in relation to the Minutes of the Accessibility Inclusion Task Group of 28 February 2023 and was presented by the Chairman. The statement can be found at the end of these minutes. The Chairman directed that this was to be forwarded to the Chair of the Accessibility and Inclusion Task Group for their consideration.

1220.2. A Councillor question was submitted by Cllr Nettle and was presented by the Chairman. The question and written response can be found at the end of these minutes.

1220.3. A Councillor statement was submitted by Cllr Wills in response to the previous Parish meeting that was held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 and was presented by the Chairman. This statement can be found at the end of these minutes.

**1221. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

1221.1. The minutes of the last meeting of the Full Council held on 16 January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**1222. Declaration of Interest:**

1222.1. There were no declarations of interest

**1223. Dispensations:**

1223.1. No dispensations were requested.

**1224. Chairman's Announcements:**

1224.1. The Chairman commented on inaccurate social media posts and the potential harm they can cause. He encouraged councillors to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity with regard to this.

1224.2. The Chairman noted that intended to bring forward a motion to name a city location after King Charles III to the next Community Services meeting.

1224.3. The Chairman also made several further announcements concerning his mayoral activities, which can be seen at the end of these minutes.

**1225. Administration Leaders Announcements:**

1225.1. Cllr Victoria Charleston gave a report on the behalf of the Administration Group Leaders. Cllr Charleston firstly welcomed back Cllr McGrath and that we all wish him well on his recovery going forwards. Cllr Wills was also congratulated on becoming the Conservative Group Leader. Cllr Charleston noted the similarities between the administration goals and Cllr Wills' and the Administration Group leaders looks forward to working with her, especially on revitalising Salisbury's economy, driving footfall, cleaner and safe streets, protecting the environment and community engagement.

1225.2. Over the last seven weeks since the last Full Council, the Administration Group Leaders have hosted a neighbouring parish council meeting with positive conversations regarding working on events and sharing planning concerns.

1225.3. Cllr Riddle and Cllr V Charleston attended the Future Salisbury Place Partnership meeting, on behalf of the Administration, where there was a

update on the hospital's HEAT project, which may lead to an increase need in housing in the next ten years. It was noted that after a discussion at the Place Partnership, these minutes have now been made public and have been distributed to Councillors.

1225.4. The Administration leaders met with Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council last week, discussing action on our property on Blue Boar Row.

1225.5. They are also look forward to seeing and attending the coming season of Council events, starting with St George's Day next month.

#### **1226. Referral of Minutes:**

1226.1. Councillors reviewed and noted the minutes as listed below:

Planning and Development	23 January 2023
Events, Markets & Grants Sub-Committee	30 January 2023
Community Services	6 February 2023
Planning and Development	20 February 2023

#### **1227. Committee Reports:**

Chairman were invited to report on the activities of their committees, where appropriate.

1227.1. Cllr Tom Corbin, chair of the Planning Committee noted that the Committee is very busy at the moment and meet every 4 weeks, where all are welcome to attend.

1227.2. Cllr Sam Charleston, Chair of the Events, Markets and Grants Sub Committee noted that the Committee have recently been busy awarding bursary grants, approving rent reductions and have discussed grants policy, resulting in the proposed redrafting of the grant policy to not approve multi year grants in the future, bringing us in line with the similar way the Area Board approve grants.

1227.3. Cllr Wells, Chair of the Environment and Climate Committee noted that the Committee will be next meeting on the 13 March.

#### **1228. Outside Representatives:**

The following Outside Representatives gave a update:

1228.1. Cllr Sam Charleston gave a update from Wiltshire Creative, mentioning that the opening night of their production of 'How the Other Loves' was well attended, ticket sales are currently positive and the theatre and events industry is slowly recovering. It was noted that Cllr Charleston is looking forward to the upcoming performance of the Tempest being held in Churchill Gardens in the early summer.

