

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm**

**held at the Civic Centre**

Councillor Andrew Cooper, the Mayor of Warminster

**Present:**

Councillors: S Allensby, P Barnes, A Cooper, A Davis, R Hawker, J Jones, P Keeble, J Kirkwood, S Kirkwood, E Lee, B Parks, and C Robbins.

Officers: T Dommett (Town Clerk), J Halls (Deputy Town Clerk), W Bradley (Communications Officer).

Public and press: 34 members of the public and one member of the press.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carter and Tuisinu. Sergeant Lyndsey Smith (Warminster Police) Beth Mullins, Ann Hedges and Dave Reeves.

**2. Minutes from last Annual Town Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held at the Civic Centre on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were accepted and signed as a true record.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Cooper presented the Warminster Town Council Annual Report which also contained the Financial Report. The Annual Report was available to those present. (Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Civic Centre, Library and the Warminster Town Council Website.)

**The meeting unanimously approved the Annual Report 2025 - 2026**

The Full Warminster Town Council Annual Report is available from: <https://warminster-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FINAL-Annual-Report-2025-2026-1.pdf>

**4. 2025 -2026 Grant Recipients**

**4.1 Beyond Dementia – Andy Blight**

Following on from the Council's very generous grant of £2,000 in July 2025 towards our award-winning Old Silk Works Day Club, that supports local people who are living with dementia, I now have great pleasure in reporting back on the fantastic work this funding has

enabled us to achieve. Your grant has made a huge difference to those living with dementia in Warminster, their carers and their wider families

#### **4.2 Café Concerts CIO**

Café Concerts CIO were unable to send representation to the meeting but provided a brief written summary: The grant has enabled them to subsidise the first year of Café Concerts at the Civic Centre, helping to cover venue hire, publicity, travel costs, professional performers' fees and café supplies. All admin is done on a voluntary basis by the trio's pianist, Jacquelyn Bevan, and any surplus donations go towards putting on concerts in local care homes. The audience has grown steadily in size from about 35 to nearer 70.

#### **4.3 Dogs for Health – James Lewis and Clover**

James Lewis spoke on behalf of Dogs for Health, thanking Warminster Town Council for their grant. The friendly therapy dogs visit homes, hospitals, care homes and schools. This valuable service has helped reduced the calls to local medical organisations from 100 down to 95 in a three-month period. Clover (Therapy Dog) was a rescue dog herself and has been trained to go into homes and she will just sit and loves a hug. Going forward we will be offering more volunteers in the area, to give young people better access to dogs.

#### **4.4 Open Door Warminster – Sue Chinnock**

Sue Chinnock spoke on behalf of Open Door, Warminster she wishes to express sincere thanks for the grant provided, which has meant we have been able to purchase sound enhancement equipment, in the form of personal hearing loops. This helps to ensure more people feel included, heard and able to connect with others. The funding has also enabled us to invest in a dedicated laptop, providing a secure central place to store data.

#### **4.5 The Wellbeing Hub - Dr Charity Chenga**

Dr Chenga spoke on behalf of The Wellbeing Hub. It is our mission to improve wellbeing through inclusive activities, shared learning, community connection, and sustainable development. The grant has enabled The Wellbeing Hub to:

- Deliver inclusive, community-led activities
- Strengthen wellbeing across groups
- Build a strong operational foundation
- Prepare for sustainable growth

#### **4.6 Warminster and District Amateur Swimming Club – Andy Parkinson**

Andy Parkinson spoke on behalf of Warminster Swimming Club, saying the club thanked Warminster Town Council for their generous donation. The grant has helped with ensuring all officials and volunteers have the correct accreditation from the Institute of Swimming. It also helps with the cost of swim meets and competitions.

#### **4.7 Warminster and District Stroke Club**

Warminster and District Stroke Club were unable to send representation to the meeting but provided a brief written summary: They wished to thank Warminster Town Council for the grant which had been awarded to the Stroke Club. The club offers various weekly events, outings and activities including flower arranging, miniature ponies and pottery painting.

#### **4.8 Warminster Action Group - Debbie Jolliffe**

Debbie Jolliffe spoke on behalf of Warminster Action Group. She wants to say a genuine thank you for the grant which has played an important part in helping to keep services running and contributed to the running costs of the WAG House. WAG now sees on average of 10 to 13 people at each session. It's a place where people can come together, learn new skills, share knowledge and connect with others.

