

The Guildhall  
The Market Place  
Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 1JH



**Contact:** Asa Thorpe  
**Direct Line:** 01722 342860  
**Email:** [corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Full Council  
**Date** : 4 March 2024  
**Meeting held** : The Guildhall  
**Commencing at** : 6:30pm

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Present:

Chair: Vice Chair: Cllr S Hocking

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

Officers: Asa Thorpe, Steve Bishop and Andrew Hunt

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## **1326. Apologies:**

- 1326.1. Cllr L Blackwood gave her apologies.
- 1326.2. Cllr A Hoque gave his apologies.
- 1326.3. Cllr M Mewse gave his apologies.

## **1327. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

No public questions or statements were submitted.

## **1328. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

A Councillor Question was submitted by Cllr Ed Rimmer concerning the Rightful Worshipful Mayor of Salsbury, Cllr Atiquil Hoque. A copy of the Cllr Rimmer's question can be found at the end of the minutes.

- 1328.1. In response to Cllr Rimmer's questions, Administration leaders made the following statement: Cllr A Hoque has informed all group leaders of his intentions to step back from mayoral duties for a period of time to allow him to concentrate on the dispute resolution process. The

Administration and the Vice Chair acknowledge the appeals process, which in train with Conservative Campaign Headquarters, and are aware of a separate complaint, which is currently at the information-gathering stage with the monitoring officer at Wiltshire Council. Both are instances, that are yet to be concluded. The council will await the outcomes of these processes before deciding on what next steps are permitted.

**1329. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The Chairman approved and signed the minutes of the last meeting of the Extraordinary Full Council on 22 January 2024.

**1330. Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1331. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

**1332. Chairman's Announcements:**

1332.1. Cllr J Nettle was brought forward to acknowledge the unfortunate incident of the Novichok poisonings that occurred on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, affecting both Wiltshire and Salisbury City Council. It was recognised that many councillors present, along with government officials, were involved in the response efforts during that challenging period. It was emphasized that despite the adversity faced, the collective efforts of all involved parties contributed to the recovery and restoration of Salisbury. Gratitude was extended to those individuals and organisations who played a role in bringing the city back to stability. Several projects initiated in response to the Novichok poisoning incident were highlighted, including the High Street Fund, the River Park project, and the station forecourt development. These projects received partial funding or assistance from governmental sources following the incident. However, amidst the discussion of ongoing projects, it was noted that the true impact of the incident lies with the residents and individuals directly affected, who continue to bear the emotional and physical scars. Recognition and appreciation were extended to them for their resilience and perseverance.

**1333. Administration Leaders Report:**

1333.1. Cllr I Tomes provided an update on behalf of the Administration Leaders. A copy of his statement is included at the end of these minutes.

### 1334. **Referral of Minutes:**

Minutes taken since the Full Council meeting on 22 January 2024 were considered.

**Proposed by: Cllr S Hocking**

**Seconded by: Cllr A Riddle**

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

#### **Resolved that:**

1334.1. Councillors reviewed and noted the minutes as listed below:

Planning and Development	23 January 2024
Events, Markets and Grants	29 January 2024
Community Services	5 February 2024
Planning and Development	19 February 2024

### 1335. **Committee Reports:**

The Committee's Chairman provided updates as follows;

- 1335.1. Cllr C Corbin, Chairman of the Community Services committee, provided an update on the community team's remarkable service, with their impressive achievements and efficient budget management highlighted. A tribute was paid to Tom Gailey, who contributed over 1,700 hours to sports and community engagement before leaving for Sarum Academy. The Pantry and the entire community team were lauded for their outstanding work, with their dedication described as immense. Cllr C Corbin's gratitude for the team's efforts was expressed, concluding the acknowledgement of their remarkable contributions.
- 1335.2. Cllr T Corbin, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, expressed gratitude to all committee members for their dedication and contributions to the meetings.
- 1335.3. Cllr J Wells, Chairman of the Environmental and Climate Committee, advised Marc Read is currently compiling a comprehensive report for the upcoming Environmental Services Committee meeting scheduled for next Monday. The update regarding the transition to the new depot indicated that operations are proceeding as anticipated, with no apparent issues observed thus far.
- 1335.4. Cllr S Charleston, Chairman of the Events, Markets, and Grants subcommittee, offered that no grants were currently being awarded. Rent reductions and policy changes were implemented during the last meeting, resulting in a relatively quiet session. The significant challenge

highlighted by the Events, Markets, and Grants subcommittee was Joanna Wood's departure as the Business and Communications Manager. Hope was expressed for a replacement equally adept in event planning.

- 1335.5. Cllrs A Bayliss, Chairman of the Finance and Governance Committee, advised no new committee since the last Full Council.

### **1336. Outside Representatives:**

- 1336.1. Cllr C Stanway, Outside Representative for The Allotments & Garden Association Salisbury (AGAS) reported that the city's allotments persevered admirably despite the challenging flooding conditions, and shared that the Allotments & Garden Association Trading Hut was noted to be thriving and experiencing success. Additionally, it was mentioned that the upcoming scarecrow competition is restarting again this summer and is anticipated with excitement by all involved.
- 1336.2. Cllr S Hocking, Flood Coordinator for the Salisbury Flood working group, provided a brief update on the current status of flooding issues and the activities of the Air Quality Management Group.

