



SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in the Avon Room at Saltford Hall on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7.15pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: David Halton (Vice Chair, and Chair of the meeting), Julie Austwick, Gary Graveling, Phil Harding (Chair of Planning Committee), Paul Smith and Sally Turner.

Officer: Lottie Smith-Collins.

1. MINUTES

The Council resolved to accept the draft minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6 January 2026 at Saltford Hall as final. The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council resolved to accept apologies for inability to attend from the following members: Cllrs Jon Godfrey (Chair), Dudley Bartlett, Shayan Aziz, Andy Rice and Emma Swallow.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr David Halton shared that Saltford Parish Council looked forward to hosting Saltford's Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 13 March 2026 at 7pm, and that the meeting would be held in Main Hall at Saltford Hall.

Cllr Halton reminded those present that the next SPC Full Council meeting would take place on Tuesday 3 March, and then on Tuesday 31 March, with no meeting scheduled for April 2026.

5. PUBLIC TIME

There were 3 members of the public present.

One member of the public requested to address the Council.

The member of the public first spoke with regards to 'Item 15 - SPC Councillor attendance at Public Meeting held by Cllr Chris Warren'. They expressed their hope that SPC Councillors would be present at the Public Meeting to hear the views of residents.

The same member of the public then addressed the Council with regards to 'Item 19 - B&NES Council waste and recycling vehicles using residential roads to bypass A4 roadworks and congestion', to raise that dangerous or illegal parking of B&NES Council HGVs was occurring by the parade of shops on Bath Road. Further, although they had raised safety and access concerns directly with B&NES Council and had received a response indicating that the issue would be addressed, that dangerous parking continued. The resident had reported the matter to B&NES Council again, and a response was awaited.

6. CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk shared that a report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and summarised the following information from the report:

- **Big Thank You 2026:** SPC's invitations to the Big Thank You had been issued, and the Chair of Saltford Brass Mill had confirmed that they would be pleased to speak as part of a new short 'guest feature' about volunteering.
- **SPC complaint to West of England Combined Authority about A4 Bath to Bristol consultation process:** WECA had confirmed receipt of SPC's Stage 2 complaint and SPC awaited a response. SPC had also updated B&NES ALCA about its complaint for awareness.
- **Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) on 'greenway':** SPC had received 30+ completed User Evidence Forms in hardcopy and looked to submit the DMMO application shortly.
- **SPC request to B&NES Council to no longer permit use of greenway by cyclists (safety reasons):** SPC's request to B&NES Council (resolved Item 16, January 2026) had been submitted to B&NES Council Connect and subsequently forwarded to B&NES Council's Property Services, Highways and Public Rights of Way teams, however a response was yet to be received.
- **B&NES Council proposed works on Public Right of Way (PROW) on the ridge above the Outlook:** Following a site meeting in January, correspondence from a B&NES Council PROW officer had advised SPC that, instead of the previous plans to create a wooden revetment along a section of the path to address the steep adjacent slope, the volunteer team would first widen a short section of the path and relay earth. The initial works would be assessed to see if they successfully addressed the safety and access concerns as raised by residents, with the B&NES Officer having stated that feedback would be welcome. It was shared that initial works would be carried out by BRAM (Bath Ramblers Association) volunteers in February and subsequently reviewed, including by B&NES Ward Cllr Chris Warren.
- **PROW repair and maintenance works near Avon Lane (near B2B Path):** The B&NES PROW officer had also confirmed that works by the BRAM volunteers would also take place to repair the steps on the Public Right of Way that connects to Avon Lane (near its Mead Lane junction).

