



# Bruton Town Council

## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 in the Bruton Community Hall

Present: Councillors: Brownlow, Coldman, Hall, Hutchinson, Marsh, Perkins, Pickering and Shipp  
In the Chair: Councillor Hall

### 14/130 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th November 2014

Item 14/118 a) was amended to include "Councillor Shipp asked the Chair if he had an interest in the Coach House proposal, he was advised that he did not". It was then proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2014 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

### 14/131 Declarations of Interests

Councillor Pickering declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8. "The Spiral of Light Celebration" as Chairman of the Bruton Festival of Arts.

### 14/132 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker, Hunt and Rubbo. It was reported that Councillor Howell regrettably stepped down as a Councillor just before Christmas. The SSDC Electoral Services Officer has been informed. Due to the forthcoming elections in May, however, it is not necessary at this time to fill the casual vacancy.

### 14/133 Public Question Time

There were no questions this time.

### 14/134 Action Points from Previous Meeting

The Clerk reported on the action points from the previous meeting. Two litter bins have been ordered and installed. A further bin is to be ordered for Eastfield and the bench will be repainted when the weather improves. A request has been sent to SSDC for a quotation to resurface the Station Road car park. A letter concerning the future of bus routes has been prepared by Councillor Shipp and sent on behalf of Council. The meeting re Cuckoo Hill play area is on the agenda.

### 14/135 Reports from Committees

It was reported that Planning Minutes do have to be presented to full Council for final approval.

#### a) Planning Committee Meeting 8th December 2014

Councillor Hall reported on the meeting held on 8th December 2014. The application for Arion House has since been withdrawn.

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

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

#### b) Planning Committee Meeting 7th January 2015

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

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

**c) Planning Committee Meeting 13th January 2015**

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

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

**d) Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting 14th January 2015**

Councillor Hall reported on the meeting held on 14th January 2015, stating that further information had been requested from the Chamber of Commerce to support their grant application for the 2015 Christmas Evening. Discussion then took place with Councillor Shipp questioning the amount required. Councillor Pickering commented that many of the costs involved are “invisible”, such as insurance and road closure costs. Councillor Marsh stated that, in reality, the Christmas Evening could never be self-funding. Although it was acknowledged that the information requested was still not complete, it was agreed to approve the application, with Councillor Marsh to take Council’s issues forward to the next Chamber of Commerce meeting. It was also reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be reprinting the Step into Bruton brochure this year. It is expected, however, that no further funding from the Town Council will be required.

Councillor Hall then presented the budget figures to Council, explaining that an increase in the precept was necessary this year due to the Town Council having taken on a lot more financial responsibility in areas such as car parking, open spaces and the Community Office. The precept for Bruton, however, is still much lower than comparable towns in the area. It was reported that continuing with a small precept could also restrict our ability to obtain funding from outside bodies, as match funding is often a condition of grants.

- i) It was proposed and seconded to set the precept for 2015/2016 at £56,485.00 which represents a Band D increase of 22.06% on the previous year with the Band D equivalent charge being £62.86, an increase of £11.36.

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

- ii) It was proposed and seconded that all other recommendations made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee be adopted.

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

**e) Highways**

Councillor Shipp presented Council with a spreadsheet Action Plan to take away and consider. A brief explanation of the spreadsheet was given and Councillor Marsh requested an explanation of the scoring process. Councillor Shipp was thanked for the work he has put into this document and, once Councillors have had the opportunity to read the document, this item will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

**i) Patwell Street Pavement Parking**

Councillor Shipp produced photographs of improperly parked vehicles on the pavement on Church Bridge and reported on a meeting with Colin Fletcher at which Colin stated that bollards could be erected on the pavement. The cost of the bollards will be free, however a charge may be made for installation.

Councillor Brownlow added that the owner of the shop is keen to improve the parking outside the shop and is in favour of the bollards. Councillor Hall and Councillor Coldman spoke of their concerns should parking be prevented, Councillor Hutchinson stated the need to consult with residents and Councillor Marsh stated that Highways issues should not be done piecemeal but as a whole project. Councillor Pickering requested a site visit before making any decision. County and District Councillor Groskop stated that a grant may be available from the Post Office to help with issues related to the Post Office relocation. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up to include Colin Fletcher and County and District Councillor Groskop.

Councillor Brownlow reported briefly on the Cole Road traffic calming proposals stating that an accurate plan of the site is still awaited from Louise King.

#### **14/136 Community Office Electricity Bill**

The Clerk reported on issues with the supplier, British Gas, who have repeatedly sent bills well in excess of the actual electricity use. The Clerk is currently in negotiations with British Gas and it is hoped that a suitable resolution will be achieved soon.

*At this point Councillor Pickering withdrew from the meeting.*

#### **14/137 The Spiral of Light Celebration**

It was proposed and seconded that the request from the Bruton Festival of Arts to use Jubilee Park for the Spiral of Light celebration on Saturday 7th February 2015 be approved.

**Resolution Adopted 7-0-0**

*At this point Councillor Pickering re-joined the meeting.*

#### **14/138 Town Website**

Councillor Brownlow reported on the latest situation. The person assigned to build the website has unfortunately had to step down and the job has now been reawarded to another person from the original tender list. It is hoped that the website will be up and running by March 2015.

