

**Salisbury City Council**

The Guildhall  
Market Place  
Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 1JH



**Contact:** Beth George, Corporate Support Officer

**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** : The Environment Committee  
**Date** : 29 September 2025  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 6:30pm

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Present:

Chair: Cllr J Bolwell      Vice Chair: A Riddle

Cllrs: V Charleston, S Foster, R Johnson, J Nettle, S Rideout, C Taylor, and J Wells

Officers: Marc Read, Keith Jackson, Neil Lucas, Mary Stanistreet, Beth George and Asa Thorpe

Also Present: Cllrs P Sample and A Suddards

Cllr V Charleston left the meeting at 9:40pm

There were 10 members of the public and no members of the press present

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**1. Apologies:**

No apologies were received.

**2. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

**3. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

A question was submitted by Cllr J Nettle:

“Following the letter in this week's journal and an email from one of my residents.

I would like to raise this as a question at the Environment Committee on Monday evening 29<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm at the Guildhall.

The question of maintaining the upkeep and preserving the riverbanks of the river Avon along Water Lane. I assume there will be multi agencies involved! However, I believe that the City Council should take the lead in preserving this unique area.”

Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, responded that he would investigate and provide a response to Cllr Nettle.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee, held on 9 June 2025, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Nettle declared a nonpecuniary interest in Item 8 because he knows the architect. Cllr Bolwell declared a nonpecuniary interest in Item 13 because she is Chair of Bemerton Heath Residents' Association.

**6. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested or granted.

**7. Chair's Announcements:**

The Chair informed the Committee that she would be taking the agenda in a slightly different order so that those who are present to speak to items can do so sooner. She would take Item 8 first, then Item 13, followed by Item 15.

**8. Poultry Cross Project:**

Marc Read introduced the report. Louise Salman from Loop Architects gave a [presentation](#).

Councillors asked questions on future vulnerabilities of the Poultry Cross involving vehicles and whether provisions should be implemented to prevent further incidents. They were keen to be given all the options and their variances in cost.

The Committee thanked Ms Salman for her presentation.

**Proposed by:** A Riddle

**Seconded by:** J Nettle

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

8.1. Councillors noted the presentation by Loop Architects on the condition and repair strategy for the Poultry Cross.

8.2. Councillors support the proposed phased programme of works, prioritising Phase I roof and structural repairs.

8.3. Councillors authorise Officers to:

- Submit Scheduled Monument Consent applications to Historic England.
- Seek accurate costings through specialist Quantity Surveyors.
- Explore external grant funding options to support delivery.

8.4. Councillors agree in principle to make the necessary budget provision for Phase I repairs within the 2026/27 financial year.

8.5. Councillors ask Loop Architects to produce a high specification proposal that can be paired back as appropriate in further discussions.

## **9. Environment Team Update:**

Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, Neil Lucas, Crematorium Manager, and Keith Jackson, CCTV Manager, gave team [updates](#). Councillors thanked them for their work. They asked that crime statistics presented to the council were shared with other agencies.

It was:

**Resolved that:**

9.1. The report was noted.

## **10. Review of Cemetery Regulations:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#). He explained that the review would be emotive, and a public consultation would take place. Councillors were keen to have a discussion regarding the rules regarding the graves of children and to use less prescriptive terminology in the regulations.

**Proposed by:** V Charleston

**Seconded by:** S Foster

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

10.1. Councillors approve the implementation of inspection and compliance procedures to identify unsafe or non-compliant items, including processes for notifying families and arranging removal.

10.2. Endorse a programme of public consultation prior to full enforcement, to give families and the community the opportunity to provide feedback.

10.3. Approve training for cemetery and grounds staff in the new rules and enforcement procedures, with emphasis on sensitivity in dealings with bereaved families.

10.4. Agree a phased enforcement approach, ensuring that existing non-compliant items are addressed gradually, with opportunities for families to bring tributes into compliance.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the Chair reminded Members that the meeting had reached three hours' duration. Members were asked whether they wished to continue beyond the 3-hour limit.

Members agreed to extend the meeting past 9:30pm and continue with the remaining business.

#### **11. Proposal to Launch a Community Dog Wash Facility in Salisbury:**

Local resident, Charlie Down-Dyke [presented](#) her idea of a dog wash facility in Hudson's Field. Councillors thanked her for presenting.

**Proposed by:** S Foster

**Seconded by:** V Charleston

A **vote** was taken, and it was,

**Resolved that:**

11.1. The Committee noted the presentation by the resident proposer.

11.2. Approve the request to lease a 2.5m x 2.5m area of Hudson's Field for a self-service dog wash facility.

11.3. Authorise Officers to negotiate appropriate lease terms, with all legal fees to be covered by the resident.

#### **12. Depot Parking:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#) and explained the current difficulties faced.

