



Bruton Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2015 in the Bruton Community Hall

Present: Councillors: Anderton, Baker, Brownlow, Carey-Downes, Crawford, Hall, Hughes, Hunt, Hutchinson, Marsh and Pickering
In the Chair: Councillor Hall

15/083 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2015

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2015 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

15/084 Police Report

PCSO Russell was in attendance and reported on the Wincanton North Neighbourhood Statistics for August 2015. It was explained that statistics for Bruton are no longer detailed separately. Specific details of crime cannot be reported at this meeting although additional information is available from the Police website. Victims of crime are able to track the progress of their case. Recorded crime for the Wincanton North area has increased by 14.7% over the same period last year with recorded incidents increasing by 7.1%. The current PACT priorities for Bruton are the monitoring of HGV's in town and anti-social behaviour on Lower Backway.

PCSO Russell was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

15/085 Declarations of Interests

There were none.

15/086 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Gasson and Pawsey.

15/087 Public Question Time

A member of the public requested that consideration be given to subdued street lighting at the proposed Landhouse development. Councillor Hall stated that he was satisfied that the level of lighting would be appropriate within the current legislation.

Two members of the public spoke of their concerns that a development is being built with no sustainable link, i.e. a footpath, to the town. It was stated that Council should encourage the developers to put in a pathway at a later date.

15/088 Action Points from Previous Meeting

The Clerk reported on the action points from the meeting on 25th August 2015. A meeting between the grounds maintenance contractor and the stone mason is still to be organised. The memorial bench and work at Eastfield is in hand. The electricity account has been switched, although the new supplier has transferred the wrong meter and is currently taking steps to correct the error. Councillor Brownlow has submitted items for the TRO. Councillor Pickering has checked costs for a newsletter and reported that it will cost about £400 to produce 1800 copies for one newsletter. Councillor Anderton reported that a reply about painting the phone box is still awaited from BT.

15/089 Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee Meeting 2nd September 2015

Councillor Hall reported that the application for 15/03795/COU has since been withdrawn and re-submitted on the advice of SSDC. It was proposed and seconded that Council adopt the recommendations of the Planning Committee.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

b) Planning Committee Meeting 23rd September 2015

Councillor Hall reported on the meeting, the minutes of which form a part of these minutes, and in particular Committee's findings on application number 15/03274/FUL for Acorn Property Group and Landhouse Bruton. Lengthy and extensive discussion took place regarding a footpath link between the proposed new development and the town. As the land needed for a footpath to be viable is currently owned by the County Council it was not considered feasible at this stage to make the creation of a footpath a condition of planning, although it was explained that a town group, BASii, was planning to campaign for this condition. It was generally accepted that the acquisition of the County Fields would be a good asset for the town and this will be considered at a future meeting of the Town Council.

It was therefore proposed and seconded that Council adopt the recommendations of the Planning Committee.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

c) Services and Amenities Committee Update

i) Skatepark Area

Councillor Pickering reported that, contrary to the SSDC inspection report in June 2015, an SSDC playgrounds officer had inspected and reported that the Cantilever Swing in the Skatepark area was in fact dangerous and should not be used. The seat has currently been removed to prevent use while the situation is resolved. Discussion then took place as to whether the equipment should be repaired or replaced. The skateramp and youth shelter also need repainting and repairs. Councillor Pickering will obtain quotations for all the required repairs and this item will be discussed again at the Services and Amenities Committee Meeting on 6th October.

ii) Town Councillor Play Area Visual Inspection Reports

Councillor Marsh questioned whether 2 week inspections could take place as he expressed doubts that the current weekly inspections is not manageable for everyone. However the Town Council is obliged to carry out weekly inspections. After discussion a solution was agreed that a fortnightly rota be set up with each Councillor undertaking an inspection during both weeks of their allocated fortnight. Councillors were instructed to either fill in the form provided or else e-mail the Clerk with their findings. It was also reported that the branches overhanging the Eastfield playarea should be removed and the Clerk will arrange for the grounds maintenance contractor to undertake this work.

iii) Skatepark Head Protection Sign

The annual SSDC playground inspection identified a need for a Head Protection Sign at the Skate Park. Councillor Marsh recently attended a meeting with the Brue Bowl Team who have come up with a design, a copy of which had previously been distributed to Councillors. After consideration it was proposed and seconded that Council agree the design proposed and to provide funding for the sign to be made.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

d) Transport Committee Update

Councillor Brownlow reported the following:

- The SID is now up and running. It was first placed in Quaperlake Street, is currently on Cuckoo Hill and will then be placed at Sunny Hill, Shute Lane, Coombe Street and Dropping Lane. Each site will have the SID for 2 weeks. There is however still some work to be done on post extensions to make the SID's more visible. There has been a request for a SID in Park Road but Highways have deemed this an inappropriate site due to the speed bumps already in place.
- Speedwatch currently has 12 volunteers but hopefully will eventually have up to 20. 3 people are needed per session. There have been delays in starting due to a lack of training staff but it is now hoped that Speedwatch will start in January 2016.
- The 20mph scheme has been approved by Highways and a consultation with the police has been advertised. A Schedule of Roads is being prepared and members of the public will have 21 days to lodge objections.
- Proposals for the Small Grants Scheme have been submitted but Councillor Groskop has stated that the scheme rules have now changed which has made it more difficult to get a grant.
- The Head of Kings School is keen to pay for an independent traffic consultant to advise on the area outside the school.
- Attempts to set up a meeting between New House Farm developers, an SSDC planning officer and Highways have been unsuccessful due to a reluctance by Highways to send an officer.
- An accident took place in Quaperlake Street on Sunday and a car flipped onto its roof. Good wishes were given for a speedy recovery to all concerned.

