

SALTFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7 March 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Saltford held at the Main Hall at Saltford Hall, Wedmore Road, BS31 3BY, on Friday 7 March 2025. The meeting commenced at 7pm.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Jon Godfrey, was present and therefore chaired the meeting.

Cllr Godfrey welcomed those present, of which there were approximately 140 members of the public.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2024 Saltford Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 March 2024 were presented. These were confirmed as a correct record and were then signed by the Chair.

3. REPORT BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

The Chair of Saltford Parish Council (SPC), Cllr Jon Godfrey, shared that he was in his second term as Chair and his tenth as a SPC Councillor, and that he intended to provide a summary of the Parish Council's actions and decisions from the past year.

Cllr Godfrey stated that an area of significant focus for the Parish Council had - and would continue to be - the protection of the village's Green Belt. He referenced proposals for development as put forward in the B&NES Council Local Plan Options Consultation (2024) for 1,300 new homes in Saltford.

The West of England Combined Authority's (WECA) proposals for the 'A4 Bath to Bristol Corridor' were also recognised as a key concern by Cllr Godfrey. He stated that SPC had continued to actively oppose proposals put forward over the past year. Specifically, Cllr Godfrey highlighted the Parish Council's opposition to the creation of bus lanes on the A4 in Saltford and Keynsham, proposed to be achieved through the removal of existing road space. Cllr Godfrey stated that the Parish Council had understood and agreed with the significant concerns that had been expressed by many residents, and as such had acted accordingly.

Cllr Godfrey shared that he had been honoured to be asked to officially open the Saltford side of the new Wessex Water bridge, as located near Wessex Water's Mead Lane site.

Other actions and activity were briefly referred to in Cllr Godfrey's report. This included the introduction of five Bleed Kits in the village, key consultations that SPC had responded to (examples given included B&NES Strategic Transport consultations and the Bristol Airport Masterplan consultation), and the positive use of SPC's website and social media as effective ways to share key information with residents.

Cllr Godfrey also thanked B&NES Ward Cllr Duncan Hounsell for his support following B&NES Council's closure of a section of Manor Road ('lane') to motor vehicles.

Cllr Godfrey stated that Saltford Parish Council remained a fiscally responsible council. He referred to the comparatively low precept demand for Saltford as set for 2025/26 by the Parish Council, and attributed this in part to the major contribution made by Saltford Community Association (SCA). This included reference to SCA's ownership and management of Saltford Hall. Cllr Godfrey went on to provide information about the condition of the churchyard walls. He shared that as SPC was responsible for their safety maintenance that significant spend for repairs by the Parish Council had been accommodated in the precept for 2025/26, and that this level of annual spend may continue to be required in future years.

At the end of his report, Cllr Godfrey thanked Parish Councillors and staff at Saltford Parish Council. It was shared that Saltford's Parish Councillors (as elected members) gave their time voluntary to the village. Cllr Godfrey added that the Chair received a small honorarium ('Chair's Allowance'), and that he had donated his honorarium in 2024/25 to support the work of SCA and Saltford Sports Club. Cllr Godfrey said that he viewed that Saltford Parish Council had worked hard over the past year to serve the residents of Saltford and that he was proud of the achievements the Parish Council had made.

4. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR MATTERS RAISED BY THOSE PRESENT

Cllr Jon Godfrey invited those present to raise any questions or matters. No questions or matters were raised by those present.

Cllr Godfrey officially closed the Saltford Annual Parish Meeting 2025.

The meeting closed at 7:12.

Chair

Date confirmed and signed