

Salisbury City Council

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Minutes

Meeting of : **Full Council**
Date : 02 September 2024
Meeting held : The Guildhall
Commencing at : 6:30pm

Present:

Chair: S Hocking

Vice Chair: Cllr E Rimmer

Cllrs: J Bolwell, S Charleston, V Charleston, C Corbin, T Corbin, B Dalton, C Hibbert, A Hoque, T Last, C McGrath, A Riddle, S Rideout, R Rogers, P Sample, C Stanway, I Tomes and J Wells.

Officers: Asa Thorpe, Steve Bishop, Sarah Gregson, Marc Read and Penny Muxworthy

There were 3 members of the public present and 1 member of the press in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and in light of public attendance in support of Public and Councillor Questions/Statements the Chairman re-organised the evening's Agenda as follows:

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Bayliss, J King, L Blackwood, J Nettle and J Broom.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

A slight Amendment is required to Minute 1369.1 from 24 June 2024 meeting, now reading "Approve the change of authorised signatories as set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report ie Cllrs T Corbin, A Hoque & J Nettle", in order to comply with banking regulations.

A vote was taken and was **carried**; therefore, it was:

Resolved that:

4.1 Council agreed to the amendment.

4.2 The Chairman sign the amended minutes of the last meeting of the Full Council on 24 June 2024.

5. Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Dispensations:

There were none.

2. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Four public questions/statements were received in writing, by email, regarding waste bins, particularly around Harnham Slope/Hill. They were:

I am a West Harnham resident and walk along Harnham Slope daily. I notified Councillor Dalton of the removal of a litter bin located at the viewing point towards the Cathedral. The bin was strategically placed to collect litter from people picnicking at the picnic table and relaxing on the adjacent bench. Its removal has resulted in unsightly litter left in this picturesque spot. I fully support the motion for this bin to be reinstated.
Frances Forster

As I am, unfortunately, unable to attend the Council meeting on 2 September, I am writing to you in connection with an item that is due to be brought before the Council at this meeting, regarding the reinstatement of a refuse bin on the Harnham Slope. The motion has been raised by Cllr Brian Dalton and is, I believe, Article 20 on the agenda. I am fully in support of Cllr Dalton's motion to have the refuse bin reinstated. As a member of the Friends of Harnham Slope (FOHS), and a regular user of the Slope, the bin in question is one of the most used bins on the Slope. It is next to the picnic table, which provides a wonderful view of the Cathedral, meaning people often stop to rest and look, and partake of refreshment, the packaging for which ends up in the bin. Past experience of littering on the Slope leads us to believe that uncollected litter encourages more littering and other anti-social behaviour, as people think that the area is uncared for and therefore it doesn't matter what is done to or in the area. We spend a lot of volunteer time and effort trying to ensure that the Slope is a nice place for people of all ages to explore and enjoy, and the removal of even just one bin, especially in this key location, could have a significant impact on the attractiveness of the Slope. The Council should surely be encouraging people to use its outdoor spaces, bearing in mind the physical and mental well-being this brings and I would therefore strongly urge the Council to overturn its previous decision and reinstate the refuse bin by the picnic table.
Caroline Lewis

I understand that item 20 of the forthcoming Council Meeting deals with the re-instatement of the waste bin on Harnham Slope. Unfortunately I am unable to attend this meeting so I am writing to fully support Councillor Dalton's motion to reinstate the bin. I am not sure why this bin has been removed and what it is meant to achieve. As a member of FOHS I was instrumental in persuading the Council to install a bin near the picnic table. Prior to the installation of the bin there was a regular pile of litter where people made use of the picnic table but left their litter behind! This ceased once the bin was installed and until its removal was one of the most used bins on the Slope, when we ought to be encouraging people to use open spaces it makes no sense to encourage litter to be left as this will only cause people not to use the Slope. It will not only affect the attractiveness of the Slope but will also

cause a health and safety risk if the litter is not removed. It will also encourage more people to drop litter as it will look like the Slope is not maintained and nobody cares. This will no doubt lead to other anti-social behaviour. If the removal of the bin was designed to ease the workload of Council employees it is likely to have the opposite effect as they will need to regularly come out to clear the litter. The litter is likely to be blown to other parts of the Slope making its collection even harder. Does the Council want to be proud of its open spaces or is it content to let them deteriorate as Harnham Slope will undoubtedly do if the bin is not reinstated? I therefore ask that the Council reverses its original decision and reinstates the waste bin.