- 1228.2. Cllr Sven Hocking gave an update from the Southern Area Flooding Task Group, noting that the group met recently last week to review the previous flooding, noting two new sites of flooding and are working to reduce flooding at these sites in the future. He thanked the Flood Warden for their work.
- 1228.3. Cllr Chris Stanway provided an update from the Salisbury Allotments and Gardens Association, noting some of the many areas of work developments by the association from December 2022 – March 2023. The lottery bid for funding development of community facilities has been turned down so the committee are considering other future possibilities e.g. exploring ideas about increasingly expanding community gardens projects growing fruit and veg with, and for local communities. Research, both formal and anecdotal, about positive benefits of keeping allotments and gardens in supporting community resilience, health and positives health and well-being. Some maintenance has been completed in all sites throughout the area Allotment invoices are now being processed electronically wherever possible. Information about joining AGAS can be found in the allotment section of SCC website or from the trading hut which is NOW OPEN every Saturday and Sunday 9.30 to 12.30 Good range of stock including variety of seed potatoes, beans as well as manure, compost and lots of helpful advice. AGAS Membership was 297 with 61 new members. The old shop has been cleared and handed back to the council. New containers are now in place but discussion is ongoing about whether they could be moved further into the site.

**1229. Accessibility and Inclusion Task Group Report:**

Cllr Blackwood, Chairman of the Accessibility and Inclusion Task Group, sent her apologies for this. It was noted, therefore that a written report will be distributed to Councillors at a later date.

**1230. Financial Regulations and Internal Financial Controls:**

The Responsible Finance Officer, Estelle Sherry presented the report and update of SCC's Financial Regulations and Internal Financial Controls, and it was;

**Resolved to:**

- 1230.1. Approve the adoption of the revised Financial Regulations and Internal Financial Controls.

**1231. Investment Strategy:**

The Responsible Finance Officer, Estelle Sherry presented the report and update of Salisbury City Council's Investment Strategy, and it was;

**Resolved to:**

1231.1. Approve the revised Investment Strategy.

**1232. Neighbourhood Development Plan:**

Full Council considered delegation authority to the Planning and Development Committee to approve the Regulation 16 Neighbourhood Development Plan Documents, and it was;

**Resolved that:**

1232.1. The Council delegate authority to the Planning and Development Committee to approve the NDP Regulation 16 consultation documents.

**There were no members of the public and 1 member of the press present.  
The meeting closed at 7.47pm.**

## **Councillor Statement – Cllr Sven Hocking – Mon 6 Mar 2023**

In relation to the Minutes of the Accessibility Inclusion Task Group of 28<sup>th</sup> Feb I wish to make the following statement at Full Council this evening:-

1. Re Item 5, the minutes state that this Council has commissioned yet another Consultancy Firm to advise on Accessibility to the three play areas in our larger parks. If, after generations of managing play areas, a bit of help from Google ,and input from local disability groups we are unable to work out how to do this for ourselves then serious questions need to be asked around this Council's capabilities. This demonstrates a complete lack of confidence by the Council to make any decisions for itself, and a complete lack of competence by this Administration to get a grip on the ever-increasing cost of Consultants - witness the last decision to commission another Consultancy to advise on what to plant in a patch of ex-grazing land to make it insect friendly. This is yet another shocking waste of public money at a time when this Council should be looking at working more efficiently rather than squandering scant resources on basic projects that should easily be manageable from within.
2. Re Item 7.2, it is not necessary for this Council to invite the local Highways Engineer to discuss the issues around barriers in underpasses, precisely because the Council already knows the issues, and, that they are already being addressed. This piece of work is being undertaken through the Area Board via a working group comprising National Highways, Wiltshire Council, various community group, including the Disability Inclusion Group Salisbury (DIGS) and yes, the City Council given Officers attend the meeting, which have been running for a year. This is another duplication of effort and resources and further evidence that the Administration's right hand clearly doesn't know what it's left hand is doing.

## **Councillor Question to Full Council – Cllr Nettle – Mon 6 Mar 2023**

Mr Mayor

Could you or our officers advise the Council when the litter Bins that have been removed will be reinstated, and if so will they be dual bins to encourage recycling? I am sure like other members, we have ALL had a number of emails and especially from dog walkers who are keen to deposit their litter in suitable and appropriate Bins.

May I also take the opportunity to ask, given that we have brought in the Contracted services for our Parks and open spaces and Street cleaning. When will members see an agreed Service Level agreement (SLA) for this service so that we can monitor the quality and timeliness of our teams.

It would be useful for our residents who live in areas of residents parking to know the schedule and approximate times for their respective Street cleaning, as doing so may help the road sweepers get to sweep the gutters rather than going up and down the middle of the road.

## **Response to Cllr Nettle's Question to Full Council – Mon 6 Mar 2023**

There are over 400 bins within the Salisbury parish area. There were 481 bins in 2022, and this was reduced to 403 by the beginning of 2023.

Due to reduced staff numbers during the transitional period between in house and contracted Street Scene services 78 bins were removed. The Council issued press releases on 17 and 28 Nov 2023 telling the public about this reduction in bins. The Streetscene team, and Parks teams, are coming up to full strength following recruitment during Dec, Jan and Feb.

The Council has taken this opportunity to review the efficiency and distribution of litter bins in parks and on streets across the city. This has meant that the removed bins have not all be replaced without due consideration. The Council has carefully monitored litter issues via reports from our team on the ground on a daily basis, via the MyWilts App and by councillors reporting residents' concerns. When necessary, and in line with the agreed Litter Bin Policy, the Council has replaced bins previously removed where there is evidence to support its replacement. To date, 8 bins have been reinstated.

In terms of dual litter/recycling bins, it is the Council's routine approach to replace any bin with a recycling bin, where funds for these new bins allow. The Council retains a small stock of standard old-style bins to supplement any other bin replacement if recycling bins cannot be purchased.

In areas where fly tipping is known to occur, the Council has placed CCTV recording warning stickers as deterrence against further littering. The Council has two fully redeployable cameras that are moved around the city to identified anti-social behaviour hotspots as and when required. These cameras could be deployed to the fly tipping and littering locations if needed.

The Council will not be publishing a Service Level Agreement as there are not two parties involved which need to be in agreement. However, the Council does follow the DEFRA Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse 2006 which sets out grades of cleanliness as follows (Para 7.0)

For litter and refuse:

**Grade A:** No litter or refuse

**Grade B:** Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

**Grade C:** Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations with minor accumulations

**Grade D:** Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations

Further details are available on the government' s website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-litter-and-refuse>

The Council aims that all areas within the ring road will to be Grade A and all other areas Grade B, with any areas graded C and D scheduled for urgent attention. The Council will soon be using an app based system to improve the recording of cleanliness to enable the best use of resources where most needed.

As Idverde, our previous contractor, and Wiltshire Council prior to the transfer of street cleaning to the City Council in 2017, the City Council cannot give a detailed forecast of precise timings for the cleaning of individual streets. As councillors will appreciate whilst the Council does have proposed and planned schedule this is subject to continuous, and at times urgent, change as the Council must prioritise tasks such as clearing broken glass, dog foul, offensive graffiti, spillages and other hazards. However, each street in the parish will receive cleansing attention at a minimum of 3 times a year.

Residents are encouraged to report any Street Scene issues on the MyWilts app and to do their part by taking their litter home with them if a bin is not immediately available.



## **Councillor Statement – Cllr Eleanor Wills – Mon 6 Mar 2023**

### **Full Council Statement on the Parish Meeting**

*I have prepared a statement in response to the previous Parish Meeting that took place on Wednesday 22 February. The purpose of this statement is to ensure that the sentiment of many of those present is heard by Full Council tonight.*

As I left my house and walked over to the Guildhall, I was fully prepared to see an empty room. Perhaps three good-willing friends, maybe members of the six who called for the meeting initially. Perhaps we would get to ten if we counted the Chair and an interested member of the public.

I was absolutely prepared to fail, for the meeting to be cast as a failure by everyone around this table, because at least I knew I had tried to make a difference.

The task was simple: why do we not restrict ourselves to the same fiscal discipline that larger authorities have to? The very councils who really do provide the key services? A 5% cap isn't ground-breaking, it's what larger authorities do from Wiltshire to Dorset, from Shropshire to Southend-on-Sea.

So to walk in and see this room full, with over 120 members of the public in attendance, should immediately hint to us all the strength of feeling in the community about a local tax bill going up by 44%.

Given that not all of us were here that night, and given the effort residents put in to attend the Parish Meeting, I think it is vitally important that the key points highlighted that evening are raised in this forum.

