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# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Environment and Climate Committee  
**Date** : 13 March 2023  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 6.30pm

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Present:

Chair: Cllr J Wells Vice Chair: A Riddle

Cllrs: V Charleston, C Hibbert, S Hocking, J Nettle, R Rogers, C Stanway and E Wills.

Cllrs also present: T Corbin

Officers: Annie Child, Marc Read and Janine Whitty

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## **54. Apologies:**

- 54.1. Cllr A Hoque was substituted by Cllr J Nettle.
- 54.2. Cllr J Bolwell was substituted by Cllr R Rogers.

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

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

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

- 56.1. Cllr Hocking submitted several questions which will be answered via written responses.
- 56.2. Cllr Wills submitted a question, the committee agreed to investigate this matter further.
- 56.3. Cllr Nettle submitted a question. This question was acknowledged during item 11 during the officer's report.

All questions are enclosed at the end of the minutes.

**57. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting of Services Committee held on 12 December 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**58. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**59. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

**60. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman made no announcements.

**61. Tree & Ecosystem Strategy:**

Matthew Johns provided an update on the Tree & Ecosystem Strategy work that John Associates is working on with SCC. Cllrs asked questions about the strategy's plan going forward and thanked Mr Johns for his very comprehensive presentation, and it was:

**Resolved to:**

61.1. Note the presentation.

**62. Petersfinger Community Solar Farm:**

Wiltshire Wildlife Energy and Communities (WWCE) for Renewables provided a presentation regarding the proposed community solar project located adjacent to the Water treatment station in [Petersfinger](#). The Vice- Chairman Cllr A Riddle asked that SCC's Planning & Development continue to be consulted as a neighbouring parish regarding this matter. The committee Cllrs asked further questions and thanked members of WWCE for the presentation, and it was:

**Resolved to:**

62.1. Note the presentation.

**63. River Park Project Update:**

Andy Wallis from the Environment Agency provided an update on the River Park project, in particular the new play area and its river bank ecology theme. Cllrs thanked Mr Wallis for the update, and it was:

**Resolved to:**

63.1. Note the presentation.

**64. Environmental Services Update:**

Marc Read provided an Environmental Services update, including Streetscene, Facilities, CCTV, Crematorium & Cemeteries and Parks. Cllr Nettles question in which he raises the issue of litter being located near bus stops. The committee discussed this further, and it was suggested that during the next roll out of recycling bins that they are located near bus stops where possible. Cllr Hocking read out the questions 1 – 10 he submitted which are to be answered in writing following the meeting. Cllrs thanked the officer for his presentation, and it was:

**Resolved to:**

64.1. Note the presentation.

**65. Environmental Policy Action Plan:**

Marc Read provided an Environmental Policy Action Plan update. Cllr Hocking also provided an air quality and flooding update, the air quality group minutes are to be circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Hocking also read out questions 11 – 13 submitted. Cllrs thanked the officer for his presentation, and it was:

**Resolved to:**

65.1. Note the presentation.

**Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman decides should be discussed as a matter of urgency for information only. Please note that the Council cannot lawfully consider or determine any matter which is not specified on the Agenda of this summons.**

There were 6 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

**Agenda Item 3.**  
**Councillor Questions/Statements**

**Question submitted by Cllr Wills:**

Dear Annie,

As discussed on Friday, and then this morning, I am submitting the following question for discussion at tonight's sub-committee.

“As Ward Councillor for Harnham West, the new owners and general manager of the Old Mill contacted me to ask about toilet facilities in Harnham Rec Ground. For many years, the Rec Ground has been used by members of the public to paddle in the river with children getting changed in the park to do this. There are no toilet facilities at the Rec Ground, save for the cricket pavilion which is closed outside of matches.

The toilet facilities at the Old Mill are regularly used by visitors to the park – who are not patrons of the hotel – which presents operational difficulties given the very limited number of toilets available at the venue. This adds additional cost, requires extra cleaning, and leads to children running round the pub unsupervised. Anti-social behaviour spilling out of the park and into the Old Mill is also a problem as is visitors urinating in residents' driveways and gardens.

Given the issues noted above, Salisbury Police support further action being taken. Will the committee endorse my request for officers to engage on this issue and begin looking at options which could resolve this both in the short and long term?”

Thanks,

Eleanor

**Question submitted by Cllr Nettle:**

Dear Cllr Wells,

I wish to raise the following proposal at the Environment and Climate Committee on Monday.

Given the verbal response I received at Full Council last week regarding that Litter Bins will not be reinstated per say but only on a demonstrable case of need.

May I propose as a matter of priority that the new Dual litter Bins are installed near/ or in the vicinity of our Bus stops to minimise street litter.

Thank you

Jeremy

## Question submitted by Cllr Hocking:

Dear Annie,

Please see below Cllr Questions for tonight.