Barry Wilkins

I am the chairman of the Friends Of Harnham Slope volunteer group. For more than 20 years we have been proactively supporting the Parks department in improving and maintaining the Slope for the benefit of local residents and visitors. We are proud of our achievements and the constantly increasing number of visitors is testament to the value of Slope for fresh air and exercise. However the provision of litter bins around the Slope is an essential element, and the removal of the bin adjacent to the picnic table viewpoint is short sighted to say the least. The friends of Harnham Slope are in existence to enhance the surroundings, not a team of litter pickers, although we will, of course deal with the odd item that hasn't reached a bin. The litter bin at the picnic table site was constantly used to keep the area clean and tidy. I too will not be able to attend the council meeting on September 2nd, and just wanted to emphasise the need for the bin to be reinstated.

Paul Dorey

These were submitted in support of Councillor Brian Dalton's **published Motion** (originally at Item 20):

- 1 This motion notes that this council has been moving litter bins across the city, without Councillor approval.
- 2 Council notes that residents have contacted Councillor Dalton to ask why a litter bin near some picnic benches in Old Blandford Rd and a litter bin on Town Path, near two benches, have both been removed.
- 3 Further research suggests that two bins had been removed along Town Path, along with the bin at Old Blandford Rd.
- 4 This motion instructs council officers to cease the practice of moving litter bins with immediate effect. If officers determine that a bin should be removed, then permission should be sought from elected members. Local ward members know their area.
- 5 Council requests that the three bins in question in West Harnham are reinstated as soon as possible.

Cllr Dalton tabled an **Amendment to the published motion** to:

1. This motion notes that this council has been removing litter bins across the city, without consultation whatsoever.
2. Council notes, that residents have had to contact me, to ask why a litter bin near some picnic benches in Old Blandford Rd and a litter bin on Town Path, near two benches, have both been removed.
3. On investigation, I discovered that two bins have been removed along Town Path recently, along with the bin at Old Blandford Rd.
4. This motion instructs council to cease the practice of removing litter bins with immediate effect. If officers determine that a bin should be removed, then the opinions of the local members are sought. Local ward members know their area. However, I do not believe that the council should be removing litter bins regardless.
5. Council also notes that the litter bin policy is for the installation of new bins around the city. The council cannot remove an existing bin, then determine this location as new.

6. Council requests that the three bins in question in West Harnham are reinstated as soon as possible.

Proposed by: Cllr Brian Dalton

Seconded by: Cllr Ted Last

Cllr Dalton gave detailed background and historic information relating to waste bins, Clean Streets Strategy and Bins Policy.

Councillors spent much time debating the issue both specific (ie Harnham Slope/Hill and Town Path) and general. Issues voiced included:

- i Agreement that the specific Harnham Slope/Hill waste bin should be reviewed given representations made, considering useage and littering.
- ii There are sufficient waste bins at various locations, based on useage, although some residents appear to be use them for domestic waste.
- iii Officers are employed because of their skills and experience, should be trusted and enabled to work in line with Strategies and Policies set by Councillors. Councillors should not micro-manage Officers.
- iv There should be an educational campaign reminding people to take their rubbish home, as with other beauty spots.
- v If councillors, or residents, have concerns about specific bins they should raise that direct with Officers, and supply photographs if possible.
- vi The flexibility given to Officers to review the siting, moving and/or removal of bins was linked to best use of resources and finances.
- vii Officers were congratulated on their work.

The Amended Motion was put to the vote with **3 in favour, 14 were against**

The Motion was defeated.

3. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

A Councillor Question/Statement was submitted by Cllr Ted Last:

It would seem that approximately half of the residents have not received mail as from at least 22nd August up until this morning - almost two weeks when hospital notifications, dated financial communications, etc have not been received that have been sent by Royal Mail. This apparently has been caused by the absence through sickness of one delivery operative. Other employees have not been prepared to undertake extra hours as management have decided that there should be no premium for such overtime.

Should the public wish to collect such undelivered mail, the office is only open from 08:00 to 10:00. In other word, as inconvenient as possible.

