

26th May 2026

AGENDA

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a meeting of the:

Town Development Committee
to be held on
Monday 1st June 2026 at 7pm
at the 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 Hawker (West)	Mr Matt Towl (Advisor)
Cllr Jones (North)	Mr Len Turner (Advisor)
Cllr Keeble (West)	

Copied to all other members for information.

Members of the public are warmly welcome to attend meetings of the council and its committees, unless excluded owing to the confidential nature of the business.

If you wish to contribute during public participation, please contact admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting to enable this to be facilitated.

Yours sincerely



Tom Dommett CiLCA
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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- Election of a committee Chairman for the municipal year 2026-2027**
Members to elect a committee Chairman for the municipal year 2026-2027.

2. **Election of a committee Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2026-2027**
Members to elect a committee Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2026-2027.
3. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive and accept apologies from those unable to attend.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.
5. **Minutes**
5.1 To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026; copies of these minutes have been circulated and Standing Order 12.1 provides that they may therefore be taken as read.
5.2 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026.
6. **Chairman's Announcements**
To note any announcements made by the Chair.
7. **Questions**
To receive questions from members of the committee submitted to the Clerk in advance.

Standing Orders will be suspended to allow for public participation.

8. **Public Participation**
To enable members of the public to address the committee with an allowance of three minutes per person regarding any item on the agenda and to receive any petitions and deputations. The Chairman may read out statements submitted in advance.

Standing Orders will be reinstated following public participation.

9. **Presentation by Peter Taylor**
Peter was born and brought up in Central America and maintains close connections with a number of Latin American groups within the UK. He is an Hon. Vice Chairman of the Society of British and Argentine Lawyers (SOBAL) and has a keen interest in promoting local businesses and creating closer links with South America.

Followed by a question and answer session and discussion.

Members to resolve or note as required.

10. **Presentation by a representative of The Wellbeing Hub Warminster**
To outline the work and activities that are currently undertaken by the Wellbeing Hub and their proposed future activities

Followed by a question and answer session and discussion

Members to resolve or note as required.

11. Reports from Unitary Authority Members

To note any reports provided which are relevant to this committee.

12. CCTV Sub Committees

To appoint up to three town council members to the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Sub-Committee and to agree that these should be closed meetings due to the confidential nature of the business discussed.

Represented bodies	Membership 2026 – 2027:
Wiltshire Council (Warminster)	Currently: Cllr Andrew Davis
Wiltshire Police	Sgt Lyndsey Smith
Local businesses	Mr Dave Deacon
Warminster Garrison	Sgt Gareth Kenniford
Warminster Town Council (Officers)	Town Clerk, CCTV Supervisor, Estate Manager
Westbury Town Council (Officer)	Deborah Urch, Westbury Town Clerk.
Westbury Town Council	Cllr Matthew Dean
West Wilts Trading Estate	Peter Sammons
Warminster Town Council (up to three).	Currently: Cllrs Allensby, Davis and Hawker

The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 11.30 am.

13. Working Groups

Town Regeneration Working Group: To appoint members to the Town Regeneration Working Group.

The working group is tasked with bringing forward suggestions for the regeneration of Warminster.

Membership 2026 – 2027: Nominations received to date
Currently: Cllr Allensby
Currently: Cllr Lee
Currently: Cllr Keeble
Peter Roscoe
Matt Towl
Jon Ellis
Len Turner
James Sullivan-Tailyour

14. Flood Wardens

Members to appoint Flood Wardens for 2026 – 2027. The current wardens are Jon Ellis, Roi Head, Len Turner, Mike Baxter, and Trevor Woodyatt.

Members to resolve.

15. Youth Fest Event and Roarminster

Warminster Youth Fest is a new event in the Lake Pleasure Grounds. The focus is on engaging young people in the town, encouraging children and teenagers to take part. The event will have a variety of hands-on activities for our towns youth to take part in such as den building, cookie decorating, archery, pottery painting and crockery smashing to name just a few. Many of these are run by our local organisations who will be there to talk about youth activities in our town. The park will also have free tennis and putting on the day as well as the skatepark and splash pad for people to enjoy. This event also marks the start of our summer long Roarminster Trail.

Roarminster planning is underway with publicity going out periodically, the dinosaur trail map will be available from the 11th of July in the Civic Centre, Library and Pavilion Parlour

Events planned:

- Movie Screening and Dinosaur Exhibition at the Athenaeum.
- Social Media friendly 'I've survived the dinosaur trail' giant banner in the Lake Pleasure Grounds.
- WCR competition – Who can do the best roar.
- Dinosaur footprint trail between models and welcome to Roarminster sign at the Chapel
- Palaeontology Professor Mike Benton Lecture, 2pm child friendly. 4pm adults lecture includes book sale and signing - 25th July at the Warminster Civic Centre.
- Paleo artist Workshop for kids - Jay Balamurugan - 9th of August at the Civic Centre.
- Warminster Library dinosaur related book promotion and activities.
- Dino merchandise at the Pavilion Parlour.
- Dino Cocktail at Malto Lounge.
- More still in planning process.

Members to note.

16. Roarminster Loyalty Card proposal

Warminster Business Network [WBN] are proposing the introduction of a dinosaur-themed town loyalty card initiative designed to: encourage residents and visitors to shop locally and increase repeat visits to Warminster during and after the Roarminster event period. **(see attached)**

WBN are requesting funding support of £1,000. This could come from 107/4208 Town Centre Regeneration.

Members to resolve.

17. Warminster Business Network

To receive an update from the Warminster Business Network.

Members to note.

18. Tynings Allotments

Members to note the minutes from the meetings held on 29th April 2026 **(see attached)**.

19. Operational Flood Working Group South

Members to note the minutes from the Operational Flood Working Group South 18th February and 15th April 2026 **(see attached)**.

20. **Warminster Town Council Litter Champion**

Members to appoint a Town Litter Champion for 2026 – 2027.

Members to resolve.

21. **Rights of Way Volunteers**

Members to note the updates from the Rights of Way Volunteers April 2026 (see attached).

22. **Grovelands Countryside and Wildlife Volunteers**

To receive an update from the Grovelands Countryside and Wildlife Volunteers.

Members to note.

23. **Communications**

The members to decide on items requiring a press release and to nominate a speaker for any item on the agenda if required.

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: September 7th 2026

Proposal to Support a “Roarminster” Town Loyalty Card Initiative

Submitted by:

Warminster Business Network

Proposal Overview

As part of the upcoming Roarminster town event, we propose the introduction of a dinosaur-themed town loyalty card initiative designed to:

1. Encourage residents and visitors to shop locally
2. Increase repeat visits to Warminster during and after the event period

This initiative aims to create a fun, family-friendly way to engage both local businesses and visitors while supporting the wider local economy.

The Concept

Participating businesses across Warminster — including retail shops, hospitality venues, cafés, pubs, salons, service providers and other local enterprises — will issue loyalty card stamps to customers who spend £10 or more.

Customers who collect 10 stamps over an 8-week period will be entered into a prize draw. Participants may enter multiple times by completing additional cards.

The scheme will be fully themed around “Roarminster”, using dinosaur branding and imagery to create a memorable and engaging experience for families and visitors alike.

Prize Fund

The proposed prize fund is:

- Total prize value: **£500**
- Prize money to be spent locally within participating Warminster businesses
- Prize administration to be managed jointly by Town Council officers and the Chair of the Warminster Business Network

This ensures that all prize spending is reinvested directly back into the local economy.

Funding Request

We respectfully request funding support of **up to £1,000** from Warminster Town Council to cover:

- Prize fund contribution
- Printing of loyalty cards
- Stamp production

- Promotional materials
- Entry tickets and administration costs

Benefits to Warminster Businesses

This initiative will provide tangible benefits to businesses across the town by:

- Increasing footfall during the Roarminster event period
- Encouraging repeat visits and repeat spending
- Promoting collaboration between businesses
- Supporting businesses of all sizes and sectors
- Encouraging customers to explore a wider range of local businesses
- Creating positive publicity and community engagement

Importantly, the scheme is inclusive and accessible to all business types, from independent retailers and cafés to professional services and hospitality venues.