#### **4.9 Warminster Area Health and Wellbeing Forum**

Warminster Area Health and Wellbeing Forum were unable to send representation to the meeting but provided a brief written summary: The deliverables arising from the grants awarded are yet to crystallise fully with the Health Fair event on 16<sup>th</sup> May and the issue of the revised and updated HWB Booklet from that date. The HWB booklet is a valuable resource for the Warminster community, and it helps to promote Warminster as a great place to live, work and play.

#### **4.10 Warminster Cricket Club**

Warminster Cricket Club were unable to send representation to the meeting but provided a brief written summary: The grant provided formed part of a funding drive to renovate the cricket pavilion by refurbishing the gutters, fascias and soffits of the clubhouse. This grant alongside support from Wiltshire Council Area Board, sponsorship, and donations from club members allowed them to renovate the pavilions roofline – including the installation of improved safety lights

#### **4.11 Warminster and Flers Twinning Association – Maxine Severn**

Warminster and Flers Twinning Association thanked Warminster Town Council for the grant which was used to promote and publicise the Twinning, and to run local social/fundraising events, but mainly to support the actual Twinning exchanges.

#### **4.12 Warminster Rugby Club - Robert Rowbotham**

Robert Rowbotham spoke on behalf of Warminster Rugby Club. He wished to share sincere thanks for the grant which has been used to install a new six-metre section of balustrade to our decking – a project that represents a major step forward for our club's infrastructure. More than just physical improvement, this installation significantly enhances the safety and accessibility of the viewing area. It ensures that members and visitors with disabilities have a secure, elevated vantage point to enjoy the game alongside everyone else.

#### **4.13 Warminster Town Football Club – James Stone**

James Stone spoke on behalf of Warminster Town Football Club, to express thanks for the grant which has made a meaningful and immediate impact on both the club and the wider community. The grant was allocated towards the purchase of new football goals for use at the Weymouth Street ground. These goals were essential to replace aging equipment and ensure that the facilities remain safe, compliant, and fit for purpose.

#### **4.14 We Are Men (WAM) – Zanne Marchmont**

Zanne Marchmont spoke on behalf of We Are Men (WAM). She thanked the council for their generosity. The grant was primarily used to develop and launch our website, which was an important next step in our group's growth. It has also supported the ongoing costs of maintaining and improving the site, alongside our continued presence on social media

platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The website, WeAreMen.org, was launched in September 2025.

**4.15 Wessex MS Therapy Centre – Rosie Eliot CEO**

Rosie Eliot from Wessex MS Therapy Centre thanked the council for its continued support. The centre provides care, support and therapy for people living with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions. It is a welcoming space where individuals can access a range of physical, emotional, and social therapies tailored to help manage symptoms, promote independence, and enhance overall well-being. Every year the centre tries to purchase new equipment and this year the Ultra Tesla Suit. This is a machine which works the pelvic floor muscles which helps with incontinence, in one session a month, without this continued support the centre would not be able to continue.

**4.16 Westbury and Warminster Youth Club – Cllr Allensby (Trustee)**

Cllr Allensby spoke on behalf of Warminster and Westbury Youth Club as Beth Mullins was unable to attend. The grant was spent on an activity day with Wiltshire Outdoor Learning where 19 young people attended. This day was in addition to the weekly sessions where the young people took part in crate stacking, archery, axe throwing and laser tag. All the young people who came really enjoyed the day and can't wait for the next one.

**4.17 Wiltshire Rural Music - Daisy Chapman**

Daisy Chapman spoke on behalf of Wiltshire Rural Music. We were thrilled to receive the grant which was used to put towards 6 musical sessions for those living with Alzheimer's in the Warminster area. It is no secret that music unlocks memory and stirs up nostalgia in everyone, not just those suffering from memory loss, so it has been our pleasure to be able to provide live music to care homes and memory cafes and watch expressions change in real time as the music literally strikes a chord with every listener.

**5. Forum**

Cllr Cooper invited questions from members of the public on any subject related to the town or the Warminster Town Council.

No questions were asked but Cllr Parks advised everyone to complete the Car Parking Charges consultation which live on Wiltshire Council website, this could impact residents and visitors alike.

Cllr Cooper closed the meeting by thanking all the organisations that had taken the time to provide an update on the spending of the grant monies received by them and the positive impact it had on the residents of Warminster. He invited everyone to stay for light refreshments and networking.

Meeting ended: 8:10pm

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