Royal Mail has a legal obligation to deliver six days a week to every address in the UK under the Universal Service Provision. Is Salisbury City Council able to put pressure on Roal Mail to ensure that it abides by its legal obligation?

It was resolved that:

The CEO write to the Royal Mail sorting office.

A further Councillor Question/Statement was submitted by Cllr Ted Last:

Last week the Salisbury Journal reported problems that this council apparently had because of the actions of a homeless individual. I have checked the fact with the Salisbury City Council responsible officer regarding the use of a tent for accommodation in the grounds of the Arts Centre. It would seem that the individual in question is not only homeless, but may well have

both mental health and drug problems. Due to him being rather loud in his manner at times he is sadly, but understandably upsetting some of the local residents who are looking to the appropriated services to resolve their concern and his obvious needs. The SCC officer has informed me that there has not been a faecal waste problem as reported in the Salisbury Journal.

May I conclude that as a society we should be trying to help this individual and others like him, prosecuting and making criminals of those in need demeans us all. We must remember such unfortunates are sons, daughters, brothers, or sisters of any one of us.

This was received in support of Councillor Paul Sample's **published Motion** (originally at Item 19):

"Salisbury City Council recognises that residents passing through St Edmunds Churchyard, Bourne Hill Gardens, and living near shrubberies at the top of Winchester Street and in Tollgate Road (and elsewhere in the City), have experienced anti-social behaviour from the people pitching tents there this year.

Every day residents have had to put up with drink and drug use, shouting and arguing, alarming outbursts from people with mental health problems, urine, vomit, human waste and littering. Salisbury City Council's officers are left with a mess to clear up on a daily basis.

Businesses, visitors, residents and their families feel that these areas are not safe and that it is a dangerous place to be or live near (especially at night). The situation is intolerable, threatening and has a major negative impact on the lives of the community.

The Council calls on the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. Liaise with Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and other interested agencies to encourage them to draw up clear rules and guidelines that prevent this public nuisance, and;
- b. Explore banning the erection of tents for sleeping in the Salisbury City's boundary (except in private residential properties and official camping sites), and;
- c. If other agencies are unable to enforce this policy explore enforcement being put into the hands of Salisbury City Council."

Proposed by: Cllr Paul Sample

Seconded by: Cllr Atiqul Hoque

Cllr Sample requested the tabled motion be slightly amended to remove duplicated words. **This amendment was taken as read.**

Cllr Sample gave background and historic information relating to this situation, particularly over the past three years. He also referred to a recent well-attended Public Meeting, attended by Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner, among others (although regrettably not by social services) held to try and resolve the individual's issues across the agencies. Residents are tolerant but also find the person's behaviour very disruptive. Hopefully the colder, wetter weather will bring a natural solution.

Councillors spent time debating the issue observing and commenting:

- i There was much sympathy both for the individual and local residents, and thanked Cllr Sample for raising this issue again.

- ii Cllr Bolwell continues to work with this gentleman. Police know him and his whereabouts but there is nowhere suitable for him to go at present, especially given his challenges.
- iii It was noted that some other councils have appropriate Policies which can lead to court action, but enforcement has a big cost buying-in specialist legal services and increasing levels of responsibility.
- iv Need to be mindful that decisions and actions taken from this do not put this individual at more risk.
- v CEO continues to have cross-agency discussions but need to understand why clear processes are not delivering and look for common way of resolving together.
- vi Recommended that the CEO investigates how other councils positively manage such situations.
- vii CEO's cross-agency meetings should include WCC's Homelessness Officers.

Cllr Sample responded to discussions suggesting the exploration of a Policy regarding encampments. Local residents pay the cost if a solution cannot be found.

Cllr Last proposed an Amendment to the original motion, namely that:
Points b & c are deleted, retaining only point a.

Proposed by: Cllr Ted Last
Seconded by: Cllr Annie Riddle

It was resolved to vote that:

- a The Council calls on the Chief Executive Officer to liaise with Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and other interested agencies to encourage them to draw up clear rules and guidelines that prevent this public nuisance.

The Amended Motion was put to the vote with **15 in favour, 1 against.**

The Amended Motion was carried.

7. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Opened Armed Forces Day, attended Godolphin School Volunteers Day, the St Thomas's Church Rose petal throwing ceremony from the top of the bell tower, St Marks Pre-school "meet the Mayor" morning, Rotary Cub dinner, Amesbury Mayor making.

