

## Salisbury City Council

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# Minutes

**Meeting of** : The Environment Committee  
**Date** : 8 December 2025  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 18:30 hours

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Present:

Chair: Cllr J Bolwell      Vice Chair: Cllr A Riddle

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

Officers: Marc Read, Andrew Hunt and Sean Saunders.

Also Present:

There were no 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:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by the Members.

## 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting of The Environment Committee, held on 27 September 2025, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations of interest were received.

**6. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested or granted.

**7. Chair's Announcements:**

The Chair made no announcements.

**8. Proposed Restoration of Units 26 and 27, River Avon SSSI:**

Members considered a presentation and report asking for approval for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to restore habitats on Salisbury City Council–owned land at Units 26 and 27 of the River Avon SSSI. The work would use Ministry of Defence environmental improvement funding, and it would come at no cost to the Council. The aim is to restore declining wetland and meadow habitats. Officers advised that they supported the proposal and that a formal letter of support from the Council would enable Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to proceed with the necessary planning and Environment Agency consent applications.

**Proposed by:** J Nettle

**Seconded by:** S Rideout

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

**Resolved that:**

8.1 The Committee approved the restoration proposal.

8.2 The Committee authorised the Head of Environmental Services to issue a formal letter of support to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

8.3 The Committee noted that the work is fully funded by MOD resources via Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, with zero cost to Salisbury City Council.

8.4 The Committee agreed that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust may proceed with planning and permitting applications for the work.

**9. Poultry Cross Working Group:**

Members received a report presenting the draft Terms of Reference for the Poultry Cross Working Group, noting that Full Council had delegated responsibility for this Working Group to the Environment Committee. The Terms of Reference set out the Group's purpose, membership, working principles, engagement approach, indicative timeline and resource implications.

**Proposed by:** J Bolwell

**Seconded by:** A Riddle

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

**Resolved that:**

9.1 The Committee approved the Poultry Cross Working Group Terms of Reference.

9.2 Councillors wishing to join the Working Group were asked to provide their names to the Head of Environmental Services.

**10. Environment Team Update:**

The Committee received a presentation from Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, and Sean Saunders, Health & Safety Officer, update on operational activity work across Facilities, Health & Safety, CCTV, Crematorium & Cemeteries, Parks & Open Spaces and Streetscene, including statutory compliance and inspections, planned maintenance, new risk assessment and incident-reporting procedures, CCTV performance and camera upgrades, ASB warden activity and partnership work, cremation figures and efficiency measures, winter tree planting and grounds maintenance and Streetscene priorities around leaf clearance, encampment clearance and responsive cleansing.

The Committee asked that their thanks be passed on to the CCTV volunteers for their continued support and thanked the Parks and Grounds teams for their ongoing work.

**Resolved that:**

10.1 The Committee noted the report.

**11. Budget Monitoring Report for 2025/26 to the end of September 2025:**

The Committee received the budget monitoring report for April to September 2025, presented by Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, and noted the income and expenditure position for all Environment Committee cost centres together with officers' explanations for the main variances and project underspends, including timing differences on income, works and accruals, salary underspends due to vacancies and the accounting treatment of dilapidations.

**Resolved that:**

11.1 The Committee noted the financial position and the explanations provided by officers.

**12. Development of a Comprehensive Allotment Strategy and Associated Policies:**

The Committee received a report from Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, on the draft Allotment Strategy 2026–2031 and associated Beekeeping and Livestock (Chickens) policies. Members noted that the strategy responds to the motion agreed on 29 September 2025, sets a five-year framework for managing rising demand and improving site quality, and promotes community well-being, biodiversity, sustainability and accessibility across the Council's allotment provision.

**Proposed by:** S Rideout

**Seconded by:** V Charleston

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

**Resolved that:**

12.1 The Committee approved the Allotment Strategy 2026–2031 and the associated Beekeeping and Livestock (Chickens) policies.

12.2 The Committee noted that implementation will include annual reviews, tenant surveys and reporting to the Environment Committee.

12.3 The Committee agreed that biodiversity and accessibility improvements be included within the Council's forward plan and budget considerations.

**13. Proposal for the Installation of Permanent Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs):**

Members considered a report seeking approval to install permanent Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in the city, with an initial unit proposed for Manor Farm Road and a £1,500 contribution offered by the Milford Area Preservation Group towards its cost. It was noted that, although the Council has previously followed best practice by rotating SIDs between sites to avoid driver familiarity, the report further proposed that any future requests for permanent SIDs be referred to the Environment Committee for consideration, approval and where appropriate, funding.

**Proposed by:** S Johnson

**Seconded by:** J Nettle

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

**Resolved that:**

13.1 The Committee rejected the installation of a permanent, solar-powered SID on Manor Farm Road.

13.2 The Committee agreed that any future requests for permanent SID installations be brought to the Environment Committee for consideration and decision.

13.3 The Committee agreed to explore the use of additional temporary SIDs and their deployment alongside Wiltshire Council.

13.4 The Committee requested that Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, write to local residents thanking them for their work on this item.

**14. Salisbury Transport Strategy:**

The Committee received a verbal update from Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, on the Salisbury Transport Strategy, noting that it is scheduled for review on 16 January and would consider improved cycling provision, smarter traffic systems and related measures in partnership with National Highways. Marc Read advised that any councillor who had not received an invitation to the review meeting should contact him.

**Resolved that:**

14.1 The Committee noted the verbal update.

The Committee placed on record its thanks to Cllr Wells for his service, knowledge and patience on the Environment Committee and noted his move to another committee.

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

There was none.

The meeting closed at 20:31 hours.