



# WARMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025**

As my time as Mayor of Warminster draws to a close, I look back and think what an incredible year Warminster has had. I have worked tirelessly with my fellow town councillors and officers on behalf of the town's residents and the council continues to deliver for the town.

We fought on behalf of Warminster to address the problem of pharmacy queues meeting with the Director of Boots Stores for the South; hopefully, the situation has stabilised and with plans for a third pharmacy underway there should be sufficient provision in the town.

No. 3 High Street was finally demolished last summer, removing a major blight from the town. New businesses continue to open as people invest in Warminster.

Warminster Town Council continues to oppose the development proposed for land to the west of Westbury Road and we await the results of the Planning Inspectorate Inquiry into the appeal made by the developer.

We were pleased to welcome Elizabeth Lee as the new councillor for Broadway ward in September.

I was thrilled to be appointed as a council Youth Champion, with Cllr Jack Jones, as one of my passions is helping and supporting the young people in Warminster. Last May the council entered into an agreement with Warminster and Westbury Youth Club for 50 weeks a year of detached youth worker provision, where workers go out onto the streets to engage with young people in the town. This is proving to be such a great success that the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund has provided additional funding to enable the number of hours of youth worker provision to be increased.

It was a pleasure for me to present the winners of the council's annual Civic Awards with their certificates at an afternoon tea. The popular awards are nominated by the public, voted for by Warminster Town Councillors and given to highlight examples of local community spirit and those who have 'gone the extra mile'.



Cllr Stacie Allensby



2024 Civic Award winners

It was an honour for me to lay a wreath on behalf of the town council at the annual Remembrance Day service; I was proud to see so many Warminster residents standing in support of the brave members of our forces.

2024 saw many exciting events, the highlight being the centenary celebrations for the Lake Pleasure Grounds which saw thousands of people enjoy fantastic live music and an amazing airborne pyrotechnic display. The Ice Cream and Bubbles Festival and Pumpkins in the Park were huge successes; I had the responsibility of judging over 100 pumpkins and who knew there were so many different flavours of ice cream!



The Christmas Lights Switch On event coincided with the winter seasonal market and was enjoyed by all. I am delighted with the growing success of the seasonal markets and thank the Warminster Business Network and town council officers for their hard work and commitment.

The council increased its portion of council tax by 1.0% for 2025 - 2026, the equivalent of £2.17 per annum for a Band D property. Thanks to good financial management, we have been able to combine a low increase while also protecting and enhancing services. I wish to thank my fellow councillors, our volunteers and officers for their ongoing hard work for the residents of Warminster.

Cllr Stacie Allensby - Mayor of  
Warminster



## LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME



# LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) celebrates the achievements of the finest town and parish councils.

Winning the award is a celebration for councillors and officers alike. It is a tangible acknowledgement and respect for their unwavering commitment and hard work.

Warminster Town Council was proud to have been awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Award. It is one of only 33 town councils in the country to hold this award. The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. Quality Gold councils provide leadership for their communities, bring people together, have excellent business planning processes, ensuring value for money as well as constantly seeking new innovations and opportunities to improve.

## MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The Mayor, Cllr Stacie Allensby, is fundraising for The Westbury and Warminster Youth Club and Wiltshire Air Ambulance as her chosen charities for her year as Mayor. £1,846 has been raised from raffles, events and donations so far. Fundraising will continue until the end of her term of office.



**Wiltshire**  
**Air Ambulance**  
funded by you, flying for you



## 2024 EVENTS



## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

**Seasonal Markets** The 2025 seasonal markets begin on 23 March and are held quarterly throughout the year. Subsequent markets will take place on 29 June and 31 August with the final market of the year coinciding with the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on 29 November.



**Events in the Park** As the popularity of the Park continues to grow, more events will be held in 2025 including Spring in the Park, the Ice Cream and Bubbles Festival, Pumpkins in the Park, as well as bands and choirs performing at the bandstand over the summer months.

**Youth Activities** As part of the council's commitment to the young people of Warminster, more activities will be provided in 2025, including free canoe taster sessions in the Park, tennis coaching and other activities around the town.



**Events in the town** Don't forget:  
Warminster Book Festival - 7 & 8 June  
Inspire Music Festival - 6 July  
RBL 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII -  
26 & 27 July  
ImberBus - 16 August

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Warminster Town Council has a Full Council plus six committees

### **Full Council**

Full Council meetings oversee reports from committees and deals with issues that need decisions from all members. The most important decision is to set the council's budget (the council tax) for the forthcoming financial year which forms part of the council tax figure set by Wiltshire Council.

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

The Finance and Audit Committee is chaired by Councillor Andrew Cooper. It monitors all the council's financial procedures, approves relevant expenditure, and checks that the council is on track against the budget throughout the year. It scrutinises the draft budget before making recommendations to Full Council. The council has had very good reports from both the internal and external auditors.