Benefits to the Town Council

Supporting this initiative also provides clear benefits to Warminster Town Council through:

- Demonstrating visible support for the local economy
- Strengthening community engagement during a major town event
- Encouraging tourism and repeat visitation
- Helping sustain the vitality of the town centre
- Building stronger partnerships between the Council and local businesses
- Supporting longer-term economic resilience within Warminster

The initiative aligns closely with wider objectives around town centre vibrancy, local economic growth, and community participation.

Long-Term Vision

This proposal is intended as a pilot initiative linked to the Roarminster event. Should the scheme prove successful, participating businesses would aim to take ownership of future loyalty card programmes linked to other town events, reducing the need for future Council funding and creating a sustainable, business-led model for town-wide promotional activity.

Reference schemes.

Similar town-wide loyalty schemes have already been successfully implemented across the UK, including in Driffield, St Ives, Fylde and Kirkcaldy. These initiatives have demonstrated measurable benefits including increased footfall, repeat visits, improved town centre engagement and stronger collaboration between local businesses and

councils. In particular, councils involved in these schemes have highlighted their value in supporting local economic growth, tourism and high street vitality.

This proposal is believed to be stronger than many other loyalty card schemes due to the following.

- It is linked to an established event (Roarminster)
- It has a clear timeframe
- It has a family-friendly theme
- Prize money is reinvested locally
- It has a planned exit strategy where businesses take ownership later

Conclusion

The Roarminster Loyalty Card Scheme offers an engaging, low-cost opportunity to stimulate local spending, encourage repeat visits, and strengthen the connection between residents, visitors, businesses, and the Town Council.

With modest initial support, this initiative has the potential to create lasting economic and community benefits for Warminster while establishing a model for future collaborative town-centre promotions.

We respectfully ask Warminster Town Council to consider supporting this initiative with funding of up to £1,000.

Additional Information.

Sample quotes

Quotes [Shiny Custom Logo Loyalty Card Self-inking Rubber Stamp - Stamps Direct Ltd](#)

50 + custom stamps = £5.98 ea

[Loyalty Card Printing | Customer Loyalty Cards | Digital Printing UK](#)

1000 = £83.05

Example of schemes.

Driffield Town Council – “Discover Driffield” Loyalty Card

[Discover Driffield Loyalty Card Scheme](#)

This is probably the closest example to your proposal.

Key points:

- Town-wide loyalty scheme supported by the Town Council
- Customers enter prize draws by shopping locally
- Encourages repeat visits across multiple businesses
- Includes shops, hospitality and services

- Businesses can add their own promotions and offers

The scheme specifically states it was created to “reward people to shop locally.” ([Discover Driffield](#))

Huntingdonshire District Council – “Shop, Drink and Dine” Loyalty Card [St Ives Shop, Drink and Dine Loyalty Card](#)

Launched in 2026 to:

- Boost footfall
- Encourage repeat visits
- Promote longer stays in the town centre

The council publicly linked the scheme to:

- Economic growth
- Tourism growth
- Town centre vibrancy ([Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#))

Fylde Council – “Shop Local Scheme” [Fylde Shop Local Scheme](#)

Their scheme used:

- Stamp cards
- Spend thresholds
- Prize draws
- Multiple participating business types

Fylde Council described the initiative as:

“a resounding success in boosting local businesses” ([new.fylde.gov.uk](#))

Fife Council – “Kirkcaldy Rewards” [Kirkcaldy Rewards Scheme](#)

This digital version rewarded spending in town centre businesses and entered shoppers into prize draws.

The programme focused on:

- Increasing repeat spending
- Rewarding local shopping behaviour
- Encouraging people to use multiple businesses in the town centre ([Fife Council](#))

Tynings Allotments

Committee Meeting

The Pavilion

Wednesday 29th April 2026

Agenda

In attendance: Mike Forward (Chairman), John Howlett (Treasurer), Jacqui Abbott (Secretary), Jim Elison (Plot Manager), Helen Taylor, David Butler, Andy Robins.

Cllr Kirkwood (Warminster Town Council)

1. Apologies

Chris Brookes

2. Minutes of last meeting Wednesday 18th March

The Chairman signed the minutes as a true account.

3. Matters arising

4. Treasurer's Report

Income for March was £1,516.47 including £65 from the bacon butty mornings. These had raised £1,015 over the year; well done Jim Elison. The jumble sale had brought in £1,036.08 in March. Total income was £1,516.47

There had been accruals for electricity, water engineers and the septic tank. Total maintenance for the month was £660. Overall expenditure £1,401.46 including the accruals and SSE electricity.

The cumulative position gives surplus £4,330.08 and the committee will agree expenditure for this amount on priority projects and maintenance over the coming months.

Overall it was a successful year with income of £13,522.37. Rent is £6,946.82 of the income, so more than half of income is through fund raising – well done everyone who supports this.

5. Plot Manager's Report

All the plots are let at the moment. Jim is chasing some plot holders who have not undertaken any work on their plots for some time. The plot manager would re-let this plot.

6. Correspondence

- i. The cub scout group would like to rent a community bed. The committee thought it would be a good idea. The committee would like to see a copy of their insurance.

It was agreed that members of the committee would meet with the group to discuss further with a view to letting them a plot. DB will organise this meeting.

- ii. Plot 6 no longer able to maintain it and has given it up.
- iii. There was a question regarding Jubilee Gardens whether there will be allotments and also who would manage them. Cllr Kirkwood confirmed that allotments are planned and they would have their own management committee arranged by the developer's management company. Tynings would not manage them.

7. Maintenance

The raised beds are taking a lot of time to organise. DB confirmed that 2 workmen are coming to look and quote for the beds. The metal beams are available. The same people are always the ones to come forward as volunteers so it is difficult to get works such as this underway. The work for the beds will need to be paid for. There is enough money in the budget to pay for the beds and other maintenance, much of which is due to fundraising. Plans are ongoing to refurbish the beds as soon as possible.

8. Supervision of Children

Some children have been let run around plots and they have been running around other people's plots and trampling on the ground. They have been seen jumping on the tables and chairs. It is extremely dangerous for children to be unsupervised on the plots. Children must stay on their own plot and the committee can accept no responsibility for any accidents as insurance does not cover it.

The slide will be removed. It could be free to collect on Facebook.

Sue has put up 2 posters regarding supervision of children.

9. Events:

- Plant Sale Saturday 23rd May

Please grow and divide some plants. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. Please make or buy a cake. Raffle prizes are welcome.

- Rosemoor RHS garden Coach trip 20th June

The coach trip is on the board and there are 10 people signed up for it. Sue is going to put some posters up shortly.

- Annual flower show 5th September

Steve Crips has offered to print the schedules.

10. AOB

DB had received quotes £216 and £146 for different designs for the blinds in the pavilion. JH thought they were a little expensive. The committee thought it best to wait until the raised beds have been sorted out first.

The top gate was open at 9.30am. People do not close the gate after them when they leave. Break ins have gone down thankfully.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 20th May at 7pm

14 PEOPLE ON WAITING LIST.

NEXT MEETING 25th JUNE 7pm.

	Total	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27
EXPENDITURE													
Postage & Stationery	0.00												
Cleaning & Cleaning Materials	80.00	80.00											
Maintenance	81.84	81.84											
Coffee Tea & Milk	0.00												
Plant Sale costs	0.00												
Good Energy (Electricity)	2.13	2.13											
Coach trip to Garden Show (Ticket Sales)	0.00												
Coach trip to Garden Show Costs	0.00												
Coach Trip to Garden Show (Subsidy)	0.00												
Net Cost of Flower Show	0.00												
Picnic Benches	0.00												
Insurance NFU Mutual	0.00												
AGM Expenses	0.00												
Christmas Raffle costs	0.00												
NSALG Membership	0.00												
Raised Bed Repairs (Accrual)	0.00												
Total Expenditure	163.97	163.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	(£68.97)	(£68.97)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cash Position													
Community Account 30/04/2026							5,532.23						
Premium Account 30/04/2026							13,535.30						
Cash in Cashbox 30/04/2026							3,626.39						
Total Cash							22,693.92						
Accruals													
Water Engineers							-480.00						
Electricity							-523.82						
Raised Beds							-2,500.00						
Solar Panel Improvement							-2,000.00						
Sceptic Tank emptying							-220.00						
Net Assets							16,970.10						

Operational Flood Working Group - South Meeting Notes


DATE: 18 February 2026 10:00 – 12:00

Warminster Civic Centre/Teams

Attendees:

Nick	Dye	Chairman Wilts Cllr Cricklade & Latton
Keith	Allen	Wilts Cllr Tidworth North & West
Mark	Banks	Highways Engineer Central
Souya	Barton	Land Drainage Engineer
Pete	Blackman	Hindon
Ian	Blair-Pilling	Wilts Cllr - Avon Valley
Jeremy	Bowens	Netherhampton
Pauline	Church	Wilts Cllr Wilton
Zoe	Clewer	Wilts Cllr Redlynch & Landford
Gregory	Cooper	Alderbury & Whiteparish
Andrew	Davies	Warminster
Tony	Dean	Teffont
Danny	Everett	Principal Tech Officer (Drainage)
Colin	Gale	Rushall
Jasmine	Green	Melksham TC
Lee	Haine	Highways Engineer
James	Hardy	Berwick St James
Russell	Hawker	Wilts Cllr Warminster West
Richard	Heather	Laverstock & Ford
Chris	Hildrop	National Highways
Mike	Holm	Environment Agency
Judy	Jones	SBSO - Notetaker
Stephen	Kirkwood	Warminster
Cathy	Long	Ebbesbourne Wake
Steve	Malpass	Environment Agency
Renate	Malton	Flood Resilience Officer
Nicola	Mundy	Highways Support Officer
Bill	Parks	Wilts Cllr Warminster North & Rural
Sue	Parson	Downton
Jennifer	Pugh	Orcheston
Richard	Roberts	Enford
Chris	Sankey	Pitton & Farley
Peter	Sharpe	Pewsey
Mark	Symonds	Enford
Jill	Turner	Kennet Valley
Len	Turner	Warminster Town Council
Federica	Villa	Wessex Water

Lin	Walker	Donhead St Mary
Bridget	Wayman	Wilts Cllr - Nadder Valley
Anthony	Wheeler	Salisbury Cathedral
Caitlin	Wosika	Tree Officer

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chair	Action
<p data-bbox="49 568 603 604">2. Update from statutory agencies</p> <p data-bbox="121 636 517 672">Environment Agency (EA)</p> <p data-bbox="121 703 1209 739">2.1 The attached Groundwater Briefing note has been sent to flood wardens:</p> <div data-bbox="121 772 327 896">  <p data-bbox="121 842 327 896">Groundwater Community Briefing</p> </div> <p data-bbox="105 938 1366 1155">2.2 Reported that the region is experiencing one of the wettest January–February periods in recent years. Rain every day throughout January, continuing well into February. Storm Chandra delivered 30–50mm of rainfall in under 24 hours, heavily impacting South Wiltshire and Dorset. Widespread surface water runoff, brown water entering properties in headwater communities and rapid rise and then delayed secondary rise from groundwater.</p> <p data-bbox="105 1189 1366 1518">2.3 Groundwater levels in several locations are at or above historic maximums. Impacts are very localised, with some parishes badly affected while neighbouring ones remain relatively stable. Because the soil is fully saturated and the groundwater table is high, any new rainfall will cause fast localised flooding, even from relatively small storms. Expect Groundwater flooding to continue through March, potentially even into April and persistent groundwater-driven flows on roads acting like rivers. The EA asked all communities to report any properties pumping out and provide details of pumping from basements/floor voids and share locations of any new groundwater emergence.</p> <p data-bbox="126 1552 587 1588">2.4 Flood Warnings and Alerts:</p> <ul data-bbox="264 1621 751 1861" style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 flood alerts (rivers) • 8 flood warnings • 3 groundwater flood alerts • 34 groundwater flood warnings <p data-bbox="201 1895 1366 1966">Most of these affect South Wiltshire, especially the Salisbury area. EA teams remain on continuous monitoring.</p>	

	<p>Wessex Water (WW)</p> <p>2.5 Wessex Water reported that the region is experiencing exceptionally high groundwater which is infiltrating the sewer network across many parishes. This is causing extensive sewer surcharging, manhole cover bubbling, increased overland infiltration into foul systems and high volumes of customer reports. Groundwater levels are so elevated that the sewer network is now operating beneath the water table, making infiltration unavoidable in many areas.</p> <p>2.6 Wessex Water confirmed they are receiving many more reports than usual and urged all parishes to ensure residents always contact the Wessex Water call centre, as this allows crews to be deployed quickly.</p> <p>Thames Water – apologies from Denise Kinsella – pass queries to Renate to forward on</p> <p>Network Rail – apologies from Mark Howells – pass queries to Renate to forward on</p> <p>Wiltshire (Wilts)</p> <p>2.7 Wiltshire Council reported that their drainage, highways and emergency teams are currently working under sustained high-intensity operations due to prolonged rainfall, saturated ground, and persistent groundwater flooding. Duty engineers working 7 days a week, twice-daily operational briefings at 12:00 and 18:00 to coordinate response.</p> <p>2.8 Communities must maintain & update flood plans. Use the council to validate plans and identify gaps. Ensure trigger levels, access routes, and emergency contacts are clear. Renate is available for site visits, plan reviews, and resilience advice.</p>	<p>Wilts (RM)</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Actions from Last Meeting</p> <p>3.1 Salisbury Park just needs finishing off – complete</p> <p>3.2 Wiltshire Council’s overview of policies concerned with planning and drainage ongoing – complete</p> <p>3.3 Enford – landowners not allowing us to enter their land – complete</p> <p>3.4 Shrewton – junctions on High Street being looked at - complete</p> <p>3.5 Warminster – flood group reinstated. Town council supporting funding from Wessex Water to reduce surface water run off around Boreham Road. Vicky Farwig was looking at the water management plan – Complete</p> <p>3.6 Laverstock & Ford – Danny met on site, Graham Axtell undertaking work around Ford gullies - ongoing</p> <p>3.7 Netton Street, Bishopstone – continued flooding. Consulted with Dave Button, Richard working in the south this week and will look at critical outfalls, awaiting report. Landowner not responding to letters and requesting Wiltshire Council take</p>	<p>Wilts (DE)</p>

	<p>this on. Continuous complaints being received from residents – the field is the main issue – ongoing</p> <p>3.8 Salisbury Journal reporting 81 flood defences in the area were substandard – ND to request an FOI from the EA. Information has come through – need to organise a meeting with EA - ongoing</p>	<p>Wilts</p> <p>Wilts (ND)</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Town and Parish Agenda items and updates</p> <p>Hindon</p> <p>4.1 Although the current groundwater event in Hindon is far from over, an update on the current situation as it stands.</p> <p>4.2 It was noticed by monitoring the groundwater level at the Terraces Fonthill that the level started to rise on 22 Jan 26 reaching 116.67m AOD by 25 Jan at which point springs located along The Dene began to flow into the Fonthill Brook, a winterbourne that runs alongside The Dene. A flood warning was received on 26 Jan by those residents signed up to receive them, including the Flood Warden, by email, text and landline, by which time the brook was in full flow. The water level peaked at 118.75m AOD on 30 Jan but remains at 118.30 as of 8 Feb.</p> <p>4.3 In general, with 2 notable exceptions, all measures taken by those residents normally affected in the past worked, including pumps in cellars and the like. Moreover, the double culvert near Hindon School, installed in 2015, was just sufficient to cope with the flow, as was the culvert under the B3089 near Needles (see map below).</p> <p>4.4 The exceptions were 2 dwellings towards the west end of The Dene, whose septic tanks were inundated to the extent that householders were unable to use downstairs lavatories or washing machines. This major inconvenience was reported after the groundwater event in January 2023 and as a result these householders, took advantage of the 'Revamp your Tank' scheme, and work carried out by 2 separate contractors. One property has been successful, whilst the other has not. This was installed by a different company who have been informed but has not attended on site. An additional property is waiting for work to be undertaken but the company are asking for a contribution from the householder, which is at odds with the overall scope of the 'Revamp your Tank' scheme, which is based on a fully funded grant from Wiltshire Council (WC), in partnership with others.</p> <p>4.5 There are 2 additional issues for consideration:</p> <p>A property located towards the bottom of the High St During a groundwater event their cellar floods and during event pump water out onto the pavement, whence it flows into a nearby road gully. In the event of frost this creates a slipping hazard for passing pedestrians. Who is legally responsible, and how can the homeowners mitigate this risk.</p>	