- **Churchyard tree maintenance works:** Planned tree works had taken place at St Mary's Churchyard in January, with removed dead wood kept by the Church for its 'critters hotel' environmental initiative.
- **Saltford Parish Council Precept 2026/27:** Further to the Council's resolution under Item 11.c, January 2026, SPC's precept information for 2026/27 had been shared on its website, social media and noticeboard. Inclusion of precept information in SPC's SCAN page would be decided under 'Item 20 – Publicity' (see below).
- **Request for a throw rope at Mead Lane:** Following SPC's offer to part-fund lifesaving equipment at Mead Lane, SPC had been informed by a B&NES Council officer that the matter had been discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in January, but they had been advised that it would be better presented to a different decision-making group that meets in February. SPC would be updated on any outcome.
- **'Saltford' sign at Bath end of village:** SPC had contacted B&NES Council to request an update as to when the 'Saltford' sign would be reinstalled at the Bath end of the village on A4 Bath Road.
- **Flooding issue on The Shallows highway:** SPC had contacted B&NES Council to request an update on when drainage works on The Shallows highway would take place, further to the initial (emergency) works last autumn. It was yet to receive a response, however SPC had been previously informed by B&NES Council that works were unlikely to take place until dryer weather.
- **NHW meetings in Saltford and surrounding areas:** The Sergeant of A&S Police's Keynsham Beat Team was looking to arrange regular meetings on Teams (once a month or so) for NHW groups to discuss issues and to make sure NHW voices were heard. NHW groups were encouraged to contact the Sergeant directly to be added to the meeting list.
- **Upcoming scheduled Full Council meetings:** The Council was reminded that, as previously resolved, SPC would meet twice in March (3 and 31) and that a scheduled full council meeting would not take place in April. This information had been shared on its website and noticeboard. It was noted that following the 31 March meeting, the next scheduled Full Council meeting would take place on 5 May which was also the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

7. INFORMATION FROM B&NES COUNCIL'S SALT FORD WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chris Warren, B&NES Ward Councillor for Saltford, was present at the meeting. A report was given by Cllr Warren, which included:

- A summary of the on-site meeting with the WECA officer regarding the authority's proposals for the A4 and Saltford, as consulted on in 2025. Cllr

Warren reported that he had raised concerns about drawbacks of the scheme and queried how WECA decisions were made, particularly in relation to the proposed bus lanes. He expressed the view that the WECA proposals would not significantly benefit a rural community such as Saltford and considered that, if implemented, traffic conditions in the village would worsen, with congestion for large parts of the day (see also Item 14, below).

- Following the commencement of works by Curo at Wedmore Road and Stratton Road (removal of garages), Cllr Warren advised that he intended to contact Curo to seek an update on the timescales for the development of the two new sites in Saltford.
- Cllr Warren reported that he, along with residents and Ward Cllr Duncan Hounsell, had attended the B&NES Council Planning Committee meeting on 21 January to object to planning application 25/03496/FUL (22 Tynning Road, Saltford BS31 3HL). The committee resolved to refuse the application.
- Cllr Warren stated that he hoped representatives of SPC would be able to attend the public meeting he had called for Friday 13 February (see Item 15, below).

It was shared that Cllr Duncan Hounsell, B&NES Ward Councillor for Saltford, had circulated a report to Parish Councillors in advance of the meeting (copies of which could be requested directly from Cllr Hounsell). Cllr Hounsell was also present at the meeting. Information shared included:

- B&NES Council Local Plan: Cllr Hounsell explained that land being offered by landowners was a key factor in the options presented as part of the Local Plan process. By way of example, he reported that B&NES Council's consideration of a proposed option site in Saltford Ward (at South East Whitchurch, which had been suggested for 1,950–2,500 dwellings), had ceased immediately once the landowner confirmed that the land was no longer available. Cllr Hounsell stated that the options presented for Saltford village were a result of the Government's housing targets and local landowners offering land for development. He also noted that the final vote by B&NES Council to adopt the Local Plan would take place following the local elections in May 2027.
- B&NES Council budget: Cllr Hounsell reported that the B&NES Council Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee had met earlier that day, ahead of the budget-setting Council meeting scheduled for 24 February. He confirmed that there would be no charge for Discovery Cards and no change to the opening days or hours at the Bath and Welton (Midsomer Norton) waste and recycling centres. Cllr Hounsell shared that SPC's formal objection to the latter (resolved under Item 14, January 2026) had been mentioned at the committee meeting, and that SPC had been thanked for its

response by the B&NES Cabinet Member for Resources. He added that further information on the B&NES budget and its relevance to Saltford would be shared in March, following the Council meeting on 24 February.

- Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): Cllr Hounsell reported that he had attended a meeting with PCC Clare Moody, where priorities discussed included reducing male violence against women and girls. At the meeting, he had highlighted the need for the Neighbourhood Watch network to be revitalised and better supported. Cllr Hounsell also reported that he had met with the newly appointed Local Policing Area Superintendent for B&NES.