**Proposed by:** A Riddle

**Seconded by:** J Nettle

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

12.1. Councillors approve the commissioning of Wiltshire Council to enforce parking restrictions on the site.

12.2. Note that the total costs (£1,000 TRO, £1,350 signage, £2,000 annual enforcement) can be met from existing budgets.

#### **13. Pump Track Bike Hub:**

Robin Imeson from Rise:61 gave a [presentation](#) on a proposed Bike Hub on Bemerton Heath.

Councillors asked questions on the size of the project, Robin's plans for staffing the location, the difference between leasing and selling Rise:61 the land, and the cost of removing the park.

They agreed that the land would be leased, not sold.

**Proposed by:** J Nettle

**Seconded by:** R Johnson

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

13.1. Councillors noted the presentation by Rise:61.

13.2. Consider the request to lease the identified parcel of land for community facility development.

13.3. Authorise Officers to negotiate appropriate lease terms with Rise:61, with all legal and associated costs to be met by the charity.

13.4. Make the necessary budget available to remove the existing park as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.

#### **14. Treasure Trail Engraving – Proposal for Market Square Installation:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#) for a proposed installation by a local resident.

**Proposed by:** J Nettle

**Seconded by:** S Foster

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

14.1. Councillors noted the proposal by the resident.

14.2. Support the Market Square as a suitable location.

14.3. Authorise Officers to engage with the proposer to agree detailed terms for installation, maintenance, and responsibility including reserving the right to remove at any time.

#### **15. Tree Policy Review:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#) and proposed amendments to the policy. Cllr P Sample was present to discuss an amendment to point 2.4 which involves cutting back tree canopies to reduce anti-social behaviour. He thanked Marc Read and members of the community for their engagement. Councillors agreed that more needs to be done to support rough sleepers in the city.

**Proposed by:** C Taylor  
**Seconded by:** A Riddle

Two versions of the amendment to 2.1 were proposed by Cllr A Suddards. A third version was submitted by Cllr C Taylor. There was some discussion about how the proposed changes would be budgeted for.

**Version 3:**

**Proposed by:** C Taylor  
**Seconded by:** J Nettle

A vote was taken, and it was not carried.

It was:

**Resolved that:**

- 15.1. Councillors note all proposed amendments highlighted in yellow in Appendix A.
- 15.2. Approve adoption of the replacement wording for Section 3.11 proposed by Cllr Corbin.
- 15.3. Approve adoption of the Estates Manager's new section on transferred maintenance responsibilities.
- 15.4. Approve adoption of Cllr Sample's new section 11.5-11.10.
- 15.5. Endorse publication of the Tree Policy (Version 6) incorporating the supported amendments.

**16. Rowbarrow Project Review:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#) regarding the project and use of section 106 monies.

**Proposed by:** A Riddle  
**Seconded by:** R Johnson

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

- 16.1. Councillors noted the update on Rowbarrow s106 Z32 expenditure and project delivery.
- 16.2. Approve the commitment of the remaining £56,830 towards grounds maintenance equipment.
- 16.3. Endorse the use of existing Council budgets to deliver soft landscaping enhancements.

16.4. Noted the lessons learned and agrees to incorporate them into the planning and delivery of future s106-funded projects.

## **17. River Park Project:**

Marc Read introduced the [report](#). There was a question regarding the liability period of the works.

**Proposed by:** S Foster

**Seconded by:** S Rideout

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

17.1. Councillors noted the update on River Park s106 expenditure and balances.

17.2. Approve allocation of up to £75,000 in 2025/26 for the purchase of a tractor.

17.3. Endorse the Officer recommendation to allocate the remaining balance over a 15-year period, rather than 20, 30, 40, or 50 years, to preserve value against inflation and match equipment lifecycles.

17.4. Noted that:

- The s106 agreement requires funds to be spent within 50 years (maximum), with no minimum period.
- The City Council's responsibility for River Park is permanent, regardless of the duration of the funding.
- Any proposal to spend above the annual allocation will require Council approval.
- Any unspent allocation will be carried forward to the following year.

## **18. Motion – Salisbury Allotment Strategy:**

Cllr Rideout introduced the [Motion](#) and Marc Read went through the outline strategy. A full strategy will be written and brought to committee in the future. Councillors discussed the possibility of applying for grants.

**Proposed by:** J Bolwell

**Seconded by:** J Wells

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

18.1. Salisbury City Council will adopt Motion NM59.

**19. Budget Monitoring Report:**

Marc Read introduced the budget monitoring [report](#) for Environmental Services.

**Proposed by:** J Bolwell

**Seconded by:** J Nettle

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

19.1. The Committee noted the financial position at the end of July and Officers' explanation for the variances.

**20. Verbal Update on Salisbury Transport Strategy:**

Marc Read gave a verbal update on the Salisbury Transport Strategy. He told the Committee there would be a briefing on 25 November at 11.00.

**21. Exclusion of Press and Public:**

A **vote** was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 22 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1, paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**The meeting moved to Exempt at 10:08pm**

**23. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman, decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:**

There was none.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm.