

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting  
of Warminster Town Council  
on  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm  
held at the Civic Centre,  
Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB**

**Membership:**

|  |   |                            |   |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Cllr Allensby (West)   | * | Cllr Keeble (West)         | * |
| Cllr Barnes (East)   | * | Cllr J Kirkwood (Broadway) | * |
| Cllr Carter (West)   | * | Cllr S Kirkwood (Broadway) | * |
| Cllr Cooper (Broadway) Chairman of the Council and Mayor         | * | Cllr Lee (Broadway)        | * |
| Cllr Davis (East)  | * | Cllr Parks (North)         | A |
| Cllr Hawker (West)   | * | Cllr Robbins (East)        | * |
| Cllr Jones (North) Vice Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor | A | Cllr Tuisinu (East)        | * |

**Key:** \* Present    A Apologies    AB Absent

**In attendance:**

**Officers:** Tom Dommatt, (Town Clerk and RFO), Judith Halls (Deputy Town Clerk)

**Attendees:**

**Unitary Councillors:** None

**Members of the press:** None

**Members of the public:** One

**FC/25/148    Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jones and Parks.

**FC/25/149    Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct, issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

**FC/25/150**     **Chairman's Announcements**

None

**FC/25/151**     **Questions**

There were no questions submitted in advance by members of the council.

**FC/25/152**     **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**FC/25/153**     **Reports from Unitary Authority Members**

None

**FC/25/154**     **Consultation on proposed changes to parking charges**

Wiltshire Council has launched a consultation inviting residents, businesses and local organisations to have their say on proposed changes to parking charges across the county. The consultation, part of the statutory traffic regulation order (TRO) process, runs until Wednesday 5 May. It follows a full review of parking tariffs to ensure they align with the council's Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) and the Parking Sub-Strategy.

Parking charges have remained unchanged since 2022, despite a rise of over 20% in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and increasing operational costs.

The proposed changes include:

- An average 20% rise in parking charges in 2026, followed by a further 5% rise in 2028
- Extending parking charges operating hours to 7am-7pm
- Aligning Sunday charges with weekday tariffs
- Adjusting season ticket and permit fees in line with any tariff changes

**Members resolved to respond to the consultation by indicating that the town council:**

- **Opposes the proposal to align Sunday charges with weekday rate.**
- **Opposes the proposal to extended parking charging hours in car parks from 7 am – 7pm.**
- **Would welcome meeting with Wiltshire Council to discuss what could be done to encourage people to park for longer, particularly the 3 hour slot.**
- **Makes the comments below.**

**General tariff increase**

There is a general concern that in the current economic climate, particularly when fuel costs are so high that the impact of the increases will be negative on the town when any proposals should be aimed at increasing footfall in the town centre.

The weekday increases are understood, given that they have remained unchanged since 2022. However, there is little rationale behind the changes, it seems like just a roll forward of existing fees. Why for instance are different hourly rates proposed for different car parks.

Warminster Town Council had a working group that looking into car parking charges. Their focus was to encourage people to spend longer in Warminster (increase dwell time) and increase spend, the two being linked.

With this in mind they were keen to encourage the public to get a three-hour ticket, thus allowing people time to browse and explore more businesses, stop at café or other vendors of food and drink and generally shop local. The calculations showed this could have raised more income for Wiltshire Council and helped town centre regeneration. It is disappointing no account was taken of these ideas in the proposed put forward by Wiltshire Council. The leap in price between a 2 and 3 hour ticket is a disincentive to staying longer.

Warminster could welcome time to explore that sort of option, perhaps as a pilot scheme.

The extension of parking charging hours in car parks from 7 am – 7pm. Wiltshire Council say this will optimise the current assets potential without incurring additional costs for enforcement.

The change from 8am – 6pm to 7am to 7pm will hit some people very hard. It could add 10 hours a week extra car parking charges to retail workers. In a town where many roads have insufficient parking for residents, this may have a serious knock on effect. The nighttime economy, which is already fragile in Warminster would take a further hit. People attending a show at the Athenaeum (including volunteers) pubs and restaurants could be charged more.

#### **Align Sunday charges with weekday rate**

The proposals for a single tariff across all days is said by Wiltshire Council to reduce confusion, simplifies payment, and ensures fairness for all users.

The Sunday charges are already slightly anomalous as someone getting a ticket in Western Car Park, Warminster on a Sunday is charged 70p if they stay an hour whereas that would be just 40p on any other day of the week.

It is believed Sunday charging has traditionally been cheaper because fewer shops and business are open on a Sunday, which is still the case despite increased Sunday opening.

Concerns have been raised that people will be diverted from Car Parks and instead use on street parking or parking in residential roads. These cause problems (and costs) of their own and potentially reduce the income raised by the increase in charges.

Members are very conscious of people using the Lake Pleasure Grounds (for example) and other facilities where they come for an inexpensive day out often for family of 4-5 people. In these difficult financial times, this increase would be most unwelcome.

The Independent Markets which have done so much to revitalise the town centre are held on a Sunday partly because it make road closures easier but partly because the cheaper parking is an added attraction. The proposed change would affect both stall holders and attendance figures.

The impact on church goers could also be noticeable (particularly for the Baptist Church) and councillors have been contacted by concerned residents. The money raised from car parks is used by Wiltshire Council is used to subsidise buses, particularly rural buses, but these are least likely to run on Sunday.

**Introduction of charges in currently free car parks**

There is only one such Wiltshire Council carpark in Warminster, at Smallbrook Lane, which is not included in the proposals, presumably because of a lack of infrastructure to install a ticket machine.

**Increase in the price of season tickets**

Concerns have been raised that the prices are already too high and act as a deterrent rather than an incentive to parking and people would like to see evidence that higher charges would increase income compared to the alternatives.

**FC/25/155**

**Communications**

**Members requested a media release on the response to the proposed increase in car parking charges.**

**Meeting closed at 8:00pm.**

**Minutes from this meeting will be available to all members of the public either from our website [www.warminster.uk.com](http://www.warminster.uk.com) or by contacting us at Warminster Civic Centre.**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**