Wilts - Pumping onto the highway is only tolerated if benign. If it freezes or creates danger, Wiltshire Council will take enforcement action. The property owner is responsible for managing the nuisance they create. If hazardous, the householder could be required to install a Section 50-licensed pipe under the highway to discharge into the Deane. This must be paid for by the property owner, not the council. No public funding is available for installing such drainage. Natural spring flow is not the same as active pumping. Enforcement depends on hazard caused and whether the landowner is directing the flow. Each case assessed individually with legal advice.

EA - Noted this is a common issue in chalk groundwater areas. They are also reviewing national guidance on discharge from Property Flood Resilience (PFR) supported properties where EA installs pumping.

- 4.6 Unofficial Dump - There is what appears to be an unofficial dump located to the immediate West of Meadowbank at [w3w:///reforming.critic.label](#), consisting of assorted foliage, black rubbish bags and various rejected hardware, bottles and cans. Although it appears to lie on private land it happens to lie in water flowing into the Fonthill Brook during a groundwater event, as is the case now. This appears to be an environmental hazard and should be reported to the relevant authority.

Wilts - Public Health teams have already logged the issue and begun enforcement actions under fly-tipping legislation. It is treated as fly-tipping, not an EA “illegal waste site” case. EA involvement is not required unless waste poses an environmental hazard beyond fly-tipping.

- 4.7 Entrance to Culvert by Hindon School. It has been noticed that the presence of an insecure `ad hoc' grill, placed to protect the second culvert installed in 2015, is ill fitted, sitting over the gated grill that was already there, and acts as a blockage to the flow of water into the culvert. It also catches loose items such as fallen leaves which a properly fitted grill would not do. It is submitted that action is required to fit a gated grill similar to the existing one that is sized to protect the second culvert only.

- 4.8 The Revamp your Tank is administered by another team within the Council.

Wilts - Will contact the **Revamp Your Tank team** internally for clarification. The drainage team does not run the scheme. We know who handles installations but need to confirm who handles follow-ups/complaints. Requested direct details so they can escalate.

Downton

- 4.09 All okay at present – have had a lot of gully and vector clearing. Graham Axell dealing with an ongoing issue.

Pewsey

Wilts
(DE)

- 4.10 We have just installed a river level monitor (Avon) to allow us to respond more quickly
- 4.11 We are about to undertake our first landscaping project in the Scotchel Nature Reserve which is at the upstream end of the village. It aims to create a reservoir in low lying ground by re-establishing ancient furrows or grips which form part of an ancient ridge and furrow system and are connected to the river via culverts.
- 4.12 We have created a flood mitigation page on our website that uses the Pang valley template for indicators for river level, ground water, warnings, and rain totals - <https://www.floodalleviation.uk/hosted/pewsey/dashboard/>
- 4.13 Our new flood plan is live with an emergency response system with volunteers
- 4.14 We now undertake vegetation clearance annually to keep the river in the centre of the village free from silt and growth
- 4.15 We still have 2 problem drains that we suspect are collapsed and are the main contributing factor to houses flooding close by. We need to have a meeting with drainage in the new year to see if we can get something done about them

Teffont

- 4.16 Reported that, compared to many neighbouring parishes, its groundwater situation appears stable, and no groundwater flooding has occurred during this period. The main concern in Teffont is surface water, particularly during intense rainfall events, when runoff flows down through the village.
- 4.17 Has had recent sewer issues, including a manhole bubbling - Residents observed manhole covers bubbling, which indicates foul sewer surcharging or infiltration. Has experienced sewer blockages, though Wessex Water responded promptly when alerted.

WW - clarified that recent sewer lining works are underway and more lining will take place in summer to reduce infiltration into the system. Explained that connection to the mains sewer may be impossible due to gravity system limitations or depth and elevation issues. Invited direct email contact for further technical review.
- 4.18 Most persistent problem for Teffont is surface water run-off during high-intensity rainfall. Residents noted water flushes straight through the village. The topography channels flow rapidly, overwhelming roadside features when ditches or grips are underperforming.

Wilts – Confirmed new concrete-lined grips will be installed on 6 March. These are intended to capture surface runoff, slow flow and redirect water into designated drainage features and reduce road washout and prevent overtopping into properties.

**WW
(FV)**

Shrewton

- 4.19 No major flooding incidents reported at this meeting. Regular updates were being received from Den, the parish contact who provides ongoing reports on both groundwater and surface water conditions.

Orcheston

- 4.20 Has continuing issues with drainage around the Ford and gullies, including areas where surface water does not clear effectively after heavy rain. The Area Highway Engineer is reviewing these gullies, though the issue remains open and is not yet resolved.

- 4.21 Stonehenge Story site - Reports were raised that earthworks and material deposits near the site may contravene planning or environmental controls. Wilts had previously determined the works were not development. New evidence was submitted prompting multiple concerns from Environment Agency, Natural England and residents and parish representatives.

EA

EA - Joint visit is being arranged to establish breaches of legislation and what needs to happen.

- 4.22 Orcheston is among several Till Valley parishes worried about future development pressures, especially the cumulative impact of multiple new dwellings across the valley, aging foul drainage systems and limited capacity for additional flows. Concerns were raised about the current drainage and sewer systems which already struggle in wet years. Future growth is being considered in the Local Plan, but existing infrastructure does **not** account for additional load. Wessex Water's 2009 specifications have not been fully updated to match climate-driven groundwater behaviour.

Wilton

- 4.23 Water Ditchampton – route between Wilton and Great Wishford had been closed due to flooding. It has now been reopened, thanks to prompt action by Wilts, however, floodwater and sewage-contaminated water still cover parts of the route, and drainage remains a concern. Requested public health warnings due to residents (including children) walking through water contaminated with sewage and the lack of awareness about associated health risks.

WW - Water Ditchampton, - 02/02/26 the resident reported that their toilet was not draining, they were informed that it was a highways issue. I advised the resident to contact Wessex Water again and they advised me that Wessex Water would be sending a representative on 3/02/26. No one attended. In previous years I have reported issues with the sewers being over capacity and we identified that the manhole location shown on your drawings are not in the correct location so it's possible that your service technicians could not locate the manholes.