### **HR**

The HR committee is comprised of the Mayor and the chairs of committees and meets quarterly to discuss any issues relating to staffing and to monitor the council's risk assessments.

### **Highways Advisory Committee**

The Highways Advisory Committee is chaired by Councillor Andrew Davis. It deals with requests for improvements to the highway and for waiting restrictions. It can also make referrals to the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group of Wiltshire Council for decision based on feasibility and cost. The committee can also make requests for traffic surveys when considering requests made by residents.

If schemes are approved, the town council is normally expected to contribute at least 25% of the cost.

### **Parks and Estate Committee**

The Parks and Estate Committee is chaired by Councillor Stacie Allensby. The committee manages the park and recreation related assets owned or maintained by the town council. The committee manages projects which directly affect these assets and services, and requests to use said services or assets.



## **Planning Advisory Committee**

The Planning Advisory Committee, chaired by Councillor Phil Keeble, meets more than any other committee, coming together every month to consider all planning applications submitted to the planning authority, Wiltshire Council. In total, it has considered around 100 planning applications this year and commented on them to Wiltshire Council.

The Planning Advisory Committee can only object to planning applications on planning grounds, as set out in law. They can take into consideration the policies in the Warminster Neighbourhood Plan. The committee can make site visits if they think it will assist with their deliberations.

As a consultee, the town council can comment on planning applications but the ultimate decision rests with Wiltshire Council who must follow national planning laws.

## **Town Development Committee**

The Town Development Committee is chaired by Councillor Jack Jones. It deals with issues relating to the general environment, flooding, CCTV, events and promotion of the town.

**Warminster's CCTV operations** are being used to great effect, providing better quality images, and helping to keep our town safe. The total number of cameras in operation has increased to 170. The town's Shop Watch and Pub Watch schemes and direct radio links to the local police have resulted in the apprehension of shoplifters and the successful return of stolen goods.







## THE LAKE PLEASURE GROUNDS

### Things to do:

- **Tennis Courts** - the five state of the art tennis courts received significant investment in 2023 and can be used all year round. Membership costs £40 for a year which allows up to four hours a week playtime or £6 per session. Coaching sessions can be booked with a professional coach.



- **The Pavilion Cafe** - is run by a café manager with assistance from seasonal staff. The café provides seasonal hot and cold drinks, ice creams and snacks. Profits from the Cafe help with the upkeep of the park.

- **Splash Pad and Lava Trail** - continue to be a fantastic success. There are several water features and a baby paddling area. The nearby picnic benches create an inviting family atmosphere.



- **Rowing Boats and Canoes** - can be hired seasonally by purchasing a ticket from The Boat House - providing fun for the family.

- **Putting** - golf clubs and balls can be hired seasonally from The Pavilion Cafe, adding to the experience.



## COMMUNITY - TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

**Warminster Neighbourhood Plan WNP** The focus of the WNP review has been on:

- protecting green spaces, biodiversity, and heritage assets,
- promoting the best environmental practices and designs
- promoting regeneration and vitality in the town centre.

Surveys and consultations are continuing to take place, and residents are encouraged to participate. It is hoped that the updated plan will be adopted by the summer of 2026.



**Warminster Business Network**  
**WBN** The town council is working closely with the WBN to support and engage with local businesses.



**Tidy-Up Smarten-Up** The town council and WBN are calling on all local businesses to encourage people into the town centre by cleaning, repainting and repairing their businesses - simple actions to enhance the look and feel of Warminster.



**Reusable Cups** By teaming up with the local cafes and eateries to launch a reusable cup scheme, the town council is taking a proactive step forward to promote sustainability and support eco-conscious businesses.



## Information for Residents and Visitors

The town council is investing in improved signage and three information boards (which also include information about the town council and town council events) for the town centre to improve the experience for residents and visitors to the town.



**Climate Strategy** The town council's commitment to the Warminster Climate Strategy Action Plan continues. Solar panels have been installed on council properties wherever possible and new measures are being introduced to increase the percentage of waste recycled. The council runs an electric van and is switching to electric tools. Ideas and equipment are shared with other councils.

The council has begun working with Wessex Water to become a Watermark Town by raising awareness and taking action to save water and protect the environment.

The provision of secure, covered cycle parking is being investigated following a community survey.

The council is engaging with Sustainable Warminster, the Warminster Business Network, Wiltshire Council and the Warminster Rights of Way Volunteers to highlight environmental initiatives and encourage walking and the use of public transport.

**HAVE YOUR SAY...**  
**WARMINSTER BICYCLE SURVEY**

We'd love to get your thoughts on bicycle parking in the town:  
Do you use the town's bike racks?  
How can bike storage be improved?