I am of course content to ask these questions at the relevant parts of the meeting this evening I would be grateful of a subsequent written response to each.

- 1) Streetscene Jobs – Before this administration scrapped the Working Groups structure, the Environmental Services team provided graphs of what the “jobs” were and graphic to allow Members to view any spikes or trends in any particular instance. Please provide detail around the 108 jobs and what is being done to address the higher profile issues?
- 2) Venture Security – Given this Administration took the decision, completely against Officers advice, to scrap the Venture Security Contract, it would seem that another U-Turn has taken place and some level of support will now be retained. Please 1) confirm the current state of the Venture Security Contract, and 2) confirm how long the stated Monday to Friday operations will last and what the contracted hours will be?
- 3) Litter Bins – While the installation of new dual litter bins is to be welcomed 1) please provide the evidence that there bis are being used appropriately by the public, 2) what the changes in costs are to the council around emptying and sorting waste and at a time when everybody else seem to be losing their litter bins, why are so many being installed in such a small area and 3) there seems to be an ever changing number of bins that are being removed, it was 90, then over a 100 now the number is 78, please can the Administration provide the precise numbers?
- 4) Litter Enforcement – Although the service is due to be scrapped, while it is still in operation, please can statistics be provided as per precious presentations.
- 5) Streetscene Recruitment - The increase in the Council precept seems to be funding an ever-increasing recruitment process for Streetscene, and other personnel. Given at the start of the Streetscene options process triggered by the end of the IDVerdi contract with Wiltshire Council, the expected number of additional operatives was as I recall about twelve, at what point will the final structure of Streetscene become fixed and firm thus allowing for a full public audit of the paper, Doc83654, presented to this Council in September 2021 which stated that the insourcing option would cost less (£1,400, 191.43) than maintain IDVerdi as a contractor (£1,501,173.35)?
- 6) Poultry Cross – please confirm the final cost of the refurbishment will be in line with the increase agreed at the previous F & G meeting?

- 7) Accessibility to Play Parks – From the minutes of the last AIG Working Group it clearly states that Consultants are to be hired to carry out an audit of the play parks is Churchill Gardens, Victoria Park and QE Gardens, and, having spoken to members of the Disability Inclusion Group Salisbury (DIGS) who are furious that they have been side lined from the debate, 1) please advise the costs of the Consultancy service that has been commissioned to carry out the work, and, 2) why does this Administration feel that, with all out Parks experience, input from our local disability groups and a bit of searching for kit on line, it is unable to work out for itself what we might be able to do?
- 8) Masonry Gang – Further to me e-mail of 3<sup>rd</sup> March, under the last Administration WC provided a masonry Gang who fixed among other things pavements, under the direction of the City Council. Please advise whether they are still in operation?
- 9) Tollgate Road Depot refurbishment - At the time this was agreed it was felt that the “third room/building” that was taken as part of the site would be available for sub-letting and thus generate income from the Council. My understanding is that this is no longer the case as it is filled with event equipment. Please advise on the current position?
- 10) CCTV Volunteer hours - given the recent change in CCTV Staffing, please advise 1) what the hours actually are for both volunteer and paid staff, and 2) historical evidence to show viewing hours are the highest they have been?
- 11) EPAP - EM2 state “SCC use 100% renewable energy across all sites” This is either false, as when it is not windy or sunny the whole country’s energy supplies comes mainly from gas fired power stations, or, misleading as it is suggested that only renewable energy is used when actually all our sites might use renewable energy when it is available. Unless each site is fully self-sufficient, i.e. has its own wind turbine, solar panels or nuclear reactor, the Council has no idea where its electricity comes from. Please confirm the actual position, including percentages, around renewable energy supply / usage?
- 12) EPAP - TT2 states 10 electric vans on order (leased) and due for delivery in 2023. 8 of these are to facilitate bringing the IDVerdi contract in house and 2 are replacements for our existing diesel stock. With reference to Doc83654 earlier, please confirm if these vehicles were included in the costings that stated that insourcing would be cheaper than remaining with IDVerdi?
- 13) EPAP BM! - Preliminary ecological surveys (PES) for Harnham Slope, Chiselbury Grove and The Folly received with management plans to be produced by the Parks Manager in the New Year. Next sites identified for this PES – Fisherton Grazing Paddocks (Plot 5 & 6), Harnham Recreation Ground & Greencroft. These are booked in for March. Please advise if this PES was

carried out in-house or whether Consultants were commissioned, and if so at what cost?

- 14) BM2 – Tree and ecosystem Strategy - final draft. Please confirm whether this was undertaken in-house, free, or if Consultants were used, how much this a cost the council in fees?

Kind regards

Sven

**The Council's Response to Cllr Hocking's Questions can be found doc 90218.**