

Salisbury City Council
The Guildhall
Market Place
Salisbury
Wilts
SP1 1JH



Contact: *J Whitty*
Direct Line: 01722 342860
Email: corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk
Web: www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

Minutes

Meeting of : Environment and Climate Committee
Date : 3 July 2023
Meeting held in : The Guildhall, Salisbury
Commencing at : 6.30pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Wells Vice Chair: A Riddle

Cllrs: J Bolwell, V Charleston, S Hocking, A Hoque, C Stanway and E Wills.

Cllrs also present: A Bayliss, T Corbin, P Sample and I Tomes

Officers: Annie Child, Marc Read and Thomas Simpkins

66. Election of the Chairman:

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr A Hoque, called for nominations for the Chairman of the Environment and Climate Committee. Cllr J Wells was nominated. No other nominations were made. It was:

Resolved that:

Cllr J Wells is re-elected as Chairman of the Environment and Climate Committee

Proposed by: Cllr A Riddle
Seconded by: Cllr J Bolwell

A vote was taken and was **carried**.

67. Election of the Vice Chairman

The Chairman of the Environment and Climate Committee called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman of the Environment and Climate Committee.

Cllr S Hocking was nominated.

Proposed by: Cllr A Hoque

Seconded by: Cllr E Wills

Cllr A Riddle was also nominated.

Proposed by: Cllr V Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr C Stanway

A vote was taken and with four votes for each candidate, the Chairman used his casting vote, and therefore it was:

Resolved that:

67.1. Cllr A Riddle was elected as Vice Chairman of the Environment and Climate Committee.

68. Apologies:

68.1. Cllr C Hibbert gave her apologies.

69. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

70. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors

71. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of Services Committee held on 13 March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

72. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

73. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

74. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman announced that item 16 was to be moved forward due to members of the public present in the Guildhall with an interest in this item.

75. Commercial Bins:

Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager, presented a report to the Committee which that they consider the information provided and determine if the locations requested by Wiltshire Council, Queen Street, Guildhall & Market Square, could be used as communal commercial bin storage areas. It was:

Resolved to:

- 75.1. Thank Wiltshire Council for investigating this issue.
- 75.2. Decline to give permission for the two City Council owned locations to be used for communal commercial bin storage areas by Wiltshire Council.

Proposed by: Cllr V Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr A Hoque

A vote was taken and accordingly was **carried**.

76. Management Plan:

The Committee received a verbal update from Mostyn Coombes, Parks Manager, in relation to Strategic Action Plan item number G14: Write and deliver strategic management plans for all parks and open spaces, including consideration of wildlife and biodiversity management. It was:

Resolved to:

- 76.1. Note the presentation, which is attached to the bottom of these minutes.

77. Environmental Policy Action Plan:

Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager provided an [Environmental Policy Action Plan](#) update. Cllr Hocking also provided a verbal air quality and flooding update. Councillors thanked the officer for his presentation, and it was:

Resolved to:

- 77.1. Note the presentation.

78. Tree and Ecosystem Strategy:

The Committee received a [report](#) from Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager, to consider a proposal to adopt and to approve the final draft of the Tree and Ecosystem Strategy. Following some discussion, it was:

Resolved to:

78.1. Approve the Tree and Ecosystem Strategy as detailed in the report.

Proposed by: Cllr A Hoque

Seconded by: Cllr V Charleston

A vote was taken and accordingly was **carried**.

79. EV Charging Points:

The Committee received a report from Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager, to consider a proposal to install 4 EV Charging Points in Lush House Car Park. Following some discussion, it was:

Resolved to:

79.1. Agree 4 EV Charging Points should be installed at Lush House Car Park.

79.2. Agree that of the four options presented Option Four was the preferred option at this time.

79.3. Note that Option Four would not be implemented until the Committee has reviewed further information to be provided by the Environmental Services Manager, on alternative ways of providing EV points at this location.

Proposed by: Cllr J Wells

Seconded by: Cllr J Bolwell

A vote was taken and accordingly was **carried**.

80. Sustainable Planting:

The Committee received a report from Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager, to consider a proposal to move towards sustainable planting in 2024/25 and subsequent years. The Committee discussed the issues fully. A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Hoque. Thereafter, it was:

Resolved to:

80.1. Request officers consider further options to this Committee for Gilbert the Dragon in a new and/or revitalised form.

Proposed by: Cllr V Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr A Riddle

Voted For: J Bolwell, V Charleston, S Hocking, A Hoque, A Riddle, C Stanway, J Wells and E Wills.

A vote was taken and was **carried unanimously**.

Resolved to:

80.1. Approve the proposals outlined in the report, so that allocated budgets for floral displays for 2024/25 can be used in accordance with this proposal.

Proposed by: Cllr V Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr A Riddle

Voted For: J Bolwell, V Charleston, A Riddle, C Stanway and J Wells.

Voted Against: S Hocking, A Hoque, and E Wills

A vote was taken and was **carried**.

81. 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 2 members of the public, 1 member of the press present.

The meeting closed at 9:24pm

Management Plans – Verbal Update from Mostyn Coombes, Park Manager in relation to Strategic Action Plan Number G14: Write and deliver strategic management plans for all parks and open spaces, including consideration of wildlife and biodiversity management

Wiltshire Wildlife trust have now completed maintenance schedules for our 3 woodlands, these are Harnham Slope also known as Harnham Hill, Chiselbury Grove and the Folly. The purpose of these schedules is to inform us on how to suitably maintain the land to preserve the wildlife which is already present and to provide suggestions on how biodiversity could be enhanced.