PC

	<p>WW - requested details be emailed.</p>	
4.24	<p>Churchill Court - Sewage surcharging</p> <p>WW - The dates the sewage leaking from manhole at Churchill Court Flats 18-29 was reported was 28/01/26. It is still leaking as of this morning. The system is at capacity due to high groundwater infiltrating the network. There is little we can do while groundwater levels remain elevated. Residents are strongly encouraged to keep reporting incidents, as this helps prioritise tanker deployment or network investigations.</p>	
4.25	<p>Concern that no complete sewer map exists locally. Manhole and pipe locations are difficult to interpret without accurate mapping.</p> <p>WW - will determine what mapping/data can be shared with Wilts and flood wardens.</p>	<p>WW (FV)</p>
4.26	<p>Incident occurred upstream in Tisbury that directly affected Wilton - 43mm of rain fell rapidly. The River Nadder rose faster than expected - at South Street Bridge, debris turned the bridge into a partial dam, causing a 150mm rise in water levels and near-flooding of Wilton town. EA's remote flood warning sensors did not issue a warning because the obstruction changed flow behaviour.</p> <p>EA - to review telemetry and need for physical gauges.</p>	<p>EA</p>
	<p>Britford</p>	
4.27	<p>Has been experiencing continuing flooding challenges, although the severity this season is lower than in previous years. One house flooded and one partially. Pumping has helped prevent wider property flooding.</p>	
4.28	<p>Residents believe that some hatches should be open more. Current operation seems to favour preventing Salisbury flooding, at the expense of Britford.</p> <p>EA - received correspondence from Britford (including from Sven Hocking). Explained that the system is highly complex with multiple interlinked structures. Warned that altering hatch operations could cause flooding elsewhere in the system. We are reviewing the concerns and will respond formally.</p>	
4.29	<p>One property outstanding in the PFR programme, due to the property's listed building status. The delay meant resilience measures had not been installed prior to the flood, leading to significantly worsening of impacts.</p> <p>EA - have had multiple delays across the region due to listed building consent requirements. PFR works will proceed once consent barriers are resolved. Other properties in Britford have already been scheduled for resilience upgrades.</p>	
	<p>Pitton & Farley</p>	
4.30	<p>Pitton is experiencing very high groundwater levels, recorded at 98, which is unusually elevated for the village. Under normal winter conditions, this level</p>	

would already result in springs emerging above the village, sending flows downhill and sometimes through properties. At the time of reporting, these springs had not yet risen, meaning that Purton was still avoiding the worst impacts despite extremely saturated ground.

4.31 The latest event no sewer flooding had been reported. Ground floor toilets remained fully functional in affected areas. This improvement suggests that recent work at the pumping station has increased efficiency, or groundwater has not yet exceeded the threshold at which foul systems fail. One family in Black Lane expressed anxiety about the potential for sewer failure if levels rise further and may require a Portaloo.

Wilts - may assist with Portaloo's in some circumstances, but the primary responsibility sits with the water company.

4.32 Proposals for a new development is raising concerns for the whole catchment. The sewer network is already under strain during groundwater peaks; adding further load could worsen sewer failure risk. Wessex Water is not scheduled to upgrade the pumping station until an unspecified future date, compounding concerns.

EA - modelling for the area predicts by 2036–2066, up to 40 houses in the Pitton & Farley area may fall into the high flood-risk category - currently, only a small handful are categorised as high risk.

PC

Parish needs to respond to suggestions re the flood plan and continue to report any blocked gullies via MyWilts app.

Kennet Valley

4.33 West Overton - Intense rain caused water and topsoil runoff from a downward sloping farm field. Water is flowing from the field through double gates directly onto the public road and pooling near a nearby housing development. Vehicles have become trapped and required towing due to deep pooled water. The pooling recurs during heavy rainfall. Openreach recently used heavy equipment near a drain which is now crushed and no longer functioning. Reported the damage to Martin Cook.

PC

Wilts – Martin Cook currently off work – forward email to Renate.

4.34 River Kennet is extremely high, flooding the water meadows on both sides. Thames Water are continuing with their pipe relining through the parish. And the other main area of problem has been Lockeridge. The work undertaken between Wilts and the National Trust to take water off or take some water away from the highway on to Lockeridge Deane appears to have alleviated the main problem at the moment - being watched and monitored.

Warminster

4.35 Warminster's flood group has been reinstated.

4.36 Raised an issue regarding a strong, pungent sewage smell in Warminster's town centre. The smell is being blamed on the sewage tank beneath the central car park.

**WW
(FV)**

WW – will pass this on to the appropriate team to investigate.

Donhead St Mary

4.37 Reports that 6–7 houses were flooded during the recent storm period — a major escalation as residents state this level of flooding has not happened in 25–30 years. The flooding is attributed to a blocked sluice channel beneath the A30 bridge in Ludwell - floodwater accumulated when the sluice became completely blocked. The blockage created an artificial dam, causing water to back up into homes. Fire & Rescue were able to remove debris beneath the bridge to relieve the blockage. Even before the blockage water was flowing down from the high hills above Ludwell. Several ditches remain blocked, accelerating runoff into the village.

Wilts – many areas along chalk valleys and hill sheds are experiencing new or intensified flood patterns.

4.38 A company named Oreo intends to lay a high-voltage electricity cable running from Bournemouth to Shaftsbury under the A30 bridge at Ludwell — the same location with the blocked sluice.

Wilts - David Button is handling ongoing flooding and drainage issues in nearby settlements, including the Nesson Street/Bishopstone area, which shares the same A30 corridor drainage network as Ludwell. Many roadside ditches are not maintained by the Council but by the adjacent landowner. Parishes may contact landowners informally - the Council can escalate to formal enforcement letters where required.

Ebbesbourne Wake

4.39 The culvert that Wilts are aware of, has not been fixed yet. There is a right-hand bend that goes underground. The water floods two properties and the road has had to be closed.

Wilts – when David Button comes off instant response, he may be able to programme a rod camera survey. The CCTV drainage contractor is currently off-hire until March due to financial-year restrictions. Only push-rod cameras are available for very short sections until then. Sites requiring longer CCTV surveys must wait for the new financial year.

Netherhampton

4.40	Experiencing significant and ongoing flooding and drainage issues – sewers discharging and groundwater issues. Issue raised with Wessex Water three weeks ago, but no report had been produced.	PC
	Wilts – Can check if CCTV has been done in this area – email me with the precise area.	PC
	WW – send the long reference number to me and I will check for you and send an update.	
4.41	Suffers from poorly maintained highway-adjacent ditches - many of which are landowner responsibility.	
	Wilts - Parishes should first contact landowners informally and use the ditch letters. If landowners still fail to act, Wilts may send formal letters. Wilts can step in only if there is a clear highway safety issue.	
Enford		
4.42	The Everleigh groundwater gauge, which influences Enford directly, was reported as being at record high levels. This indicates significant saturation of the chalk aquifer system, driving high flows through the Enford reach. Springs around Long Street in Enford have risen, as expected in groundwater peaks, contributing to visible flow, however, these flows have not yet reached levels that cause internal property flooding.	
4.43	September drainage and grips work has prevented property flooding that would have occurred under current groundwater pressures.	
4.44	Sluices, believed to be under Ministry of Defence (MOD) responsibility, are blocked with timber and are in poor condition. This is causing localised impounding and slowing the river through Enford.	
	EA - Because the land is MOD-controlled, Enford needs the EA to contact MOD, or a formal escalation via Wiltshire Council.	PC
4.45	Wessex Water changed the pump at the nearby pumping station last year, but sewer surcharging continues. Seeking a long-term resolution plan, as repeated pump replacements do not solve root causes.	
	WW – email requested with additional details.	
Whiteparish		
4.46	East Road - Flooding worsened due to bridge-related blockages at the site of Stageworks. The structure caused water levels to rise significantly—up to full depth within ~7 hours after the rainfall began. The restricted flow	Wilts (DE)

	<p>beneath/around the bridge creates a bottleneck, leading to rapid accumulation of floodwater.</p> <p>Wilts – Danny will follow this up.</p>	
<p>5. AOB</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>Parishes to ensure their flood plans are up together and their residents prepared, as mentioned in the meeting, unsettled weather is indicated to continue, and flooding concerns are increasing.</p> <p>Please continue to report flooding issues via MyWilts and email drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk with concerns.</p> <p>Scheme to allow parishes to close roads – currently on hold as our legal department have concerns the scheme may contravene Highway Regulations.</p> <p>I'm a Woodland Officer working in partnership with the Great Western Community Forest to fund and support tree planting across areas of Wiltshire. Depending on where your parish is in Wiltshire, you may be eligible for our funding, or others such as England Woodland Creation Offer (Forestry Commission) or MOREWoods/MOREHedges (Woodland Trust).</p> <p>Strategic tree and hedgerow planting (where appropriate in the catchment areas) can help slow overland flow and reduce flood peaks. Riparian buffers, catchment woodlands, cross slope hedgerows, cross slope agroforestry...proactive, resilience-focused approaches like this should form part of the wider solution, and I wanted to highlight the work we're doing at the Council as it may be of interest to someone in this working group 🌳</p> <p>The funding we provide is for planting and aftercare (up to 15 years). We support through the whole process and can advise on where to plant trees to suit site conditions, current land use and objectives.</p> <p>I'd really appreciate it if you could share my details with any landowners who may be interested in planting trees or hedges (such as local farmers, or parish land - owned or managed)</p> <p>Caitlin.Wosika@wiltshire.gov.uk CommunityForest@swindon.gov.uk</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting – 15th April 2026</p>	