Opened the Fayre on the Square, SW Mencap annual BBQ at the rugby club, opened Harnham Parish fete, attended the Hospice Annual fete at Wilton House, met the Artists at the Young Gallery in the library, saw off the young Kyle Spring from the Guildhall Square on his epic fundraising ride to Ukraine. Presided over three citizenship ceremonies at Bourne Hill.

Launched the kit sale deal between Salisbury football club and the TIC, attended Cedars Care home annual Ball in Landford, Ukraine Independence Day celebrations on the Guildhall Square, the Santes Twinning Assoc annual BBQ, the Annual Hamptworth Golf Club Green Jacket Golf day and the most excellently organised Mayor's Big Birthday Bash which raised £5K for the WAA Charity.

If there was one day that highlighted the differences in events that the Mayor attends it was the Wiltshire Motorcycle rally at the Rugby club and all the organisers, Hell's Angels, followed by the Allotment Holders annual prize giving, at the United Reformed Church for, among other things, the most knobbly carrot!

8. Administration Leaders Report:

Cllr V Charleston provided an update on behalf of the Administration Leaders.

As ever, a busy few months with our new Chief Exec and new RFO getting their feet under the table. The Senior Management Team is back up to full strength with the arrival of Matthew Hine as our new Head of Business last week. Certainly, the leaders feel that the Council is on a more professional footing than before and that we will be firing on all cylinders soon.

Speaking of new people, on behalf of the Council, can I welcome Cllr Rideout to the team. I do hope you will take time to say hello and make her feel welcome.

The big projects over the summer have been the successful Fayre on the Square which has now come to an end. Lol tells me it has been relatively successful with positive comments about the new family friendly food and drink area. It has certainly covered costs and hopefully made a small profit. The team is already thinking about 2025, how to improve visitor experience and a more profitable summer event.

Marc Read gave leaders an update on the crematorium roof refurb recently. The headlines are: it's on time and on budget which is a relief! You can see from the Guildhall calendar that we are doing a good number of services in this building and the team have had some very positive feedback on how these services have been handled. As anticipated, Crematorium income is down but Neil and team have worked hard to work with local partners to increase the number of direct cremations we are doing which helps ease that financial pressure.

We finally have a date for the opening ceremony of the River Park (13th September). I am personally delighted that the City Council will be looking after this City asset and look forward to being able to enjoy it fully soon.

Looking forward, the budget process, the last of this council, has begun. Meetings are kicking off and I encourage all councillors to engage with the process and work with officers to make sure we deliver the best for our residents. We will be seeing papers this evening which shows the positive impact budget tightening is having on this year's spend and I congratulate officers for starting to right the ship.

9. Referral of Minutes:

Minutes taken since the Full Council meeting on 24 June 2024 were considered. It was noted that the minutes for the Planning and Development Committees held in July and August 2024, are still being reviewed by the Committee Chair.

Planning and Development	17 June 2024
Environment and Climate	01 July 2024
Events, Markets & Grants Sub-Committee	08 July 2024
Finance and Governance	29 July 2024

These were taken as read and
Approved by all

10. Committee Reports:

The Committees' Chairmen provided updates as follows.

- a. Cllr J Wells, Chairman of Environmental & Climate - reporting that July had been busy and will update October meeting. Looking forward to evaluating the Environmental Plan with new council.
- b. Cllr T Corbin, Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee, reminded all councillors that they can attend this, the busiest, committee.
- c. Cllr I Tomes, Chairman of Finance & Governance – reminded everyone of the forthcoming budget meetings encouraging all councillors to attend if possible and be part of the discussions not criticisms (Wed for Administration teams; Monday for Conservative team)
- d. Cllr C Corbin, Chairman of the Community Services committee, praised the whole team including the greats summer events.
- e. Cllr S Charleston, Chairman of the Events, Markets, & Grants subcommittee, noting that they have awarded all of this year's grants money allocations. Events have had a lively summer and are looking forward to Charter Fair.

11. Outside Representatives:

- i It was reported that Salisbury City & Wiltshire Creative have a new Director starting in October.
- ii Cllr Stanway reported that the allotments are good and the shop well used. There is a feeling of optimism, particularly with the ground drying out. The August horticultural show was a great success.