15/090 Kings School Withdrawal of Community Facilities

It was reported that Community Facilities are being withdrawn due to an issue of pupil safety. Many local groups do use these facilities and a meeting will be arranged between Councillors Hall and Pickering and the Head of Kings.

15/091 Nomination of Council Trustee on Jubilee Park Pavilion & Youth Club Trust

It was proposed and seconded that Justin Robinson be appointed as Town Council representative on the Jubilee Park Pavilion & Youth Club Board of Trustees.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

15/092 Aid to Calais Campaign

A request for Council support or endorsement of the Aid to Calais Campaign was discussed. It was pointed out that a similar request for Armed Forces Day had not been considered as it was felt that these sort of requests are not part of the Town Council's remit. The town does not have the resources to offer practical support and, as endorsement had already been given by people as individuals, it was agreed that it was not necessary to endorse as a Town Council.

15/093 Request for Watering Cans at Bruton Cemetery

It was proposed and seconded that a request for the Town Council to purchase two watering cans for the cemetery be approved.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

15/094 Clerk/Councillor Training

The Clerk updated Council on recent training events including recent planning courses for Councillors and Clerks held at SSDC offices in Yeovil. The Clerk reminded Councillors that they should attend a training course organised by Justin Robinson which will now take place on Tuesday 3rd November 2015.

15/095 Town Work Plan – review and exceptions reports

The Chairman presented the work plan. Councillor Marsh is to meet with the Brue Bowl Team this coming Friday. SSDC has pruned and tidied the memorial garden.

15/096 Reports:

Town Councillors – Councillor Baker reported that there is a problem with footballs being kicked over the Jubilee Park wall onto the road.

Councillor Cary-Downes reported that trees on the verges in Shute Lane are covering a street light and obscuring the 30mph sign.

Councillor Anderton reported that he will be speaking to Malcolm Hord to discuss the delivery of the Dove magazine.

Councillor Brownlow encouraged attendance at a meeting with the Chairman of Martock Parish Council which will take place in the Museum on 12th October.

Councillor Crawford questioned the number of e-mails being sent between Councillors with many being forwarded to all Councillors unnecessarily. The board at the new café in Quaperlake Street needs to be repositioned to avoid obstruction of the pavement.

County Councillor and District Councillor Groskop – Councillor Groskop reported on the Health and Well-Being Grants available. Sexeys School was congratulated on its excellent results. Parking on the green area in Quaperlake Street is still a problem and Street Scene has been asked to place some stones on the area. The “snagging” of Riverside Walk and Mill Dam has recently taken place.

Chairman – The Chairman reported that Maureen Windsor has recently been awarded the Chairman’s Award which will be presented at a ceremony at Taunton Rugby Club. Councillor Hall also reported that he had attend the recent SALC AGM and that he will also be attending an Informal Hearing regarding the Wind Turbine application on 20th October in Wincanton.

15/097 Items for next agenda

Purchase of County Fields. Jubilee Park Plans. Communications Committee and Moderator. Councillors are asked to forward items for the next agenda to the Clerk by Monday 19th October 2015.

15/098 Accounts for Payment

1	K F McCarthy	Salary – Sept 2015	£1094.30
2	HMRC	Tax/NI – Sept 2015	£213.00
3	Vodafone	Phone bill to 31/8/15	£18.47
4	Mr. S. Turner	Hi Vis Jackets for SID volunteers	£65.84
5	Phil Simpson	Website maintenance and updates	£350.00
6	Elisabeth Ingles	Collecting material for web start-up	£700.00
7	K F McCarthy	Mileage to attend 2x training, Yeovil	£34.32
8	GPM Services	Various repairs at Jubilee Park	£200.00
9	Steve Hall	Mileage to attend planning training	£36.00
10	Three Counties Tree Services	Grounds maintenance Sept 2015	£2106.00

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

15/099 Correspondence

1.	Clerks & Councils Direct	Magazine – September 2015
2.	NALC	LCR Magazine – Autumn 2015
3.	British Weights & Measures Assoc.	Rubbish in Higher Backway
4.	Network Rail	Vegetation Management Work-Bruton
5.	SLCC	2015 Regional Roadshow – 25/11/15
6.	Mendip DC	Local Plan Part II
7.	SLCC	The Clerk Magazine – September 2015
8.	The Pensions Regulator	New Legal Duties
9.	Chris Groves Associates	Invoice for tree work (not authorised)
10.	Rutter & Rutter Solicitors	Payment for memorial bench and plaque
11.	BASii	Bruton Loves Bikes leaflet

Councillor Hall reported that the invoice from Chris Groves Associates was the result of a misunderstanding after a tree inspection of trees bordering the churchyard and Kings School. Councillor Hall will speak with the concerned parties to try to settle the issue. The invoice however will not be paid by the Town Council.

15/100 Use of Community Office on Christmas Evening

It was proposed and seconded that permission be given for the Community Office to be used for Santa's grotto on the Bruton Christmas Evening.

Resolution Adopted 11-0-0

Members of the Council considered these matters in the exercise of their functions: Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability): Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

Action Points

1. Overhanging branches removed from Eastfield – Clerk
2. Sign for skatepark – JM/Clerk
3. Meeting with Head of Kings re loss of facilities – SH/LP
4. Purchase two watering cans – Clerk
5. Attend meeting with Brue Bowl Team – JM
6. Contact Highways re light/sign coverage in Shute Lane – Clerk
7. Speak to Kings re unauthorised invoice - SH