#### **14/139 Rural Community Support Funding**

It was proposed and seconded that an on-line petition from the Community Council for Somerset be signed on behalf of Bruton Town Council.

**Resolution adopted 8-0-0**

#### **14/140 Town Work Plan – review and exceptions reports**

The Chairman presented the work plan and the following was reported:

- £4,000 has been re-allocated from the library fund to the 20mph campaign.
- The Community Toilet stickers have been ordered and delivery is expected soon.
- A meeting with Councillor Pickering, the Clerk and Lesley Jellyman from SSDC took place at the Cuckoo Hill play area site. The site has now been changed due to drainage tanks having been placed on the original site. Design of the site cannot commence until the site has been signed off. It will no longer be necessary to fence off the site and it is proposed that play equipment currently in the Eastfield site will be re-painted and moved.
- A Riverside Walk meeting is to take place on 29th January 2015 with James Divall and Councillors Hall and Pickering.
- Planning permission for the proposed sculpture in Riverside Walk is currently being applied for.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is to be compiled in conjunction with Bruton Community Partnership and a meeting will be arranged.

#### **14/141 Reports:**

**Town Councillors –Councillor Coldman** reported that the light in Quaperlake Street has been mended at last.

**Councillor Brownlow** spoke of the grass area opposite the Unionist Club which has been ruined by parking. County and District Councillor Groskop has previously spoken with both SCC and SSDC to no avail.

**Councillor Shipp** reminded Council of a bench required at the bus stop in Plox and also asked the Clerk to obtain a start date for the proposed footpath on the bridge over the railway at Godminster Lane.

**Councillor Marsh** reported on a rat problem on land belonging to Network Rail. Two job numbers have been raised, one to clear the site and one to deal with the rats.

**Councillor Perkins** reported a missing litter bin at the entrance to Gants Mill Lane and a faulty street light in Lusty.

**County Councillor and District Councillor Groskop** reported on County's budget for this year and the County Plan. Complaints have been received about lights at Cuckoo Hill and St. David's Place, although both roads are not adopted. Complaints have also been received about dog dirt issues. A meeting with John Nicholson has been arranged. Councillors were reminded of the monthly Area East Meetings.

**Chairman** – There was nothing further to report this time.

#### 14/142 Items for Next Agenda

Roadside bollards. Councillors are asked to forward items for the next agenda to the Clerk by Monday 16th February 2015.

#### 14/143 Accounts for Payment

1	K F McCarthy	Salary - December 2014	£1058.47
2	HMRC	Tax/NI – December 2014	£209.05
3	K F McCarthy	Expenses – Xmas lights/loo products	£21.48
4	Lyreco UK Ltd.	Stationery	£31.02
5	Mr. M.J. Mahoney	Engrave & clean Mayoral chain	£35.00
6	Bruton Community Hall	Hire Hall for meetings Jan-April 2014	£60.00
7	SJH Carpets Ltd.	Supply & fit office floor tiles	£1018.99
8	Opendium Ltd.	Annual website hosting fee	£480.00
9	Vodaphone	Phone bill to 30/11/14	£17.75
10	Rural Vision Ltd.	Peppercorn rent for Jubilee Park	£1.00
11	K F McCarthy	Salary – January 2015	£1004.60
12	HMRC	Tax/NI – January 2015	£172.83
13	K F McCarthy	Expenses – 2015 wall calendar	£1.50
14	Shaun Nash (Bruton) Ltd.	Cleaning toilet x 9 weeks	£216.00
15	Glasdon UK Ltd.	Memorial bench	£525.72
16	Somerset Rural Youth Project	Service Level Agreement Jan – Mar 15	£1000.00
17	Bruton Community Hall	Hire Hall for meeting Nov 2014	£15.00
18	SJH Carpets Ltd.	Supply & fit office window blinds	£310.00
19	Councillor Perkins	Mileage – collecting emergency salt	£24.04
20	Cat's Café	4th quarter of toilet lease agreement	£166.25
21	The Bruton Castle	4th quarter of toilet lease agreement	£166.25
22	At the Chapel	4th quarter of toilet lease agreement	£166.25
23	Vodaphone	Phone bill to 31/12/14	£18.58
24	Greg Mainstone	Install 3 x litter bins in town	£127.50
25	British Gas	Electricity bill	£241.89

After discussion it was proposed and seconded that the above payments be approved with the exception of payment 8 Opendium Ltd. and payment 25 British Gas.

**Resolution Adopted 8-0-0**

The Clerk will report back next time on the two unapproved payments.

#### 14/144 Correspondence

1.	NALC	LCR Magazine – Winter 2014
2.	Clerks and Councils Direct	Magazine – January 2015
3.	SLCC	The Clerk Magazine – January 2015
4.	Post Office	Move to new premises & branch modernisation
5.	SSDC	Local Information Centres in Area East

**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) Mtg with Colin Fletcher/Anna Groskop – MB/GS 2) Chase gas bill – Clerk  
3) Mtg with James Divall -SH/LP 4) Plox bench – Clerk 5) Footpath at Godminster – Clerk  
6) Check unapproved payments - Clerk