Operational Flood Working Group - South Notes

DATE 15 April 2026 – 10:00 – 12:00

Warminster Civic Centre/Teams

Attendees:

Nick	Dye	Chairman Wilts Cllr Cricklade & Latton
Pete	Blackman	Wilton
David	Button	Highways Engineer
Rhinanna	Cowdy	Warminster TC
Andrew	Davies	Warminster TC
Tony	Dean	Teffont
Danny	Everett	Principal Drainage Engineer
Derek	Finnis	Britford
Frank	Freeman	Hindon
Colin	Gale	Rushall
Adam	Hill	Landford
Mike	Holm	Environment Agency
Brent	Hyde-Smith	Donhead St Andrew
Judy	Jones	SBSO - Notetaker
Grish	Lohani	Area Engineer
Steve	Malpass	Environment Agency
Renate	Malton	Flood Resilience Officer
Julie	Murphy	Ansty
Gerry	Murray	Wilts Cllr Tisbury
Den	Parrett	Shrewton
Susan	Parsons	Downton
Jennifer	Pugh	Orchestron
Richard	Roberts	Enford
Chris	Sankey	Pitton & Farley
James	Sheppard	Wilts Cllr Aldbourne & Ramsbury
Mark	Symonds	Enford
Andrew	Thomas	
Len	Turner	Warminster TC
Jill	Turner	Kennet Valley
Federica	Villa	Wessex Water
Bridget	Wayman	Wilts Cllr Nadder Valley
Anthony	Wheeler	Salisbury Cathedral Community

1.	Welcome and Introduction – Chair Apologies: Mike Howells - Network Rail Graham Hill - Bishopstone Paul Cobbing – Pewsey Bill Parks – Wilts Cllr – Warminster North & Rural	Action
2.	Update from statutory agencies Wiltshire Council (Wilts) 2.1 New financial year funding is now available. After a period of reduced funding at the end of the last financial year, budgets are in place again to support flood and highways work. Highways and drainage works are being prioritised - maintenance is focused on locations with the highest flood risk and impact so that available funding can be stretched further. Area Highway Engineers continue to submit priority works, including gully emptying and ditch maintenance where appropriate. Some sites could not be progressed where assets are not adopted or not Wiltshire Council-owned, requiring landowner engagement instead. 2.2 Section 19 flood investigations - Ongoing wash-up work is continuing for Storm Henk incidents. Clarified that Section 19 reports are only undertaken where five or more properties flood in a single event, catchment and parish. Incidents below this threshold do not trigger a formal investigation. 2.3 Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust partnership – there has been a strong uptake from parishes for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust walkovers. GDPR consent is required before parish details can be shared with the Trust; once received, a programme of site visits will be finalised. A delivery programme is expected to be in place within the next couple of months. Work is ongoing to formalise funding through the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, which may help unlock further resources. 2.4 Recent months have been relatively calm, with no major storms. Groundwater levels are generally receding, reducing groundwater flood risk across much of the county. Additional staff capacity is now in place to support planning and drainage input, rather than reliance on a single officer. We are exploring new construction and repair techniques (e.g. no-dig, pipe-bursting methods) that may reduce disruption and delivery time, albeit at slightly higher cost. Activity is largely business as usual, with continued focus on flood recovery, targeted maintenance, community liaison, and preparation for future weather events.	

Environment Agency (EA)

2.5 Groundwater impacts from the exceptionally wet January–February period are now easing. All previous Flood Warnings and Alerts have been removed, with only a general flood alert remaining in place across the area. Groundwater levels are receding, although conditions remain unsettled and the EA stressed that flood risk can change quickly, including risks from summer storms. The EA is now firmly in the recovery phase following the winter flooding. A key focus is on data gathering, particularly improving understanding of the true extent of groundwater flooding, which is likely under-reported. Many properties may only avoid flooding due to pumps and temporary measures, meaning impacts are not always formally recorded. Highlighted the difficulty of capturing groundwater flood data due to hidden or managed flooding (e.g. sump pumping), limited visual evidence once groundwater recedes (e.g. water no longer flowing across roads). Improved reporting by communities and councils will help build a better baseline for future planning and response.

2.6 The EA emphasised that recent events align with climate change projections - longer wet periods over several months and increased frequency of groundwater flooding. Groundwater flooding remains hard to predict but is increasingly significant and often overlooked. Better data will support improved flood forecasting and identification of properties suitable for Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. The EA encouraged continued reporting of flooded properties to both the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council.

Wessex Water (WW)

2.7 Business as usual following the winter flooding, with ongoing review of incidents that occurred during recent wet weather. WW is continuing to review sewer and drainage incidents from the winter period. Communities were reminded to report problems promptly via the Wessex Water call centre - the online chat function, as an alternative for those less comfortable using the phone. Early reporting helps prioritise response and investigation.

Network Rail (NR) - apologies

Thame Water (TW) – not present

National Highways (NH) – not present

2.08 Send any queries for NR, TW and NH to Renate and she will forward on.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Actions carried over from Previous Meetings:</p> <p>3.1 Salisbury Journal reporting 81 flood defences in the area were substandard – ND to request an FOI from the EA. Information has come through – need to organise a meeting with EA (Wilts – ND)</p> <p>3.2 Orcheston – Stonehenge Story site - Joint visit is being arranged to establish breaches of legislation and what needs to happen. (EA) – progressing but ongoing situation</p> <p>3.3 Wilton - Incident occurred upstream in Tisbury that directly affected Wilton - 43mm of rain fell rapidly. The River Nadder rose faster than expected - at South Street Bridge, debris turned the bridge into a partial dam, causing a 150mm rise in water levels and near-flooding of Wilton town. EA's remote flood warning sensors did not issue a warning because the obstruction changed flow behaviour. EA - to review telemetry and need for physical gauges. (EA)</p> <p>3.4 Whiteparish – East Road – Wilts following up regarding the flooding that worsened due to bridge-related blockages at the site of Stageworks. The structure caused water levels to rise significantly—up to full depth within 7 hours after the rainfall began. The restricted flow beneath/around the bridge creates a bottleneck, leading to rapid accumulation of floodwater. (Wilts – DE)</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Town and Parish items and updates:</p> <p>Salisbury</p> <p>4.01 The Salisbury Flood Plan has been fully reviewed and updated and was presented to the Salisbury City Council Environment Committee, where it was formally approved. The updated plan will be published and circulated shortly, providing clearer guidance for flood response, coordination, and responsibilities within the city. The update reflects learning from recent flood events and incorporates revised operational arrangements.</p> <p>4.02 Significant concern was raised about how water is being managed downstream of Salisbury, particularly around Britford floodplain areas. During recent high-water periods Salisbury was holding large volumes of water within the city. Downstream floodplains were reported as largely dry, raising concern that available flood storage is not being used effectively. Water retention in the city may be pushing systems close to capacity, increasing flood risk if further rainfall occurs. Current operation of hatches and channels may be restricting flows out of Salisbury. The navigation channel is operating at reduced capacity, and the main carrier is flowing slowly. Increased reliance on the Old River (near Southampton Road) to convey water. These issues raise a longer-term concern that Salisbury</p>	

could face greater flood risk in future high-rainfall events if operational balances are not reviewed.

