

## Salisbury City Council

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# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Environment and Climate Committee  
**Date** : 09 June 2025  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 6.30pm

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Present:

Chair: Cllr J Wells      Vice Chair: A Riddle

Cllrs: J Bolwell, S Hocking, S Foster, R Johnson, A Suddards and P Podger

Officers: Asa Thorpe, Marc Reed, Penny Muxworthy and Mostyn Coomes

Cllr S Rideout was in attendance as a resident.

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

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## 1. Election of the Chairman:

Cllr Wells called for nominations for the position of Committee Chair for the 2025-26 year. There was one nomination - Cllr J Bolwell.

**Proposed:** Cllr P Podger      **Seconded:** Cllr S Foster      **Carried**

## 2. Election of the Vice – Chairman:

Newly-elected Chair, Cllr Bolwell, called for nominations for the position of Committee Vice-chair for the 2025-26 year. There was one nomination – Cllr A Riddle.

**Proposed:** Cllr A Riddle      **Seconded:** Cllr S Foster      **All Agreed**

## 3. Apologies:

Apologies were received from: Cllr V Charleston and  
Cllr C Taylor                      Substituted by: Cllr A Suddards  
Cllr J Nettle                              Cllr S Hocking  
Cllr B Gann                                Cllr P Podger.

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

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

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

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

**6. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting of Environment and Climate Committee, held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**7. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**8. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

**9. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Marc Read, Mostyn Coombes and their teams in Environmental Services for their hard work.

**10. Environmental Services Update:**

Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, gave a brief introduction for councillors and provided an update on:

**CCTV:**

- Including the Salisbury CityWatch figures for January, February and March, which also showed the range of issues dealt with;
- The system has been upgraded to 60ghz, giving more stable and reliable images and the HIC video recorder has also been replaced (the fault being replaced by the contractor at no SCC cost);
- Councillors were invited to visit the Bourne Hill centre of operations;
- We are very grateful to the 17+ volunteers who generously give their time to support the 2 paid part-time staff. We regularly look to recruit more volunteers, who are subject to rigorous police vetting and training, and all have to sign a Volunteers Agreement. They are involved in all aspects of the work, including preparing the information and details for the presented slides. In conjunction with the Communities team, we hold regular volunteer recognition events to thank them for their time and dedication.
- MR confirmed there is very good camera coverage inside the ring road. Along with the police we constantly review where cameras are sited.

### **OPCC and Street Wardens:**

- Full Council of 27<sup>th</sup> May approved the funding package to continue the Anti-social Behaviour street wardens, being provided by AEC Security this year;
- Will start 26<sup>th</sup> June;
- Scheduled hours is very prescriptive by the police and includes 2 wardens, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 30 hours a week.

### **Crematorium & cemeteries:**

- Mr Praised Staff noting their immense pride in the high level of service provided to everyone.
- The crematorium committed to generate a sizeable income for the council.

Mostyn Coombes, Estate Manager, provided an update on Environmental Services, including Parks management, Streetscene and Facilities. To view MC's Environmental Services update notes, click this link: [Item 10 - Estates Update Notes](#).

### **Weeding:**

- MR confirmed that we carry out to the parish boundaries.
- MR will liaise with Wiltshire Council on glyphosate droplet-application;
- MR confirmed that the council works with residents and is happy if some residents want to undertake weeding in their area, and can provide bags, litter-pickers, etc.

### **Streetscene:**

- Carries out cleansing of the 'streets' within the parish boundaries;
- WC operate a 2-year cycle to clean gullies across the county, liaising over which gullies need cleaning. However, they focus on main roads, rather than residential.
- If any councillor, or resident, has any queries email [streetscene@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk), which is monitored daily.

**MyWilts App:** Councillors raised concerns that reporting to this App often ends up with no responses. Asa Thorpe, CEO, to have discussions with WC on how the App works, and how information is relayed between WC and SCC, or whomever is appropriate.

MR advised Councillors that a full review of all council **Policies** is underway and they will be presented to appropriate committees for approval in due course. The first ones the Environmental team will review are the Tree Policy and the Allotments Strategy, which will come to the next Environmental Services meeting.