The first point to make is that, on the evening, residents overwhelmingly supported the 5% cap on future precept rises. Whether it was commentary from small business owners, who spoke about the importance of budgeting, and living within your means, to residents who highlighted their concern that the City Council was not adequately putting residents first, compelling points were made in the context of the day-to-day decisions on sound money management we all have to make at home and at work.

Secondly, residents spoke not of political allegiance but of apathy and a deep frustration that the 44% rise in the precept was happening without any real explanation or justification.

Finally, we heard that residents felt that the City Council administration could do more to engage with residents more generally, with many good ideas being suggested on the night. For example:

- adverts taken out in the Salisbury Journal for upcoming meetings, as the Cathedral does for its' services;
- more posters across the city regularly advertising meetings;
- and more opportunity for residents' voices to be heard, as with the recent Parish Meeting.

So, what next? The Parish Poll will highly likely go ahead. I hope that residents' voices will be heard.

I would also like to invite Councillors to consider a working group to look at improved community engagement across three key pillars: the budget setting process, specific consultations, and the development of the events programme.

And I would absolutely urge everyone here to respect the wishes of our electorate, the people who put us here, whichever way they vote in the poll, if it does go ahead.

Because contrary to the leaflet that was distributed around Salisbury by the Liberal Democrat party this weekend, this fiasco, this strength of feeling, was not caused by “six years of Conservative failure”.

It was actually Obama in his book ‘The Audacity of Hope’ who gives us the answer.

He praises Reagan’s initial victory in 1981 and says ‘that [his] message found such a receptive audience spoke not only to his skills as a communicator; it also spoke to the failures of liberal government, during a period of economic stagnation, to give middle-class voters any sense that it was fighting for them. For the fact was that government at every level had become too cavalier about spending taxpayer money’.

So to explain, the strength of feeling in the Guildhall was really caused by the most dangerous emotion of all: frustration and that leads to apathy.

## **Chairman's Mayoral Engagement Announcements**

**Cllr Tom Corbin – Mon 6 Mar 2023**

Since Full Council 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Along with the Deputy Mayor I joined the Saintes Twinning association lunch at Riverside Hotel. In an area of personal interest I joined the Salisbury Civic Society awards held at the Arts Centre.

Out of area attendances included joining with Phoenix Artists as they shared their art with Milford House care home. I also joined the opening of Happy Days Nursery at Longhedge and more recently I attended Highworth church Civic service.

I enjoyed the opening launch of Cake Box on Catherine Street.

An inspiring careers event was held across both Wiltshire College and Salisbury Sixth Form College in conjunction with Salisbury & District Chambers of Commerce with dozens of local employers represented.

Holocaust Memorial Day was very poignant with local people giving stories of how the holocaust impacted on their families' lives.

Finishing work I caught up just in time with the Harnham community tree planting in Parsonage Green for a photo op.

I very much enjoyed the play "How the other half lives" at Salisbury Playhouse. I have attended two British Citizenship ceremonies. I joined Salisbury Hospice Charity on the Guildhall Square for their glass and fire walk fundraising event.

I am very grateful to Bob and Jeanette from Standing with Giants for bringing the art installation to Salisbury depicting a soldier helping a family. This will be moved on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please encourage people to contribute to either of the charities using the QR codes, Berr and Ukrainian Hub or indeed supporting Standing with Giants who have sacrificed a sizeable sum of money to bring the artwork to Salisbury.

As extended to all councillors and staff I joined in celebrating the change over of a new generation taking over Shirly Snells, with Sam and Nick taking over from Phil and Jill.

Last Friday after an interview with BBC Wiltshire at St. Thomas Church I attended a special lunch provided and cooked by Salisbury Pantry partnership at Salisbury Methodist Church for the Ukrainian families and their hosts. This was quickly followed by my attendance of World Day of Prayer service at St. Francis Church, this years focus was on women in Taiwan.

Thank you to those who were able to support yesterday's Civic service, with thanks to Kelvin and his team including many volunteers at St. Thomas' Church for a very poignant 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the poisoning attack on our City.

Today of course was Robert Key's funeral. I am sure we all have fond memories of Robert. I saw him on many occasions over the years and feel the respect he earned as MP was never lost by Salisbury.