### **1337. Standing Orders:**

The Chief Executive Officer, Asa Thorpe, presented Version 15 of the Standing Orders with changes to the references of the Proper Officer, following the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. The council considered the updated Standing Orders, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle**

**Seconded by: Cllr J Broom**

#### **Resolved that:**

- 1337.1. Councillors agreed the updated Standing Orders Version 15 following the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer.

### **1338. Financial Regulations:**

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop presented the Councillors with Version 20 Financial Regulations, and the council considered the updated Financial Regulations, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr S Hocking**

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

#### **Resolved that:**

- 1338.1. The Council approved the four proposed amendments to Financial Regulations as set out above.

**1339. Review and Updating of Bank Mandate:**

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop presented a review of the bank mandate to the council. The council considered the updated Financial Regulations, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr A Bayliss**

**Seconded by: Cllr A Riddle**

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

**Resolved that:**

- 1339.1. The Council approved the proposed changes to the mandates to allow the new Chief Executive Officer - Asa Thorpe, new Responsible Finance Officer - Steve Bishop, and four of the following Senior Management Team Members (SMT,) Marc Read - Environmental Services Manager, Sarah Gregson - Communities Manager, Thomas Simpkins – Corporate Services Manager, and the New Business and Communications Manager when appointed, to be the Council's authorised signatories for banking purposes.
- 1339.2. Councillors approved subject to the Council's decision regarding recommendation 4.1, consequential amendments be made to the Council's financial regulations, list of authorised officers and their financial authorisation limits.

**1340. Changes to External Audit and Accounting Arrangements:**

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop, presented a report for the council to opt into the PSAA audit regime. The council discussed and asked questions, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr B Dalton**

**Seconded by: Cllr P Sample**

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

**Resolved that:**

- 1340.1. The Council agreed to opt into the PSAA audit regime in order to be allocated an external auditor and authorises the RFO to make the appropriate arrangements.

**1341. Quarter Three Budget Monitoring Update:**

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop updated the council regarding the quarter three revenue and capital budget monitoring position. The council discussed and asked questions, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle**

**Seconded by: Cllr Howell**

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

**Resolved to:**

- 1341.1. The Council notes the financial position at the end of December 2023 and officers' explanations of the variances over £50,000.
- 1341.2. The Council notes the predicted outturn of a net overspend and the consequential expected use of balances to meet this pressure.
- 1341.3. The Council determined which forum should receive future budget monitoring reports. The Council agreed that all financial specific reports should go to the Finance and Governance Committee and to the Full Council, as well as all committee and sub-committee agendas will receive a budget monitoring report specific to the relevant committee the report relates to.
- 1341.4. The Council agreed proposed changes to the fees and charges of the Shopmobility service, as circulated in Appendix C.

**1342. Internal Auditor's Interim Report 2023:**

Responsible Finance Officer, Steve Bishop announced the completion of the interim audit and considered the audit findings. The council discussed and asked questions, and it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr J Bolwell**

**Seconded by: Cllr S Charleston**

A vote was taken and accordingly was carried.

**Resolved to:**

- 1342.1. The Council notes the completion of an interim audit and considers the audit findings.

**1343. 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 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press present.

The meeting closed at 8:01 pm.

### **Councillor Statements:**

#### **Cllr Ed Rimmer – Councillor for Bemerton Heath**

Given his expulsion from the Conservative Party following anti-Semitic remarks, why has Mayor Atiqul Hoque not been removed from his position and why has no public statement on the matter been made by the Administration of Salisbury City Council?"

### **Administration Leaders Report:**

#### **Cllr Ian Thomes – Administration Leader of the Labour Party**

The administration leaders gave a warm welcome to Asa and Steve as well as thanking to Joanna Wood and all the management team for their seamless operations. Asa and Steve have been with us for about a month now, and it's noted that they are gaining a better understanding of how the council operates. Farewell wishes were extended to Joanna Wood, who recently concluded her tenure at the council. It was noted with appreciation, indicating her valued contribution and I wished her well in her future endeavours.

The administration leader highlighted recent events and activities, including the Holocaust Day observed on January 21st, organized by Sarah Gregson, which garnered significant attendance. Additionally, the Rule of Law service, requested by the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, was conducted successfully. Progress was noted regarding accepting an offer on 47 Blue Ball Row, albeit in the early stages. The ongoing issue of flooding was acknowledged, and gratitude was extended to Cllr Sven Hocking for organising wardens and meetings to address the matter.

It was announced that the new bursary grant scheme is open for applications until March 24th, with successful applicants from last year including Salisbury Rugby Club, Salisbury Football Club, Salisbury Area Young Musicians, Wiltshire Creative, and Motiv8. Notably, the closing date for applications is March 18<sup>th</sup>. The inaugural Sunday artist market was held successfully, indicating a promising start to the spring season. The forthcoming wedding fair, scheduled for March 17th at the Guild Hall was highlighted, inviting consideration of the venue for prospective couples. It was emphasised that the city council has been focusing on facilitating a smooth transition for new officers, expressing satisfaction with their grasp of council operations.