### **The Committee Noted that:**

- 10.1 Councillors noted the Environmental Services update.
- 10.2 MR to liaise with Wiltshire Council on glyphosate droplet-application.
- 10.3 CEO to discuss MyWilts App with Wiltshire Council.
- 10.4 Updated, reviewed Tree Policy and Allotments Strategy will be presented to this committee's next meeting.

## **11. Budget Outturn Report 2024/25:**

Marc Reed, Head of Environmental Services, presented the Budget Outturn Report for the Environmental Services team for 2024/25 year, highlighting that across the council finances have come in very positive.

MR confirmed that spending early last year was reigned in because of poor forecasts. This affected some spending, including on the play areas – which will be revisited this year such as to maximise benefits for residents.

AT confirmed that accruals have been set aside for HMRC and VAT declarations while we await confirmation of what is due. As far as we are aware there are no more legacy issues, but we continue to make appropriate provisions and to be open and honest.

Caravan site generates income for SCC and now that it has its own cost centre the costs for and income from it will be more visible. We continue to work on monthly profiling. We are awaiting more details from the Caravan Club on the impact of our provision of more hard-standing areas – this will be brought to the next committee meeting.

It was highlighted that some of the ‘variance %s’ figures (Appendix A, column 5) appear to be incorrectly coloured (eg that for Commercial & Residential properties CRP). However, the figures in columns 3 and 4 are correct and show we well exceeded income.

It was confirmed that we lease out the café in Victoria Gardens, along with food pitches in Churchill and Lizzy Gardens.

**It was Noted and Recommended that:**

- 11.1 Councillors noted the Environmental Services update.
- 11.2 More Caravan site figures will be provided to the next meeting.

**12. Feed the Ducks Initiative:**

Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, presented a proposal from Feed the Ducks Initiative, highlighting that:

- This would be a provision at no cost or maintenance to the council, and from which we would get 10% of their income.
- This trial, potentially for a year, is placed in Lizzy Gardens, and will be regularly reviewed.

MR confirmed that he will liaise with other users for feedback, and seek assurances on how they fix their charges.

**It was Recommended that:**

- 12.1 Marc Read liaise with other Feed the Ducks Initiative customers.

**It was Proposed that the Committee:**

- 12.2 Approve the partnership with The Feed Ducks Initiative and the installation of a pilot duck feed dispenser in Queen Elizabeth Gardens.

**Proposed:** Cllr Riddle

**Seconded:** Cllr Podger

**Agreed**

**13. Pavement Surface Replacement:**

Marc Read presented the Wiltshire Council proposal to replace some repeatedly broken paving slabs in certain areas with harder-wearing tarmac.

Councillors raised concerns regarding:

- Pedestrians' health and safety issues if in replacing slabs with tarmac, it thereby appears to condone pavement parking by delivery drivers;
- Aesthetics, especially within a conservation area;
- Cost to WC tax-payers.

Councillors:

- Questioned if WC have consulted their own Conservation Officer.
- Suggested erecting bollards to stop pavement parking in those areas.
- Recommended this is discussed at the next WC Highways committee.

**Councillors recommended and proposed that:**

- 13.1 Wiltshire Council do not replace the paving slabs with a tarmac surface;
- 13.2 That Wiltshire Council installs bollards to stop pavement parking;
- 13.3 That SCC Councillors on Wiltshire Council raise at the WC Highways committee.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hocking

**Seconded:** Cllr Riddle

**Agreed**

#### **14. Churchfields Footpath Paper:**

Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services, presented the paper regarding a proposal to designate the footpath along the river around Churchfields Industrial Estate as a Public Right of Way, which Full Council had supported Officers in investigating. The matter has been discussed with Wiltshire Council, as outlined in the paper.

Councillors raised concerns about future maintenance and liabilities if designated a Public Right of Way, especially as it already enjoys good use within its Informal Status.

It was recommended that some monitoring of the path be started now for potential future reference.

**It was Recommended and Proposed:**

- 14.1 To refrain from formal designation but continue to monitor the route and advocate for its informal retention and protection.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hocking

**Seconded:** Cllr Johnson

**Agreed**

#### **15. There were no other Matters raised.**

The meeting closed at 20.14.