12. Environmental Services Report – Storm water disposal:

Marc Read presented an Environmental Services Briefing paper relating to the construction of a Storm Water Disposal soakaway on Salisbury City Council land at Rawlence Rd, Salisbury and the **Recommendation** that:

- Approve Wiltshire Council's request and instruct Salisbury City Council Officers to draw up relevant agreements so that the soakaway can be installed and the social housing delivered

Proposed by: Cllr C Corbin

Seconded by: Cllr T Corbin

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

13. Environmental Services Report – Crematorium and cemetery fees:

Marc Read presented Environmental Services Paper proposing crematorium and cemetery fee changes, in line with usual 6-monthly review.

Councillors discussed and raised the following concerns and observations:

- i The level of increases proposed in this review, feeling that increased charges could lead to less usage. Fees need to increase to be in line with other crematoria.
- ii Should this not be part of the budget-setting process? while acknowledging this is how other crematoriums operate.
- iii Noted that costs are usually met by individuals' estates and/or funeral plans. Costs are unlikely to make people choose alternative venue.
- iv 6-monthly review gives the opportunity to both increase or decrease fees more regularly.

Cllr I Tomes proposed the recommendation that:

Approve the fees and charges as outlined in the Fees & Charges document that accompanies this paper

Seconded by: Cllr T Corbin

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

14. Finance Report:

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop presented Qtr 1/Month 3 (June end) budget monitoring report, 2024/25 particularly highlighting:

More cost centres are shown, leading to more detail. Additional cost centres can be added in future if required.

Although special measures have been implemented to curtail all non-essential expenditure and minimise potential loss in the current year, there has been no cut to services or staff.

The need to set a robust Budget and 5-year Financial Plan.

Councillors thanked the RFO for his work and presenting the most explained and understandable financial statements.

The Recommendations that:

- i The Council notes the financial position at the end of June 2024 and officers' explanations of the variances over £50,000.
- ii The Council notes the low level of the general reserve which is in breach of the Council's stipulated minimum level.
- iii That Councillors endorse the special measures introduced by officers in order to minimise further pressures on the reserve.

Proposed by: Cllr Sven Hocking (from the Chair)

Seconded by: Cllr B Dalton

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

15. Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy Audit and Review:

Sarah Gregson, Head of Community Services, presented a report and updated SCC Safeguarding Policies, highlighting:

- i Improving communication and record keeping
- ii Safer Recruiting Policy needs reviewing
- iii Volunteers and Staff are viewed the same for Safeguarding
- iv Next Review 1st August 2025.

The **Recommendations that:**

- i Vote to support the recommend areas of change 4.1 – 4.11
- ii To approve the publication of background papers 9.6 and 9.
SCC Safeguarding Children Policy – (Revised May 2024 – DRAFT)
SCC Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy – (Revised May 2024 – DRAFT)
- iii To approve the Adjacent Policy and Procedure Actions 5.1 – 5.4
- iv To approve the Next Steps in Pursuit of Best Practice action 6.1 to 6.3

Proposed by: Cllr C Corbin

Seconded by: Cllr J Bolwell

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

16. Committee Membership Allocation for 2024 - 2025:

The CEO tabled the updated member allocation by Administrations on Committees for remainder 2024/25 for Note.

Proposed by: Cllr S Hocking

Seconded by: Cllr E Rimmer

A vote was taken and accordingly was **carried by majority** (with one against).

17. Committee Membership Attendance:

To note member Attendance Register Report for 2024/25, as tabled.

Proposed by: Cllr S Hocking

Seconded by: Cllr E Rimmer

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

18. Special Delegation - Wardens:

The RFO presented the Special Delegation notice enabling Officers to use the urgency provisions within Financial Regs and Standing to authorise officers to spend £95k on wardens following a request from the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

The RFO confirmed that this was discussed with committee Chairmen, vice chairman and Leaders – all agreed and signed the Decision document.

Councillors thanked Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner for this and recommended a letter of thanks be sent by the CEO.

This was Noted by councillors.

Resolved:

That a letter of thanks be sent from the CEO to Wiltshire PCC.

19. Motion – Cllr Sample: See Item 3 at start

20. **Motion – Cllr Dalton**: See Item 2 at start

21. **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**

The meeting closed at 20.45.