As in the written report which had shared that Cllr Hounsell had reported via B&NES Council's FixMyStreet a highway issue at Golf Club Lane, a SPC Councillor asked if he had received any information on proposed action to be taken. It was also noted that SPC had previously raised the matter with B&NES Council in September 2025. Cllr Hounsell advised that the issue may require investigation beyond routine maintenance to determine the underlying cause.

('ITEM 15 - SPC COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY CLLR CHRIS WARREN' WAS DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED NEXT)

('ITEM 19 ' B&NES COUNCIL WASTE AND RECYCLING VEHICLES USING RESIDENTIAL ROADS TO BYPASS A4 ROADWORKS AND CONGESTION' WAS DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED NEXT)

8. REPORTS FROM LINK MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Sally Turner reported that she had attended the latest meeting of the Saltford Fairtrade Group. Cllr Turner shared that they had requested an update on the Council's consideration of a replacement Fairtrade sign at the Bath end of the village. In response, the Clerk referred to the June 2025 minutes, which stated that the Council would consider the matter once B&NES Council had reinstated the 'Saltford' sign, and that SPC had recently contacted B&NES Council for an update on this. It was confirmed that any information received would be shared with the Saltford Fairtrade Group once it was received, and that the request for a replacement Fairtrade sign would then be a future agenda item.

Cllr David Halton reported that he attended a Saltford Community Association meeting, and that a discussion of SPC's precept for 2026/27 had taken place.

The Clerk reported that they had given their apologies for the next Keynsham Area Forum (KAF) meeting, scheduled for 9 February 2026 online via Teams. It was shared that the main topic for discussion would be Children and Young People, and that KAF meetings were open to the public, with meeting information available on the B&NES Council website.

The Clerk also reported that the next B&NES ALCA meeting would take place on 11

February 2026 and that they intended to attend. Councillors were welcome to join.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Further to 'Item 4 - Public Time' (above) and following discussion of 'Item 19 - B&NES Council waste and recycling vehicles using residential roads to bypass A4 roadworks and congestion' (below), the Council agreed to include on a future agenda an item to consider whether to raise a concern or make a formal complaint to B&NES Council regarding the issue of B&NES Council HGV vehicle parking at or near the shop parade on Bath Road, including on Double Yellow Lines.

Further to the decision under 'Item 9 - Future Items (January 2026)', it was shared that SPC had yet to receive a copy of the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation (closing date: 10 March). It was noted that it had been agreed that the NPPF consultation would be included on SPC's 3 March agenda only if considered necessary e.g. should SPC's view likely differ from the response(s) of bodies of which SPC is a member (e.g. NALC and/or CPRE).

It was shared that a proposal had been raised by the community 'Poppy Project' for the Scouts and Guides to add a banner potentially with crafted (e.g. crocheted, knitted etc.) poppies to (or near) Saltford's War Memorial Railings in November 2026. SPC had subsequently approached the organisers for more information. Due to the War Memorial railings being an SPC asset coupled with consideration of the sensitive nature of the location, it was agreed that this matter would need to be a future agenda item if the 'Poppy Project' at this location looked to proceed. The Council highlighted that members of the public would be welcome to address the Council with their views prior to a decision being made.

The Council acknowledged the requirement for Assertion 10 compliance ahead of the 2025/2026 audit and agreed in principle that all documents or resolutions viewed as required by the Responsible Financial Officer to meet compliance would be items on the March (3 & 31) and any other future agendas as appropriate.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Decisions and appeals

The Clerk reported that the following applications have been PERMITTED (with conditions) by B&NES Council:

25/04508/FUL - 22 Grange Road Saltford BS31 3AG. Replacement of existing flat roof with pitched roof and gable end. J Fragapane

25/03234/FUL - Pound Cottage Queen Square Saltford BS31 3EL. Replace current damaged wooden windows. Mr Simon Rodway

25/04587/VAR - 561 Bath Road Saltford. Variation of conditions 2 (Flood Risk Assessment) and 3 (Floodplain Compensation) of application 24/02956/FUL (Erection of a storage area and workshop building, to follow demolition of existing building). Mr R Jefferies

The Clerk reported that the following application has NO OBJECTION by B&NES Council:

25/04657/TCA - Rivals The Shallows Saltford BS31 3EX. Ash T1 - fell. Apple T2 - crown reduce by 1-2 metres and thin. Maple T3 - crown reduce 1-2 metres. JHS Tree Services

The Clerk reported that the following application had been REFUSED by B&NES Council:

25/03530/FUL - 561 Bath Road Saltford. Change of use to storage / workshop space, and to replace the existing building (approx. 67.50m²), with horizontal corrugated metal sheet elevations. Mr R Jefferies

And,

The Clerk reported that the following application had been referred to the B&NES Planning Committee for determination, and had subsequently been REFUSED by B&NES Council:

25/03496/FUL - 22 Tynning Road Saltford BS31 3HL. Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of 5No. new bungalows including new access road off Tynning Road. Mrs Sandy Vear

b. Planning contraventions

- i. No updates or information received on matters as referred by SPC to the B&NES Council Planning Enforcement Team were received.
- ii. No enquiries or any possible new contraventions were raised.

c. Planning applications (consultations) – As a statutory consultee, the Council considered and resolved a view on the following planning application in respect of which Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council had invited comment (text taken directly from information supplied by B&NES Council, information on the [B&NES Council Planning Portal](#)):

25/04871/FUL - 69 Norman Road Saltford BS31 3BJ. Erection of Single Storey Extension & Detached Garage. Mr James Allen

It was resolved that B&NES Council be advised that this Council **SUPPORTS** this application.

- d. **Consultation on planning applications in Saltford: Consultation(s) received after the meeting notice was issued (details available on the**

B&NES Council [B&NES Council Planning Portal](#)):

It was shared that no planning application consultations had been received from B&NES Council following the publication of the meeting notice.

- e. Planning policy: SPC request for 'Saltford south of the A4' landscape designation by B&NES Council (AGLV or local green space) including feedback following meeting with the Leader of B&NES Council, the B&NES Council Cabinet member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, and members of B&NES Council's Planning Policy team.**

Cllr Phil Harding reported that he, Cllr Gary Graveling, Cllr David Halton, and the Parish Clerk had attended a meeting with B&NES Council Planning Policy Officers - including the Landscape Officer - and the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development. The meeting had taken place on 2 February at Saltford Golf Club. The purpose of the meeting had been to further SPC's request for 'Saltford South of the A4' landscape designation by B&NES Council, and to discuss SPC's letter to the Leader of B&NES Council which expressed support for B&NES Council's request for a lower housing target due to Bath's UNESCO World Heritage City status.

With regards to its bid for additional landscape designation by B&NES Council on Saltford's Green Belt (as detailed on SPC's 'Protecting Saltford's Green Belt' webpage) SPC had been informed that its 'exemplary' information would be taken into account in B&NES Council's consideration of the Draft Local Plan, with the papers for the draft plan due for publication planned for ahead of B&NES Council's May Cabinet meeting. SPC had welcomed the Landscape Officer's consideration of information shared following the onsite meeting held in late 2025.

Cllr Harding also shared that SPC's letter expressing support for B&NES Council's request for a lower housing target due to Bath's UNESCO World Heritage City status had been discussed at the meeting, with the view received that the amount of development in B&NES would likely remain the same as set by the Government (e.g. double the original number following the revised NPPF in December 2024) despite Bath's WHS and the impact of government numbers on other settlements.

It was shared that SPC had received a response to its letter to the Secretary of State dated 8 December 2025 as received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in January. SPC's letter had supported a reduced housing target to protect Bath's UNESCO World Heritage status, citing Saltford as an example of local impact. The response received outlined to SPC the Local Plan process. The letter also set out the Government's position on national housing needs, the revised standard method for assessing housing demand, and expectations for evidence-based local planning, and review of Green Belt land if necessary. The Council considered that the content of the letter was in line with expectations.

f. **Planning items of urgent or important information**

Further to above, no planning items of urgent or important information were received.

(The Chair suspended standing orders for a short break. Standing Orders were then reinstated and the meeting continued).

