

Salisbury City Council

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SALISBURY
CITY COUNCIL



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Minutes

Meeting of : Full Council
Date : 12 January 2026
Meeting held in : The Guildhall, Salisbury
Commencing at : 18:30 hours

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Wells

Vice Chair:

Cllrs P Beaven, J Bolwell, M Brown, S Charleston, V Charleston, B Dalton, S Foster, A Hoque, S Hocking, R Johnson, T Last, V Milos, J Nettle, P Podger, A Riddle, E Rimmer, S Rideout, R Rogers, P Sample, A Suddards, and C Taylor.

Officers: Asa Thorpe, Janine Whitty, Steve Bishop, Marc Read, Matthew Hine, Louise Webber, Tracy Adams and Penny Muxworthy.

There was 1 member of the public (left 20:16 hours) and 1 member of the press present. Cllr Last left at 20:00 hours.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Valentino Milos as a new councillor following her election in November.

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr C Corbin.
No apologies were received from Cllr A Bayliss.

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

There were no questions or statements submitted by members of the public.

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

There were no questions or statements submitted by councillors.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10 November 2025 were approved as a correct record 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 Chairman announced he had attended 30 events as Mayor since November. Following the Mayor's visit to Novelle, Belgium they have expressed a desire to twin with Salisbury City. Next steps are to ascertain interest and share information with councillors with a presentation to 9 March Full Council for council agreement. If approved, this will be followed by discussions on implications and, in due course, application for appropriate funding. The Saintes and Xanten twinning association are supportive.

8. Administration Leader Announcements:

Cllr S Charleston welcomed Cllr V Milos and thanked all officers and councillors for their hard work on budget setting.

9. Changes to Committee Memberships:

The change to committee membership allocation, following November's by-election, was presented. Cllr Victoria Charleston was confirmed as the additional Liberal Democrat representative for the Planning Committee.

The committee **noted** the change to committee membership.

10. Referral of Minutes:

Minutes taken since the Full Council meeting on 10 November 2025 were considered:

Commercial Services Committee	27 October 2025
Planning Committee	17 November 2025
Finance Committee	24 November 2025
Environment Committee	8 December 2025
Planning Committee	15 December 2025

These were taken as read and **noted**.

11. Nominations for Mayor Elect 2026/27 and Deputy Mayor Elect 2026/27:

The Chairman called for nominations for Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect for 2026/27 in accordance with the Order of Precedence.

Proposed by: Cllr V Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr S Hocking

Votes were taken and it was:

Resolved that:

11.1 Cllr Alan Bayliss be nominated as Mayor Elect for 2026/27.

Proposed by: Cllr S Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr S Foster

Votes were taken and it was:

Resolved that:

11.2 Cllr Victoria Charleston be nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2026/27.

12. Committee Calendar 2026/27:

Janine Whitty, Head of Corporate Services, provided a report on the proposed the committee calendar for municipal year 2026/27, designed with Heads of Service to align committee meeting dates with key events throughout the year, including the financial reporting cycle and other significant milestones.

A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved that:

12.1 The council **approved** the proposed committee calendar for 2026/27

13. Budget Monitoring Report for 2025/26 Month 8:

Steve Bishop, the Responsible Finance Officer, presented the Budget Monitoring Report to end of Month 8 / November 2025, with a statement of income and expenditure, comparing actual expenditure and income against that budgeted for the period.

The Council **noted** the financial position at the end of November, officers' explanations for the variances over £50,000 and the predicted £400k underspend outturn position which has been reflected in the 2026/27 budget proposal being considered separately.

14. Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27:

Steve Bishop, the Responsible Finance Officer, introduced the report on the Administration's proposed 2026/27 budget and 5-year medium term financial plan for 2026/27 – 2030/31, including the revenue and capital budgets, to set the parish precept for 2026/27 and the proposed 2026/27 fees and charges.

The Leader presented the Administration's budget proposal, stating that it facilitates the delivery and protection of council services, provides stability against unforeseeable demands, continues to meet the council's Reserves Policy and enables the maintenance and necessary enhancement of capital assets.

Cllr Riddle proposed a change to the parish councillor allowance. The committee discussed whether to increase the allowance.

Proposed by: Cllr A Riddle

Seconded by: Cllr A Hoque

A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved that:

14.1 Councillor allowances be increased in line with the 2009-year base + CPI inflation, to £1,350 per year for 2026/27.

14.2 Councillor allowances increase annually in line with National Staffing Pay Award.

A recorded vote was taken:

For: Cllrs P Sample, S Charleston, S Foster, A Hoque, M Brown, A Riddle, J Nettle, C Taylor, A Suddards, T Last, B Dalton, V Charleston, P Beaven, R Johnson and J Wells

Against: Cllrs S Hocking, E Rimmer, J Bolwell, S Rideout, P Podger and R Rogers

Abstention: Cllr V Milos

The Opposition presented proposed amendments to the Administration budget proposal. Each were considered as follows:

Car Free Days

Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle

Seconded by: Cllr S Hocking

A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved that:

14.3 £40,000 for three Car Free Days to be piloted and included in the budget for Year 1 (2026/27).

HR System Upgrade

Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle

Seconded by: Cllr S Hocking

A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved that:

14.4 £5,000 per year be included in the budget for a HR system upgraded in Years 2 and 3 (2027/28 and 2028/29).

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle

Seconded by: Cllr S Hocking

The Administration accepted this amendment, and it was:

Resolved that:

14.5 £10,000 be included in the budget towards a Christmas lights switch-on event in Year 2 (2027/28).

Increased Festive Decorations

Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle

Seconded by: Cllr S Hocking

A vote was taken, and it was **not carried**.

Battery Storage for Solar Panels

Proposed by: Cllr J Nettle

Seconded by: Cllr P Sample

The Administration accepted this amendment, and it was:

Resolved that:

14.7 £30,000 for solar panel batteries be included in the budget for Year 1 (2026/27).

A recess was called between 20:16 hours and 20:30 hours.

Cllr Rimmer suggested five amendments to the Administration proposed budget, there was no seconder.

The committee then considered the remaining substantive motions.

Proposed by: Cllr S Charleston

Seconded by: Cllr P Sample

A vote was taken, and it was:

Resolved to:

14.12 Approve the Administration's 2026/27 Budget Proposal including the Medium Term Financial Plan and bids and savings, including the agreed amendments.

14.13 Approve the 2026/27 fees and charges.

14.14 Approve a precept of £6,306,962.

A recorded vote was taken:

For: Cllrs P Sample, S Charleston, S Foster, A Hoque, M Brown, A Riddle, J Nettle, B Dalton, V Milos, V Charleston, J Bolwell, S Rideout, P Podger, R Rogers, P Beaven, R Johnson and J Wells

Against: Cllrs S Hocking, C Taylor and E Rimmer

Abstention: Cllr A Suddards

The Chairman acknowledged the robustness of the budgeting process and thanked the RFO for supplying information for informed decisions, and Senior Management Team members for their time and efforts in managing budgets.

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

There were no matters considered under this item.

The meeting closed at 21:24 hours.

Signed versions of the minutes are available on request.