

**Minutes of the Town Committee meeting held at Bruton
Community Hall Tuesday 19th March 2024**

Councillors present: Anderton, G Baker, Buckland (Chair), Crawford and Robinson

In the Chair: Cllr Buckland.

Officers in attendance: Deputy Clerk.

Members of the public in attendance: 1

Minutes

T23/98: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

To receive and approve any apologies of absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Coulter and Fradley.

T23/99: Declarations of interest.

Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (This does not preclude any later declaration).

None

T23/100: Minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).

To agree [the minutes of the last meeting](#) on 30th January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

T23/101: To receive a short verbal report from the clerk and an update regarding actions from the previous meeting.

There was no oral report but an update of actions from the previous meeting was included with the supporting papers.

T23/102: Footpaths working group.

To receive an update from the last meeting and to consider and agree any recommendations.

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

T23/103: Abbey Ponds working group.

To receive an update from the recent working group meeting and to agree any recommendations.

The Working Group Chair delivered a brief update and tabled Notes of the Group's last meeting. The Group Chair confirmed that the proposed Management Agreement with Historic England would not in itself involve the Town Council in any extra costs.

It was RESOLVED 5-0-0 to accept the S17 Management Agreement with Historic England.

T23/104: Station Road Car Park Signage

To make a final decision on signage.

Members agreed on the importance of installing signage to discourage parking outside the marked bays because such parking risked breaching the lease and planning conditions, and it might also impede access to the river and riverbank which is required by the Environment Agency. It was noted that any signage would need to be approved by the landlord before installation, and that the existing large sign near the entrance of the carpark needs to be removed or replaced as some of the information on it is incorrect.

It was RESOLVED 5-0-0 that the Clerk be asked to obtain quotes for one large sign to be installed at the entrance bearing the legend *PARKING IN MARKED BAYS ONLY*, and for 3 or 4 smaller signs to be installed by the fence along the river bank bearing the legend *NO PARKING AT ANY TIME - ACCESS TO RIVER REQUIRED*.

T23/105: Allotments

To receive an update regarding both allotment sites.

Councillor Crawford reported that the allotments at Cuckoo Hill have all been let and paid for, but one allotment, two half-allotments and a few raised beds are still available at Durslade Farm. There is no waiting list at present. The Chair gave an assurance that rotten or damaged boards on the raised beds would be replaced or repaired within a couple of weeks.

T23/106: Jubilee Park

MUGA surface: to review original maintenance plan and discuss issues raised by netball team and decide next actions.

A review of the original maintenance plan was deferred. It was agreed that the precise concerns raised by the coach of the Robins Netball team should be investigated so that the most cost-effective remedial action could be undertaken.

To review list of suggested actions following Jubilee Play Park inspection.

This matter is ongoing.

T23/107: Library Junction

To receive an update from the working group regarding potential installations of planter or similar.

Local commercial enterprises have been approached about sponsorship but it was agreed that nothing should be installed until the roadworks and any associated works have been completed and signed off.

T23/108: Churchyard wall. To receive short report covering the meeting that took place recently with Reverend Evans, Town Clerk and Councillor Buckland

To consider recommendations and decide next action.

Members considered the report. They noted that enquiries into the wall's ownership are being pursued with the Diocese of Bath & Wells, Historic England, and the Land Registry. Once these enquiries have been completed it should be possible to work out repairing responsibilities and costs.

T23/109: Tree Work Required in Packhorse Bridge area

To consider reports/photos and confirm next action.

It was agreed that the willow and apple trees both require pruning and shaping, and that retention of the dog rose in the apple tree should be considered.

It was RESOLVED 5-0-0 to ask the Clerk to obtain quotes for pruning and shaping the willow tree and apple tree, include advice as to the costs of retaining the dog rose.

T23/110: Appearance of the Town

Town Map.

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee

T23/111: Skip Day

To make a decision on a date for this to take place.

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee

T23/112: Notice Boards

To discuss and decide next actions concerning the two non-functioning notice boards.

It was noted that the manufacturers were informed of the partial failure of both noticeboards before the expiry of the guarantee; they promised to remedy matters but had not yet delivered on the promise. Members agreed that the existing noticeboards are deficient in both quality and design, and that replacing the two sub-standard noticeboards with a single high-quality noticeboard would be an improvement. It was accepted that it would be valuable to have a viable noticeboard at Eastfields because of the current and proposed housing developments along the Frome Road.

It was RESOLVED 5-0-0 that the Deputy Clerk should press the manufacturers to honour the spirit of the guarantee by replacing the two defective sub-standard noticeboards with a single, high-quality noticeboard, and that a notice be posted on the Library noticeboard informing viewers that the Community Office window is the main site for Town Council notices.

T23/113 Highways: To receive a recent communication regarding service devolution and decide next action.

It was noted that service devolution is not due to take effect until April 2025, so the matter is important rather than urgent. Members agreed that it is worth encouraging our Local Community Network (LCN) to liaise with Somerset Highways about the possibility of Highways providing local support via the good offices of the LCN.

T23/114: Date of next meeting: 21st May 2024.

Agenda items to the clerk by 10th May 2024.

T23/115: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC - To consider the exclusion of press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, Section 1 (2) on the grounds that discussion of agenda item T23/116 Station Road Car Park is commercially sensitive.

This item was not moved because no non-councillors were present.

T23/116: Station Road Car Park. Rent review received for 2024-25

It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Finance Committee and the Full Council for further consideration.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

END OF MINUTES