

**Minutes of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (A&C) held at 5pm on
Tuesday 28th April 2026 in the Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall**

Members Present: Fran Hill (Chair), Cllr Elaine Barratt (Vice-Chair), Rachel Diment (arrived at 5.08pm), Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison (arrived at 5.21pm), Janet Swiss and Karen Wimhurst (arrived at 5.03pm)

Absent: Charlie Hamilton-Saul, Deborah Jones, Julia Markus, Tim Royle, Cllr Conor Smith, Mark Thistlewood and Peter Wildman

Officers Present: Billy Maddock (Interim Town Clerk) and Sarah Johnson (Office Administrator)

In Attendance: Public (0), Press (1)

[Link to agenda](#)

The meeting commenced at 5.02pm.

AC15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Charlie Hamilton-Saul, Deborah Jones, Julia Markus and Peter Wildman.

Proposed by Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones and Seconded by Janet Swiss

In Favour 4 Fran Hill, Cllr Elaine Barratt, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones and Janet Swiss

Against 0

Abstentions 0

MOTION CARRIED

Karen Wimhurst arrived at 5.03pm.

AC16 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Officer report 0426AC2 was received. It was NOTED that members should declare any interests if they arise.

Rachel Diment arrived at 5.08pm.

AC17 To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 2nd February 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting on 2nd February 2026. They were duly signed.

Proposed by Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones and Seconded by Cllr Elaine Barratt

In Favour 5 Fran Hill, Cllr Elaine Barratt, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Janet Swiss and Karen Wimhurst

Against 0
Abstentions 1 Rachel Diment

MOTION CARRIED

AC18 To consider a mobile phone-based town trail for Shaftesbury

Officer report 0426AC4 was received and noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to further investigate the provision of a mobile phone-based town trail for Shaftesbury and to request for Shaftesbury Town Council to investigate the possibility of arranging a presentation by TrailTale to committee members.

Proposed by Fran Hill and Seconded by Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones

In Favour 6 Fran Hill, Cllr Elaine Barratt, Rachel Diment, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Janet Swiss and Karen Wimhurst

Against 0

Abstentions 0

MOTION CARRIED

Action: Interim Town Clerk

It was **AGREED** to defer the nomination of committee members to take the project forward until a future meeting.

AC19 To receive an update on the brown tourism signs

Officer report 0426AC5 was received and noted.

Cllr Virginia-Edwyn Jones stressed that the £350 funding approved at Full Council meeting on 17th February 2026 is for the initial application fee to Dorset Council, and that the proposal has not been discussed with National Highways or National Landscapes Association.

It was **AGREED** that the Arts Collective will look into submitting the application and the Chair requested a link to the relevant form.

Action: Interim Town Clerk

AC20 To receive an update on Shaftesbury Waters Spring feature

Officer report 0426AC6 was received and noted.

Janet Swiss declared an interest in this item as she is a member of the Shaftesbury Waters group committee.

The Chair confirmed Julie Wood has met with the stonemason and found a stone, and a model will be made for funding applications.

Amber Harrison arrived at 5.21pm.

It was AGREED that Shaftesbury Waters group will progress the project with assistance from the committee when required.

AC21 To receive an update on Town of Culture 2028

Officer report 0246AC7 was received and noted.

An update will be given at a future meeting.

AC22 To discuss how best to share town events

Officer report 0426AC8 was received and noted.

As there is an electronic calendar of events on Visit Shaftesbury website, it was AGREED to investigate the suggestion of a link from the Town Council's website to the Visit Shaftesbury website.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 5.32pm.

The next formal meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 28th July 2026.

These minutes were adopted on DD/MM/YY under minute reference AC as a true record of the decisions taken and are duly signed below by the chair of that meeting.