We are now using this information to help inform management plans for these areas.

There are other policies which will help shape the management plans. These are the tree policy and the new tree strategy. The tree strategy will help identify tree species that will thrive in each location along with suggestions for woodland management and understory planting.

Since I have been working on the Harnham Slope management plan and regularly visiting the site, it has become apparent that some of the areas where you can see views overlooking the cathedral and Laverstock from the top path are becoming overgrown and will be lost over time. The trees are growing in every direction minimising the views each year. Currently, our tree policy does not permit for Officers to action tree work to maintain historic views from our public land across the parish. The tree policy is due to be reviewed later in the year, and I will be putting this forward to your good selves by adding a section on maintaining important views from public land, it will then be your decision if you would like to include this in the policy. Criteria and guidelines will be essential for determining where tree work should take place if this additional allowance is approved.

As I mentioned, I have started formulating the management plan for Harnham Slope and once complete, the format and chapters will become the template for all our management plans for the parks and green spaces.

My aim for the management plans is to give a complete overview of the site which can be used to inform SCC Offices, Councillors, and the residents of Salisbury. Each chapter will also relate to the criteria for Green Flag awards. When we apply for this. It is my aim to make the judges job as easy as possible so they can cross reference their criteria against the chapters in the management plan.

These are the chapters so far. However, they may change as I'm finalising the document.

Location	This will include maps, parking areas and grid reference points
Ownership	This seems like it should be straight forward, but it can in fact be complex and difficult to understanding who owns certain land and who is responsible for its maintenance. This section will clearly defy whether areas are owned by Wiltshire Council or SCC and who is responsible for its upkeep.
Public rights of way	Wiltshire Council have a rights of way team. Lots of Rights of way path's and bridle way's pass through our sites, if we wish to carryout any work around these areas, we need to notify and work with Wiltshire Council.
History	This section will include any previous archaeological findings and information on how the area was used in the past.
Scoring	To highlight areas which need improvement a scoring system will be applied to each asset. Items with a low number of points will be reviewed in a results section at the end of the document. This will also include a section detailing the required criteria to achieve green flag awards and how each site currently scores in relation to this. Green flag awards are judged on things like, a welcoming place, equal access for all, site safety and so on.
Access	Each access point onto the site will be photographed, measured, accessed for accessibility, and give details of the type of entrance ie, steps or path and inform us on the materials which it is constructed from.
	If we use Harnham Slope as an example there are many access points:
Blandford road	Is the main entrance where the welcome sign is positioned.
Folkstone road	Which is a slope and steps
Parsonage Green and	
Carrion Pond Drive	Gravel track

Wiltshire Road	Gravel footpath
Chalkpit	Footpath which is next to the fields on the top of the site.
	There are gravel paths leading from Shaftesbury Drove and Harnwood Road.
Bishops Drive	Steps, which are owned by Highways.
Signage	All signage will be listed giving information on type and construction along with its location highlighted on a map.
Assets	For instance:
Benches	
Their Locations	
Descriptions	How has it been installed, what is it constructed from.
Maintenance	Cleaning schedules, painting, refurbishment, and repairs.
Memorial benches	
Steps joining upper and lower paths and their locations	
Slopped paths linking upper and lower walkways	
Litter bins	Where they are located, type, how are they secured to the ground, servicing schedule and cleaning regime.
Work force	Who maintains what?
	With regards to Harnham Slope, I have met with Paul Dorey and the

	friend's group to discuss the maintenance of the Slope and we have reviewed the work schedule to determine what jobs the group are willing to undertake.
	The Grounds team will complete any work which the friend's group cannot take on, including grass and hedge trimming.
	Servicing bins, litter picking, bench and bin maintenance for parks and open spaces now sits with the Streetscene team department and they will be advising me on their work schedules for these services.
SCC Officers	This will include information on the site inspections which our Officers undertake.
Contractors	We use Pete Warne maintenance solutions for tasks such as step repairs and fitting signs. Bawden tree care are our contractor for all arboriculture work.
Maintenance	
	As previously mentioned, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have surveyed the slope. They have provided a maintenance schedule to support the existing wildlife which also enhances biodiversity.
	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have recommended techniques such as 5 year rotational scrub clearance using coppicing techniques and the creations of dead hedges. These are stick and log piles which provide a home for insects and small mammals.
Trees	
Tree species	Will be detailed and links to our tree surveys
Management	This section will relate to our new tree strategy and our tree policy.
Planting	Future planting identified through our tree strategy
Flora	This section will cover the management of existing plants and recommendations for further planting. Invasive species will also be covered in this section.
Results from scoring	As mentioned previously, this will be a list of low scoring assets which may need to be improved or replaced. It will also include ways to improve the site to meet the required standard for achieving green flag awards.
	The next section will give details of any proposed improvements along with a pricing/costing.
Budget	This section will summarise and offer a suggestion of how much

forecast	money is needed to be budgeted in the precept and on which year.
	That's a summery of how the management plan for the woodlands is starting to be shaped. When we eventually move onto parks and open spaces there will be other things that need to be included for instance:
The plan (strategic direction for each site)	
Public Consultations	