

MINUTES
of the Town Development Committee
held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.00pm
at
Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road,
Warminster BA12 8LB

Membership:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Allensby (West) | * | Cllr Lee (Broadway) | * |
| Cllr Barnes (East) | * | Cllr Robbins (East) | * |
| Cllr Davis (East) | * | Mr James Sullivan-Tailyour (Advisor) | * |
| Cllr Jones (North) (Chairman) | * | Mr Matt Towl (Advisor) | * |
| Cllr Keeble (West) (Vice Chairman) | * | Mr Len Turner (Advisor) | * |

Key: * Present A Apologies AB Absent

In attendance:

Officers: Judith Halls, Deputy Town Clerk and Kevin Whitehorn, Estates Manager

Attendees:

Unitary Councillors: None

Members of the press: None

Members of the public: One

TD/25/056 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence

TD/25/057 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest received under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Signed.....Date.....

TD/25/058

Minutes

TD/25/058.1 The minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

TD/25/058.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025.

TD/25/059

Chairman’s Announcements

Cllr Jones advised the committee that Beth Mullins, Youth Outreach Worker was unable to attend the meeting, she had submitted a written statement which would be read out during the confidential session.

TD/25/060

Questions

There were no questions submitted by members before the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7:02pm for public participation.

TD/25/061

Public Participation

Maggie Daniels spoke regarding the future of the town and its heritage assets. She had previously attended a planning meeting about the potential purchase of the land at 3 High Street for an open green space at the Chapel St Lawrence so it would not be blocked by the proposed new development. This idea has since progressed, and a Community Interest Group is being established. The group would seek funding from grants and donations and if the bid for the site at the side of St Lawrence Chapel failed the monies raised would be used for other heritage sites within the town.

Cllr Carter spoke regarding the Town of Culture and thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak.

A Culture competition is about more than size, geographical location or aesthetics, it is about community identity, shared customs and beliefs as well as civic pride. While the prize money is attractive, an application to this competition is not just about prize money - this is about putting Warminster on the national map and showing people that have never visited exactly what makes this town so special.

Our story stretches from the Iron Age hillforts of Cley Hill to our Saxon origins as a Royal Manor. We are a town of pioneers: home to the Warminster Maltings, Dents, and a renowned Cornmarket legacy. Historic architecture can still be admired today with shops on our high street located in buildings first opened in 1499. We have the Athenaeum Theatre, a jewel of Victorian architecture and the beating heart of our local arts. We have the Lake Pleasure Grounds, a space that brings families together across generations and is renowned in the Southwest.

And let’s not forget our modern folklore—our town is known as the ‘UFO capital’ of the UK, a unique part of our identity that shows our community looks to the stars with curiosity and imagination.

There are plenty of other cultural elements that we can and should touch on, and I hope that you approve the opportunity for our Town to take that first step and to

Signed.....Date.....

allow others interested in expressing our culture, both current and historical, the opportunity to do so.

What could we achieve with the Prize Fund?

The bid application talks about local challenges and issues that our bid can help to address. I have put forward 3 of my own but it is my hope you as a committee can decide upon and implement more detailed ideas:

1. Revitalise our high street further through creative hubs, workshops and small independent businesses.
2. Improving the scale and possibly number of the independent markets and bringing more sports and music related events to the town park.
3. Increase spending on the wellbeing of our youth population through programs and workshops in the arts, or utilising our natural assets to link the culture of our town with mental health and the environment

If we don't apply, we guarantee that this investment and prestige goes elsewhere. If we do apply, we show the people of Warminster that their council is ambitious for their future, and that we believe in Warminster as a town of culture and potential.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7:08pm

TD/25/062 Reports from Unitary Authority Members

There were no reports received from Unitary Members

Members unanimously agreed to move agenda items 8 and 9 including the confidential session to the final items on the agenda

TD/25/063 Activities for Young People Update

Members noted the organised activities for young people in Warminster which includes

- Tennis coaching
- Wall climbing/archery etc
- Skatepark events
- Park Yoga (for all ages)

TD/25/064 Youth Fest Event and Roarminster

Members approved the additional event for 2026, Youth Fest, Saturday 11th July, this will mark the launch of Roarminster. Funding to come from Town Park Events. (210/4085)

Members approved and fully supported the Dinosaur Trail, Roarminster which will be in place for eight weeks around the town. Funding to come from Town Centre Regeneration (107/4208)

TD/25/065 Warminster Business Network

Matt Towl from Warminster Business network updated the committee on a new Venture that could be coming to town, a workspace which could include childcare for workers.

Signed.....Date.....

He also raised the issue of speed awareness in the town and the possible installation of Speed Awareness indicators at the zebra crossing as a reminder.
Finally, Roarminster, a great idea that all the town could be involved in, a loyalty card scheme to encourage people to shop in the town over the eight week period. This would involve set up costs to initiate it.

Members noted the Warminster Business Network updates.

TD/25/066 **Tynings Allotments**

Members noted the minutes from the meeting held on 17th September 2025

TD/25/067 **Operational Flood Working Group South**

Members noted the minutes from the meeting of the Operational Flood Working Group South held on 17th December 2025.

TD/25/068 **Warminster Town Council Litter Champion**

Members noted that the Great British Spring Clean Litter Pick was being held on Saturday 14th March 2026 at 10am. Warminster Town Council and Sustainable Warminster working together and meeting at the Civic Centre. Free tea/coffee/biscuit refreshments for all volunteers.

TD/25/069 **Rights of Way Volunteers**

Members noted the updates from the January 2026 Rights of Way Volunteers and requested that their thanks be passed on to Nige Linge and his band of helpers.

TD/25/070 **Grovelands Countryside and Wildlife Volunteers**

Len Turner updated the committee on the water voles in the vicinity of the Grovelands, there had been early sightings which proved what a mild winter it had been. There are burrows being spotted which is a good sign for the population. He advised that there was still silt washing down from the Persimmon site. There had been measures introduced to reduce the silt by using straw bales, this is no longer working, so he will continue his dialogue with the developers on how to reduce the silt washing down into the town park, Smallbrook and the River Wylfe.

Members noted the updates from the Grovelands Countryside and Wildlife Volunteers and requested that their thanks be passed on to all involved.

TD/25/071 **Town of Culture**

Members decided that they wished for Warminster to submit an Expression of Interest and apply to enter the UK Town of Culture competition, a new Government initiative which aims to shine a spotlight on the unique contributions that towns make.

Members approved for an Expression of Interest be submitted to the Town of Culture Competition by 31st March 2026 and set up a working group to meet next Monday 9th March comprising of Cllrs Allensby, Barnes, Carter, Jones, Keeble and Chair of Warminster Business Network Matt Towl.

Signed.....Date.....

TD/25/072 Communications
Members agreed a press release to be issued about Roarminster and Activities for Young People with Cllr Jones as the spokesperson

Confidential session pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; the Council, by resolution, may exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings.

TD/25/073 Report on Youth Outreach Work (Confidential Session)
Members noted the update from the work of the Youth Outreach Workers.

TD/25/074 Continuation of Detached Youth Work
Members recommended to Full Council that the Council enter into a new one-year agreement, with the intention of renewing it again in 2027. The cost for the 2026/27 year will be £24,000, to be funded from the Youth Provision budget (109/4067).

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Minutes from this meeting will be available to all members of the public either from our website www.warminster-tc.gov.uk or by contacting us at Warminster Civic Centre.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st June 2026.

Signed.....Date.....