Would like to meet on site and walk the affected areas.

Shrewton

4.03 PFR works in Shrewton have been completed, marking a significant milestone in improving resilience to flooding within the village. Although the core scheme has finished, there is active consideration of additional support for further properties, particularly where residual risk remains or where recent events highlighted vulnerabilities.

EA - Shrewton is part of a wider cluster of risk in this area. Properties in adjacent locations, including Orcheston, are being reviewed for potential inclusion in future PFR support packages. Residents from Orcheston have already expressed interest and have submitted details.

4.04 Flooding in and around Shrewton is strongly linked to groundwater emergence, rather than solely fluvial flooding. Recent winters have shown prolonged high groundwater levels and increased reliance on pumping and temporary measures

EA – Need to report groundwater flooding incidents, even where pumping prevents internal flooding. This will improve data to build a clearer long-term picture of groundwater behaviour in the area

Orcheston

4.05 Flooding issues in Orcheston are primarily associated with groundwater and local drainage, rather than main river flooding. Recent winters highlighted prolonged periods of high groundwater, increasing pressure on private drainage systems, small watercourses and ditches and property basements and low-lying areas. Some impacts may not always be formally recorded, as pumping and temporary measures can prevent visible internal flooding.

4.06 Concerns were raised about the specification and performance of the sewerage system in Orcheston. Questions regarding whether historic sewer specifications are adequate for current groundwater conditions and the lack of clarity over whether earlier specifications fully accounted for groundwater behaviour.

WW - were not previously aware of a specific Orcheston enquiry - will now investigate the issue when a detailed email is received.

EA – will review Orcheston and Shrewton together,

WW

EA

Enford

4.07 Performed very well during the most recent winter, despite exceptionally wet conditions across the county. It was confirmed that no residential property flooding occurred, which was directly attributed to drainage and highway works carried out in September, improving maintenance and flow management introduced at that time. Requested that the drainage works could be repeated in September.

Wilts - Danny and Grish confirmed an order can be raised to programme the works - A site visit / walkover will be arranged beforehand to review the current flood plan and assess whether any refinements or additional measures are needed.

4.08 Continued landowner cooperation was raised for ongoing ditch and channel maintenance.

Wilts - approach remains that the Parish council or community engagement with landowners in the first instance. Use of Wiltshire Council's standard and escalation letters if informal engagement fails.

Ditch letters: [Operational flood working groups - Wiltshire Council](#)

4.09 Has registered for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Natural Flood Management (NFM) walkover scheme. This will provide a catchment-wide assessment and identify opportunities to slow, store, or better route water upstream.

Wilts - A sample report from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is to be shared (with redactions) to clarify outputs and next steps. Outcomes from this work may complement existing drainage infrastructure rather than replace it.

4.10 Clearance of sluices and channel management at Netheravon.

Wilts - responsibility remains primarily with landowners for ordinary watercourses. Agencies can monitor and advise but cannot carry out routine maintenance. Enford's approach should be engagement first, Formal letters if required and cross-agency dialogue where structures affect flood risk downstream.

4.11 SSEN application – what equipment can you get?

Wilts - Enford could request a dedicated trailer to store and deploy equipment quickly within the village - often supplied fully kitted and identifiable for emergency use. Water pumps suitable for groundwater and surface water flooding – usually includes hoses and fittings. Generators to power pumps and other equipment during power outages. Flood warden / community response grab bags that have pre-packed kits for flood wardens containing

items such as PPE (gloves, hi-vis, torches), first-response tools and information and signage materials.

Warminster

4.12 Warminster TC is now represented by a new Town Development Officer, who is beginning to engage with flood-related work and local issues.

4.13 The river gauge at Norton Bavant is not working. This had been reported earlier in the year but appears not yet to have been resolved.

EA - River and groundwater gauges are within their remit. Faulty or non-functioning gauges should be reported directly to the EA via their enquiries or incident channels

4.14 Boreham Mill - The site operated as a commercial building, and a caretaker or operator managed the sluice to help prevent local flooding. Current concerns relate to a planning application to convert the building into flats – there is Uncertainty over who will manage the sluice in future. Lack of clarity on what arrangements will ensure flood risk is not increased once the site changes use

EA – requested information on the relevant planning application and this will be referred to their planning team for consideration as part of the planning process.

4.15 The Warminster sub-working group for flooding is scheduled to meet around the time of the next OFWG in June. It was suggested that these groups engage through the sub-working group and that flood-related concerns are separated from purely planning objections, where possible and to have discussions focused on practical flood risk management, roles, and responsibilities

Teffont

4.16 Flooding occurred at the lower end of Teffont village following an intense rainfall event in 2023. Properties were affected by rapid surface water runoff, rather than prolonged river flooding. This event triggered the development of a local flood mitigation scheme, progressed with support from Wilts and the EA. The scheme has partially been implemented - Works completed to date include four scrapes installed along Colt Lane and three 1-metre-wide grips with concrete inverts to intercept and redirect fast-flowing surface water. No comparable rainfall event has yet occurred, so the scheme has not been fully tested. The works are significantly smaller than envisioned at the design stage - the scrapes appear too small to hold back intense runoff, and the grips have been positioned at 90 degrees to the highway.

Wilts & EA – will re-visit the site to review how the measures perform once rainfall events occur.

Wilton

4.17 Wilton avoided internal property flooding this winter, despite prolonged wet conditions. However, there was significant sewer flooding, requiring WW to tank sewage away from the pumping station. While individual incidents are managed reactively, there is not a long-term capacity strategy for Wilton.

WW

WW - to provide a clearer update on their infiltration reduction plan for Wilton and what tangible improvements are planned.

4.18 An ongoing frustration in Wilton concerns unclear ownership of drainage assets and roads. Some locations identified as high flood risk were later confirmed as not Wiltshire Council-owned highways. This limits the Council's ability to intervene, even where flooding impacts the public.

Wilts - can only maintain adopted highways - Definitive highway and rights-of-way maps determine responsibility. Agreed that early clarification of asset ownership would save time and support can be given to help parishes identify landowners.

Hindon

4.19 Hindon experienced a groundwater flooding event in late January and February, the first since January 2023. While the event was relatively contained, it highlighted recurring vulnerabilities linked to high groundwater levels rather than river flooding. Three properties affected by groundwater flooding highlighted problems with septic tanks - one upgraded system performed well and avoided flooding, One upgraded system failed early due to pump failure, releasing foul water into Fonthill Brook and one older system was deemed non-compliant and in need of replacement and the resident faces an estimated £6,000 homeowner contribution - total replacement costs closer to £15,000.

4.20 An illegal rubbish dump was identified on land believed to be owned by the local travelling community. During high groundwater conditions water from overflowing aquifers flows through the dump and this water then enters Fonthill Brook, Fonthill Lakes, and the River Nadder. Concerns about potential pollution and contamination.

Wilts - Environmental Health and Enforcement officers have visited the site and an investigation is ongoing, but details cannot yet be shared

4.21 Two properties on the High Street manage groundwater by pumping water out of buildings. Water emerges through floors inside the property and the pumped water is discharged across pavements onto the public highway.

The Flood Warden had been advised previously that this could lead to enforcement action.

Wilts - Pumping water onto the highway is not automatically illegal, however, under Section 163 of the Highways Act 1980, action could be taken if it creates danger to highway users. Wilts do not prescribe where residents should pump water. The risk of enforcement is theoretical unless a safety incident occurs.

Donhead St Andrew

4.22 Have experienced flooding during the recent winter, associated with the River Nadder and groundwater issues. It was reported that five properties flooded in total. While impacts varied, the flooding confirmed that Donhead St Andrew remains highly vulnerable during prolonged wet periods.

4.23 The Donhead St Andrew Flood Action Group has identified opportunities to encourage faster movement of water past properties most at risk and to slow flows upstream and across flood-friendly areas, such as water meadows, open land suitable for temporary inundation and potential swales or storage features. A site walk was undertaken with Cranborne Chase National Landscape and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL). Objectives of this work include reducing peak flows through the village and delivering biodiversity and environmental benefits alongside flood mitigation.