Let us know your views by completing the online survey at [warminster-tc.gov.uk/council/consultation](http://warminster-tc.gov.uk/council/consultation) by 13th December 2024.

**Warminster**  
Town Council  
Delivering a brighter, greener future for all



## WARMINSTER CIVIC CENTRE

**Warminster Civic Centre** *The venue for all occasions.*  
**BOOK NOW!**



Corporate Events | Community Groups | Training | Dinners  
Birthday Parties | Hybrid Meetings | Receptions | Wakes  
Charity Functions | Talks & Lectures | Markets & Fairs



Versatile and fully accessible, split into 3 rooms that can be merged to create a larger space.  
Facilities and equipment available to hire include: sound system, microphones and speakers, Smart LG TV, large projector, kitchen and bar.  
Close to town centre and train station plus parking nearby.

[civiccentre@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:civiccentre@warminster-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.warminster-tc.gov.uk/civic-centre](http://www.warminster-tc.gov.uk/civic-centre)  
01985 214847



Delivering a brighter, greener future for all

Warminster Town Council runs the Civic Centre, a popular venue for community events with many regular and casual hirers providing diverse weekly, fortnightly, and monthly activities for the residents of Warminster.

It is also the perfect venue for conferences and meetings, as well as for private functions such as wakes, weddings, and birthday parties. It is fully and easily accessible for people of all abilities, and with the (Wiltshire Council run) Western Car Park immediately adjacent to the building there's never any problem finding a parking space.

Events have ranged from blood doning to Zumba, children's parties to wedding receptions, conferences to martial arts, U3A to Pilates. Whatever your event, chat to us and see how we can help.

In addition, the Civic Centre hosts quarterly markets showcasing the remarkable breadth of talent amongst our local entrepreneurs.

The Coffee Bar in the foyer provides a place to meet friends and colleagues. Our male and female toilets both have baby changing facilities and there is a standard disabled toilet. We also have a fantastic fully equipped Changing Places Personal Care Room for use by adults and children with severely limited mobility. This includes a height-adjustable adult changing bench, a shower, and a tracking hoist system. There is sufficient space for a wheelchair and carers to accompany the user.

## TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

The town council supports many local organisations and charities each year through its annual grants awards. Applications are considered by the council's Finance and Audit committee and grants awarded are allocated from the town council budget.

In 2024/25 grants were awarded to a range of recipients: Westbury and Warminster Youth Club, Warminster and Westbury Talking Newspapers, Warminster Walkers, Warminster and District Stroke Club, Wessex MS Therapy Centre, Group Five, Warminster Town Football Club, Alzheimers' Support, Wiltshire Search and Rescue, Warminster and Westbury Visually Impaired Club, Open Door, Trio Paradis, We Are Men (WAM), Warminster Action Group, Warminster Rights of Way, Warminster Bowls Club, St John's Hall, Warminster and Flers Twinning Association and South West Ambulance Service Trust Fund. Thoulstone Park Run. Many other groups have been supported over the years.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge payable by developers on any new development. Warminster Town Council's policy is that CIL received from developments in Warminster should be spent on public facilities in the town that support the community.

In 2024/25, CIL was awarded to the following organisations:

- Warminster Town Football Club for replacement floodlights at their Weymouth Street ground,
- Warminster Community Radio for replacement equipment,
- Warminster Cricket Club to refurbish the Club's toilets,
- The Chapel of St Lawrence for repairs,
- The Athenaeum for stage technology upgrades and
- Warminster Rugby Club for new tower lights and a generator.

The following organisations [see next page] are given annual grants which are included in the council's budget, recognising the important role that they play within the community:



Inspire



Warminster Book Festival



Warminster Community Radio



Warminster Rights of Way Volunteers



Warminster Information Point



Warminster Carnival



## **STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Freedom of Information requests received 01/04/2024 to 17/03/2025:**  
Eight.

**Complaints received 01/04/2024 to 17/03/2025:**  
None

### **Financial Report 2024 - 2025**

The end of the council's financial year is 31st March and shutdown of the accounts will take place in April 2025 to account for all expenditure and income. This report gives details of the income and expenditure to 28th February 2025 with a breakdown of our current situation. Once the accounts are completed these figures may have changed. The full audited accounts are available to the public and the details are advised on completion of the process which will take place by the end of June 2025.

The councillors will make a declaration through their annual governance statement that they understand their responsibility to have and maintain a sound system of internal control which includes the preparation of the accounting statements. This means that they followed the Accounts and Audit Regulations, made proper arrangements for the safeguarding of public money, have only done what they have the legal power to do and have complied with proper practices in so doing. The council has the general power of competence 'the power to do anything that individuals may generally do'.

An assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority has been undertaken and the councillors have taken steps to manage those risks including internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

Throughout the financial year an effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems has been carried out by the appointment of a competent independent person to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority. Appropriate action was taken on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audits. Throughout the financial year, as a smaller authority, the council has disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

Tom Dommett BA (Hons) CiLCA

## SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE to 28th February 2025

Due to the timing of the Town Meeting this set of figures represents 11 months' Income and Expenditure. The final figures will be established following the closedown operation in April 2025. Completed accounts are likely to be available in June 2025 and will be available for the public to inspect.

Expenditure	Budget 2024 - 2025	Actual at 28/02/2025 From detailed income and expenditure by budget heading
Administration	407,850	369,869
Properties, buildings, and town amenities	906,355	857,235
Town development, grants, and projects	327,735	453,411
<b>Total gross expenditure</b>	<b>£1,641,940</b>	<b>£1,680,515</b>
<b>Income at 28/02/2025</b>		
Miscellaneous	264,110	470,611
Precept	1,382,830	1,382,830
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£1,646,940</b>	<b>£1,853,441</b>



**The Precept amounted to**

**£1,382,830**

**From Balance Sheet 28.02.25**

**Long-term Liabilities**

Public Works Loan Board £203,544

Current Year Fund £218,218

General Reserves £391,294

**Earmarked Reserves:**

Capital Projects £350,811

Services to be Devolved £494,736

Events/Markets £18,352

Outside Services £55,368

Elections £39,183

Tennis courts £10,719

CCTV £5,394

Climate Change £19,000

Neighbourhood Plan £26,000

Sweeper £3,000

Cycle paths £20,000

Training £2,062

Play Areas £48,145

Town Crier £2,261

Youth Provision £13,625

Website £5,863

CIL 23/24 £116,464

CIL 24/25 £36,169

Market Towns Programme £13,383

Capital Financing Account £1,548,247

**Total Reserves**

**£3,438,294**

Through sound financial management, the town council was able to approve a 1% increase to its share of your council tax bill for 2025 - 2026. This equates to an increase for a typical Band D property of £2.17 per annum or 4p per week.

The town council has also sought to maximise the income earned from its investments. So far, in the eleven months to 28 February 2025, £77,813 of interest has been received.



## COUNCILLORS

Warminster Town Council is composed of 13 councillors. The town is divided into four wards: Warminster West and Warminster East, both with four councillors, Broadway with three councillors, and North with just two councillors. From the May 2025 local elections, Broadway will have four councillors. The council is led by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, who are elected each May at the Annual Meeting.

### Warminster Town Councillors - March 2025

#### WARMINSTER WEST

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### **WARMINSTER BROADWAY**

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### **ELECTIONS MAY 2025**

In the elections on 1 May 2025, 14 seats on Warminster Town Council will be up for re-election; the 13 existing seats plus an additional seat in Broadway ward.

Have you ever thought about becoming a councillor?

It can be deeply rewarding and you can make a real difference to the place where you live.

For more information contact:  
[admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk)

### **WARMINSTER NORTH**

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**Be the voice of  
your community**

**ARE YOU  
PASSIONATE  
ABOUT YOUR  
COMMUNITY?**

**Your skills and  
experience could  
bring about  
POSITIVE CHANGE**



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Do you want to give back  
to the town?**

**BECOME A  
TOWN  
COUNCILLOR IN  
THE MAY 2025  
ELECTIONS!**

**WARMINSTER TOWN  
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**

**DO YOU WANT TO RAISE  
AWARENESS OF ISSUES  
IN THE TOWN?**



## COUNCIL MEETINGS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Town council meetings and committee meetings are normally held at the Civic Centre. The public are welcome to attend most council meetings, either to listen or to speak in the public session.

Dates and times of meetings and agendas are posted on the notice boards at the Civic Centre and are listed on our website at [www.warminster-tc.gov.uk](http://www.warminster-tc.gov.uk).

Minutes of council meetings can also be found on our website or requested from the Civic Centre.

The town council offices at the Civic Centre are open to the public Mon – Fri, 9:00am – 4:30pm. The public are welcome to call in during those hours.

You can contact the town council at:

Warminster Town Council  
Warminster Civic Centre,  
Sambourne Road,  
Warminster, BA12 8LB

Tel: 01985 214847

Email: [admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk)

[www.warminster-tc.gov.uk](http://www.warminster-tc.gov.uk)

What3Words: [///restores.committee.scripted](https://www.what3words.com/#!/restores.committee.scripted)

[facebook.com/warminstertowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/warminstertowncouncil)

[instagram.com/warminstertowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/warminstertowncouncil)

To stay in touch, please sign up for the town council's newsletter on our website at [www.warminster-tc.gov.uk](http://www.warminster-tc.gov.uk).

**Warminster's Town Crier** can be contacted for cries for all charitable organisations, openings and events at [warminstertowncrier@gmail.com](mailto:warminstertowncrier@gmail.com).