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. **Monthly Financial Report** – The Clerk presented the monthly financial report for January 2026, as recorded below. The report was accepted by members.
- b. **Schedule of Expenditure** – The Council resolved to authorise the expenditure listed in the schedule for February 2026, as recorded below. The schedule was signed by the Chair of the meeting.
- c. **Internal Auditor (appointment)**: The Council resolved to appoint Auditing Solutions to carry out Saltford Parish Council's 2025/26 Internal Audit.
- d. **Internal Auditor (spend)**: Further to the decision under 11.d, the Council resolved a spend of up to £420 inc VAT (likely c.£380) to Auditing Solutions for SPC's Internal Audit 2025/26. (Budget: Auditing).

12. CHURCHYARD GROUNDS MAINTENANCE: 1 YEAR CONTRACT MARCH 2026 TO FEBRUARY 2027; OR 3 YEAR CONTRACT MARCH 2026 TO FEBRUARY 2029 (INCLUDING TO RESOLVE SPEND)

The Council resolved to appoint Ambience Grounds Maintenance as its contractor to undertake the regular churchyard grounds maintenance for a 36 month period starting on 1 March 2026 and in accordance with the specification agreed at the January meeting.

The Council resolved to accept a spend of £6,052.69 + VAT over 36 months (end date: February 2029), which equated to 2017.56 p.a. + VAT (or c.£168.13 + VAT p.c.m) from 1 March 26 to the end of February 2029 (Budget heading: Churchyard Grounds Maintenance).

13. ASSET CHECKING OUTCOMES

It was reported that updates had been received from Councillors and staff following the biannual asset checks assigned at the January meeting.

It was suggested that the basketball post could be repainted for aesthetic reasons.

It was noted that the check of the Youth Shelter was still outstanding.

All other assets were confirmed as checked, with no further action required.

The Council resolved that 'asset checking outcomes' would be included as a future agenda item. This would allow the Youth Shelter to be inspected and the potential repainting of the basketball post to be considered at the same time, including the possibility of obtaining a joint quote if viewed as required.

14. A4 BATH TO BRISTOL WECA CONSULTATION: FEEDBACK FOLLOWING ONSITE MEETING WITH WECA OFFICER

The Council received feedback following the on-site meeting with a WECA Officer on 16 January, arranged by Ward Cllr Chris Warren and attended by Cllr Phil Harding and the Parish Clerk, regarding WECA's 2025 A4 Bath to Bristol Consultation proposals.

SPC raised concerns in line with its resolved response regarding traffic, bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, cycling and walking facilities, and the impact on the Conservation Area.

SPC had requested access to traffic modelling information for the proposed bus lane from the Broadmead Roundabout to Saltford. The WECA Officer explained that the modelling had been prepared prior to the consultation, and SPC questioned why it had not been made available at that time. The Officer confirmed that the information would be included in the forthcoming business case.

When asked about the claimed benefits of the scheme, the WECA Officer clarified that the benefits cited in the consultation materials were for the overall scheme, not specifically for the sections affecting Saltford. SPC raised that this had been unclear at the time of the consultation, as the benefits cited had been published immediately alongside proposals for Saltford.

At the end of the on-site meeting, the WECA Officer shared that lighting on the Bristol to Bath Path had been decommissioned. The officer also acknowledged SPC's concerns regarding safety, gradient, and access on the 'greenway' path behind the Bird in Hand to the B2B Railway Path. The officer stated that WECA would consider reducing the number of signs and road markings in Saltford's historic High Street from the 28 initially proposed.

It was recognised that while the meeting provided an opportunity to raise these issues directly with a WECA representative, it was uncertain whether SPC's engagement would result in significant changes to the proposals.

The Council further noted that the A4 Consultation Report was expected in March, with a further WECA public consultation on the A4 Keynsham Bypass planned for summer 2026, likely to commence in July or September.

15. SPC COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY CLLR CHRIS WARREN

The Council noted B&NES Ward Cllr Chris Warren's formal invitation to SPC to attend a public meeting he had convened at 7pm on Friday 13 February at Saltford Hall, as extended at the January meeting (Item 7), and which had been presented as an opportunity for residents to voice opinions about recent housing and transport proposals by B&NES Council and WECA respectively.

The Council agreed that it was appropriate for a representative of Saltford Parish Council to attend the meeting to provide feedback to the Council. Cllr David Halton, SPC Vice Chair, proposed that he attend as the SPC's representative, and this was also agreed.