Wilts – suggest applying to SSEN for funding and explore funding for National Flood Management which is set to increase over the next decade.

4.24 Is planning to take part in the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Natural Flood Management walkover scheme - Expected to be undertaken jointly with Donhead St Mary. The walkover will identify practical, landscape-scale mitigation opportunities and help link Donhead St Andrew into wider county and national funding programmes.

Kennet Valley

4.25 Continues to be affected by groundwater flooding, with surface water and local runoff also contributing during prolonged wet periods. Recent winter conditions tested resilience across the valley, but targeted interventions have helped limit impacts in some locations. Ongoing work focuses on localised interventions, catchment management, and partnership working with landowners.

4.26 A water storage area at Lockeridge Dean has been created and was highlighted as working well. The storage area is successfully holding back runoff during wet periods and reducing downstream flood pressure.

4.27 Flooding issues linked to runoff from agricultural land in West Overton remains an active concern. Work is ongoing with the landowner to address water flowing from fields into vulnerable areas. The approach remains collaborative rather than enforcement-led, recognising the importance of landowner cooperation and catchment-wide solutions rather than isolated fixes.

4.28 Bell Lane - A persistent flooding problem was raised; This issue has been reported previously to Martin Cook (who is currently off work) and has been escalated to David Arnup.

Wilts – to follow up

Wilts

Landford

4.29 Persistent issue where the Southern Water sewerage system regularly surcharges, causing sewage to flow onto roads and pollution and public health concerns during wet periods. Long-standing councillors have told him: *“It has always done that, and nothing can be done about it”*. What practical steps can be taken to challenge Southern Water’s position and move beyond reactive clean-up and establish accountability or improvement.

Wilts - Southern Water can be asked what their long-term plan is for the location and whether any network upgrades, resilience measures, or maintenance plans exist. While Southern Water cannot be forced to upgrade immediately, they do have a duty to respond after surcharge events, including cleanup and disinfection to manage public-health risks.

4.30 A flooding issue relates to a small stream running behind residential gardens in Landford. Over approximately 30 years, several property owners have narrowed the stream channel and built walls or other structures into the watercourse. These alterations were done without permission. As a result, the stream now has reduced capacity and during winter and heavy rainfall water overtops the bank and at least two properties have flooded. In summer, the stream can appear dry, masking the problem.

Wilts - There is no legal duty on landowners to widen a watercourse to accommodate climate change or increased rainfall. The Council cannot compel landowners to make a channel larger purely to improve flood resilience. Because the narrowing took place historically, enforcement is very difficult, particularly where works are decades old and permission records may no longer exist. Suggest speaking collectively to affected and upstream landowners and involve residents whose properties are flooding, as this carries more weight. If informal engagement fails, use Wiltshire

	<p>Council's standard land drainage letters and escalate through firmer correspondence if there is no response.</p> <p>Pitton & Farley</p> <p>4.31 No houses flooded this winter, though Southern Water had to tanker the sewage away from the sewage pumping station. Seems to be happening on a regular basis and last time cost over £250,000.</p> <p>4.32 Dunstall Road flooded during recent events, though it was not closed, heavy vehicles tend to drive along the road edges during flooding, and this has led to road edge failure and deterioration following flood events.</p> <p>Wilts – we are dealing with our farms department about tree planting and more ecology. So hopefully in the next few months they may start looking at tree planting on the old Wiltshire Council farm site to help with some of the runoff that comes off from groundwater.</p>	
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	
6.	<p>Date of next meeting – 17 June 2026</p>	

NIGEL LINGE - MONTHLY SUMMARY OF VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR SALISBURY PLAIN RIGHTS OF WAY VOLUNTEERS (SPROWV), WARMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL, LONGLEAT & SELF AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Examples of Tasks		
Another very wet month. Mainly clearing tasks. Warminster 21 issues, discussed at the bottom of this report.		
New Permissive Bridleway Sign at Shearwater Car Park	Ramblers After Scraping Mud from 190m of Smallbrook Lane (WARM94)	North Lane Hedge Overgrown Hedge Before
		
Fallen Hedge Removed from Chancery Lane (WARM36)	Smallbrook Lane After 42 Volunteer Hrs of Mud Scraping over 3 Days	North Lane Hedge After 6 Hours of Cutting Back
		
Chancery Lane Hedge Awaiting Disposal	WARM21 Flooded from Shanley's Adjacent Road	Encroachment onto WARM21 by the Developer
		

Month	Admin & Maint. (Hrs)	Volunteer Practical (Hrs) Liaison, Research, Preparing Briefs, Signing, Mowing, Clearing	Total Hrs
April 25	22	77	99
May 25	24	126	150
June 25	48	122.5	170.5
July 25	45	93.5	138.5
August 25	40.5	151.5	192
September 25	45	129	174
October 25	30	124	154
November 25	27	92	119
December 25	22.5	59.5	82
January 26	18	87	105
February 26	30	101	131
Financial Year	352	1163	1515

Nigel

Nigel D Linge MBE,

Team Coordinator for SPROWV & Rights of Way Advisor to Warminster Town Council & Longleat Estate.

A Linge Grumble

I have a concern that issues reported on MyWilts are passed to another department and then closed with no feedback from the receiving department. I reported an encroachment onto foot[path WARM21 by a car park fence on a new development that will deny the potential for a cycle track linking to the Avenue (an Active Travel project). No action.

I reported flooding from Shanley's private road which left a deep puddle for over a month on the tarmac footpath WARM21 beside it. An offence under the Highways Act 1980. It was passed to the Highways team and case closed and no acknowledgement from the receiving team. It should be recorded as in progress.

Broken steps above the Lych Gate at the top of WARM21 have been passed on to another department & then closed. Again a task "in Progress".

A brief on the history of Warminster 21 is attached.

NIGEL LINGE - MONTHLY SUMMARY OF VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR SALISBURY PLAIN RIGHTS OF WAY VOLUNTEERS (SPROWV), WARMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL, LONGLEAT & SELF AS AT 28 MARCH 2026

Examples of Tasks		
<p>Most productive month of the Financial Year. 50 Hrs spent on WARM61 (the path between Bradley & Cannimore Roads). Liaison completed for Longleat tasks & should report next month. The first signing day on the Plain of 2026 resolved 32 different issues ...</p>		
<p>Footpath WARM61 Old fence had collapsed</p>	<p>WARM61 The hedge had encroached</p>	<p>WARM61 Is prone to Flooding</p>
		
<p>WARM61. Over a mile of barbed wire removed.</p>	<p>With the old fence gone the hedge could be cut back.</p>	<p>WARM61 The new walkway</p>
		
<p>Smallbrook Lane (WARM93) Detritus "Leaf Blown" off</p>	<p>Signing on Salisbury Plain (East) 32 issues resolved</p>	<p>Cleaned Graffiti from Signs (WARM8)</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">See Separate Brief</p>	

Month	Admin & Maint. (Hrs)	Volunteer Practical (Hrs) Liaison, Research, Preparing Briefs, Signing, Mowing, Clearing	Total Hrs Delivered
April 25	22	77	99
May 25	24	126	150
June 25	48	122.5	170.5
July 25	45	93.5	138.5
August 25	40.5	151.5	192
September 25	45	129	174
October 25	30	124	154
November 25	27	92	119
December 25	22.5	59.5	82
January 26	18	87	105
February 26	30	101	131
March 26	33	170	203
Financial Year	385	1333	1718

Nigel

Nigel D Linge MBE,

Team Coordinator for SPROWV & Rights of Way Advisor to Warminster Town Council & Longleat Estate.

Credit to Others

The issues shown below were reported on MyWilts or by a telephone call & were rectified. Apologies for the very welcome Fore Street steps, they are a delayed entry.

Wiltshire Council Repaired CopHeap Steps	Sovereign Housing Association Replaced their broken seat in King Street	Street Scene Replaced Fore Street Steps
		