



## **Environment Committee – Minutes of Meeting Held at 5.00 pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the Reading Room, High Street, TISBURY, SP3 6LD**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

(\*responsibility for action)

#### Those present:

Councillors J Mason (Chairman), M Carlile, K Gamm and E Procter - 4

#### Also In attendance:

B Cornish (Clerk)

Steve Tonkin – Cranborne Chase National Landscape

#### **Public Questions**

None

#### **EC 75.25 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Coyle-Camp.

#### **EC 76.25 Declarations of Interest**

- a. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests already declared in the Register of Interests: Councillor Proctor declared a personal interest as an employee of Wiltshire Council.
- b. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests not previously declared in the Register of Interests: None.

#### **EC 77.25 Minutes**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

- **Approved; Chair;** unanimous.

#### **EC 78.25 StarFest 2026**

To consider the progress of the plans for StarFest, agree further actions and make any recommendations to the Council:

- Recommend purchase of easels for PC meeting
- Steve said that he can allocate £1,000 to storytelling and space detectives.
- Liaison needs to take place between Chloe Lockyer, new communications officer. JM suggested that Liz Coyle-Camp will liaise with her.
- Steve said that Stargazing was just being organised and he was waiting to hear who will organise it. 6-10 astronomers. Start 7.30 with a 9 pm finish. This was

important for young people as they want to reach young people and to encourage them to enjoy stargazing.

- Steve said that he'd put up the planetarium last Wednesday and will need help unloading and loading onto the vehicle. The trailing and trolley will need several people to help. They'll need to park close to entrances of venues. Someone needs to speak to Tisbury Motors to alert them to the need to park outside the Victoria Hall.

Consideration also needs to be given to it being stored overnight from Wednesday through to Friday. Could it stay at the Nadder Centre dismantled overnight. Could it be moved by other vehicles.

- Planetarium is inflated in 10 minutes but with the wiring a 1 hr set up should be sufficient. Planetarium shows won't last more than 30 minutes.

- Schools programme - Ages of children are years 5 and 6.

Tuesday - Semley – 30 children and 3 adults split in half

Wednesday - Chilmark 20 children and 3 adults split in half

Friday - Wardour 21 Children and 3 adults

St John's

They will always need 2 adults in the planetarium and one adult outside.

Outside adult doesn't need to be a teacher.

It was agreed that it would be good to have more volunteers on site.

- Community sessions are going to cover dark skies and why and also on telescopes etc. Adults capacity is 12-15 if mixed with children, maybe 20. Youth group would have something which would support the national curriculum. 1 wheelchair user plus 1 helper per session.

Shoes off event so gym mats needed inside planetarium

- Stargazing sessions Steve will be fronting them. Fordingbridge Astronomers and Cranborne Chase. 20<sup>th</sup> March is a v special occasion so not many volunteers for that date.

2 astronomers doing 20<sup>th</sup> and 4 for 19<sup>th</sup> already all very experienced.

Might need to have chairs in youth hut – could borrow from Nadder Centre.

If no stargazing Steve can talk for 1.30 in youth hut with screen and projector.

Steve is a first aider.

- Fox and King has got contact of author for Book Launch at around 6 pm and there could be a signed copy of book to give away as raffle prizes.
- Talk on Wednesday evening with Steve will last for 40-45 minutes plus questions. Projector will be in Hinton Hall. Hall booked for evening.
- Hall is providing refreshments but we need to double check.
- Astrophotographers are happy with the display points. Having a rota of people in the church. Going to buy some easels for photos. Josh has written a book which was published last year. JM will contact him to see if he wants to promote it.
- Steve will have a lot of leaflets for them on the Monday.

### **EC 79.25 StarFest 2026 Communication and Engagement Materials**

To consider the plans for communicating the festival to the community and others and to make recommendations to the Council:

- **Recommendations; JM/KG:** Set up a StarFest 2026 page on Facebook and an Instagram Account.

**EC 80.25 Matters Arising**

To receive a report on the progress of matters discussed and actioned at previous meetings:

Noticeboard – Kevin is waiting to speak to Rosie Buck to progress it.

**EC 81.25 Rain Garden Maintenance**

To consider a quote from Sarah Cowell for the maintenance of the Rain Garden and to make a recommendation to the Council:

- £20 per hour. 6 hrs until April and 18 hrs for 2026/27.
- **Recommended to the Parish Council; MC/JM** unanimous.

**EC 82.25 Working Group for Great Big Green Week**

To re-consider a proposal from Councillor Mason to set up a working group for Great Big Green Week 2026:

- **Resolved** that KM, MC and JM will form the working group.

**EC 82.25 Date of next meeting**

Councillor Mason confirmed the date of the next meeting as Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 6 pm at the Reading Room.

With no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.