It was clarified that, as SPC's views on the B&NES Council Local Plan Options Consultation and WECA's A4 Bath to Bristol Consultation had been publicised and published in full on SPC's website, that Cllr Halton would not speak on behalf of the Council at the meeting, but would attend to hear the views of residents. B&NES Ward Cllr Chris Warren, present at the meeting, was informed of this arrangement.

It was further clarified that any other Council member attending the meeting would do so in a personal capacity (as a resident), and not as an SPC Councillor, which was the default position for members attending public meetings.

16. B&NES COUNCIL PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION ON PARKING CHARGES 2026-2027 (INCLUDING RESIDENT'S PARKING PERMITS)

It was shared that SPC had previously responded to B&NES Council's TRO consultation titled 'Review of on-street parking permit charges (2025-26)' under Item 14 at its November meeting. It noted that the Council had submitted its objection to proposals for emissions-based charging in RPZs, and that while it had acknowledged the need for cleaner vehicles, that SPC considered that such charges could unfairly penalise lower-income residents and their visitors, and potentially displace parking onto nearby streets. SPC had also stated in its November consultation response that the transition to cleaner vehicles should be supported through national policies and incentives rather than local parking charges.

Further, the Council acknowledged that the proposed charges for Saturdays at the Bath Hill East car park in Keynsham had been withdrawn by B&NES Council prior to the end of the consultation.

As such the Council resolved not to respond to the B&NES Council Consultation.

17. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSE TO B&NES COUNCIL FOLLOWING NEW MATERIAL INFORMATION AND AT B&NES COUNCIL'S REQUEST: PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (PROW) CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED

DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH BA27/47 (NEAR THE SHALLOWS) & B&NES COUNCIL INFORMATION ABOUT BA27/47

The Council noted that new material information had been received from B&NES Council subsequently to SPC having submitted its resolved response ([Item 17, January 2026](#)) to the consultation. The Council also acknowledged B&NES Council's request to Saltford Parish Council, as received alongside the new material information, for clarification of its resolved response and specifically whether the Parish Council did or did not object to the proposed diversion of Public Footpath BA27/47.

Following discussion the Council resolved the following response further to, and not in reversal of, its response as resolved at the January 2026 meeting:

Further to, and not in reversal of its previously resolved response (Item 17, January 2026), the Council resolved to object to the proposed diversion of the Public Right of Way i.e. it viewed that the public footpath should remain at 'A to B' as on the plan provided.

18. FORMAL LETTER OF CONCERN OR COMPLAINT WITH REGARDS TO BANES COUNCIL'S EV CHARGING INSTALLATION PROGRAMME AS FUNDED BY THE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Council noted that it was first advised in February 2023 that funding from the WECA Green Recovery Fund would be used by B&NES Council to install EV charging points at specific rural locations in B&NES including at the Wedmore Road car park in Saltford. The programme's stated objective was to establish off-street community EV charging hubs in rural areas, available for public use day and night.

The Council further noted that, despite multiple requests for updates about the programme, the last direct communication from B&NES Council's EV Officer had been received in January 2025.

Information provided via Ward Councillor correspondence in May 2025 indicated that installation at Wedmore Road was expected within the current financial year.

No further updates had been provided despite additional requests, including in January 2026, as well as a request for support from the B&NES Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport Strategy who confirmed they would ask the EV Officer to contact the Parish Council.

In consideration of the continued lack of communication, apparent lack of progress of the programme, and uncertainty regarding the use of Green Recovery Fund funding, the Council resolved to formally raise its concerns by submitting a complaint to B&NES Council regarding its EV charging installation programme.

It was agreed that the complaint would request that B&NES Council provide a

response to include:

- An update on the progress of the B&NES-wide EV charging installation programme, with specific reference to the Wedmore Road car park; and
- Clarification on how the WECA Green Recovery Fund funding, confirmed as received by B&NES Council in July 2023, had been allocated or spent in relation to community EV charging hub installations within B&NES.

19. B&NES COUNCIL WASTE AND RECYCLING VEHICLES USING RESIDENTIAL ROADS TO BYPASS A4 ROADWORKS AND CONGESTION

The Council noted that large B&NES Council Waste and Recycling vehicles had been using residential roads in Saltford, including the narrow streets within the Conservation Area, as diversionary routes during periods of A4 roadworks and congestion (the example given being between 30 December and 6 January during the Wales & West Utilities A4 works, outside scheduled collection times).

Safety concerns were raised in consideration that sections of historic roads did not have pavements, and that roads used for 'rat running' were regularly used by cyclists accessing the Bristol to Bath Railway Path. Concerns related to vehicles mounting pavements to pass other traffic, causing congestion, and creating significant safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists.

Further concerns related to frequency of large waste vehicles, often travelling in convoy, that had caused congestion for motorists, as well as cyclists and pedestrians, particularly at the Bird/High Street junction and other restricted sections of High Street.

The Council resolved to formally request that B&NES Council ensure Waste and Recycling vehicles avoid using Saltford's residential roads as diversionary routes during A4 roadworks or periods of congestion (unless these roads form part of an official signed diversion). It agreed that the request would be made to safeguard public safety, maintain safe road access, and protect resident wellbeing.

The Council also noted that dangerous parking of B&NES Council HGVs in the village would be considered at a future meeting (see 'Item 9 – Future agenda items' above).

20. PUBLICITY - INCLUDING TO CLOSE MAILCHIMP ACCOUNT

The Council resolved to close its MailChimp account, which would include the permanent deletion of all associated data, following SPC's e-newsletter having been discontinued in 2024 with no negative impact.

The Council discussed the contents of its next SCAN page (March/April 2026 edition, end date to submit: 10 February), and agreed that it would include information about SPC's 2026/27 precept.

21. CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

No further updates or information was provided, further to Item 18 above (Electric Vehicle Charging Installation Programme).

22. ADOPTION OF ICO MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Council resolved to adopt the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) Model Publication Scheme and to publish the adopted scheme on SPC’s website.

23. DATA PROTECTION AND GDPR UPDATES

Further to Item 20 (Publicity) and Item 22 (Adoption of ICO Model Publication Scheme), no further updates on actions for data management and GDPR compliance were received.

24. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council resolved that in accordance with Standing Order 3.d, in view of the nature of the information to be shared, that the public and press be temporarily excluded. The public and press were then informed that they were instructed to withdraw.

25. RESOLUTION TO GRANT A MEMBER A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Council resolved to grant SPC Cllr Emma Swallow a leave of absence (sabbatical), and in principle for this to last until ahead of the June meeting, with attendance to recommence in June 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Date confirmed/...../.....

Signed.....

Next SPC meeting:

The next scheduled ordinary full council meeting is scheduled to take place at 7:15pm on 3 March 2026 in the Avon Room at Saltford Hall. Information about SPC’s meetings available at www.saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of regular expenditure during February 2026
 – for authorisation by the Council at its meeting on 3 February 2026.

Description	Amount	Method	Budget heading
February staff costs total inc. salary, pension, HMRC tax and National Insurance.	3000 estimate, 3200 maximum	Online BACS	Office staff
February SCA Hall hire	40 estimate 75 maximum	Online BACS	Hall hire
February inTouch Communications Ltd phone system	27 (+ VAT) estimate 35 (+ VAT) maximum	Direct Debit	General Administration
February Ambience Landscapes churchyard maintenance	190 (inc VAT) estimate 210 (inc VAT) maximum	Online BACS	Churchyard Maintenance
February monthly One Drive	2 (inc VAT) 3 max	Direct Debit	General Administration
February stationary, IT supplies, printing & postage, office equipment + as appropriate	20 estimate 200 max	Online BACS / Clerks expenses	General Administration
February monthly bank account fee and electronic payments banking fee	5 estimated 15 maximum	Online BACS	General Administration
February Payroll services fee (to be paid quarterly)	15 estimated 25 maximum	Online BACS	General Administration

The following sums have been transferred from the Business Instant Deposit Account into the Current Account to cover outstanding invoices and expenditure:

Date: 27.01.26 Amount: £5000

I certify that the above payments made or to be made have been authorised at the meeting of the Parish Council on 3 February 2026.

SIGNED.....

DATE:.....

CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR

Business Instant Access account	£73,732
Cash	£0
TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE	£77,338

CIL-related cashflow	Balance at 31/03/25		CIL-income 25/26	CIL-expend 25/26	CIL balance
	£3,941		£3,152.23	£0	£7,094