

**Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee 'FUTURE BRUTON' Tuesday 23rd April
2024 at the Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Anderton, Coulter (Chair), Fradley, Hood, Jones, Robinson

In the Chair: Cllr Coulter.

Officers present: Town Clerk.

Members of the public: 1

Public session not required, the member of the public present would contribute during agenda item SP23/24a

MEETING STARTED: 7.30pm

MINUTES

SP23/31: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllr Bateman and Brian Mullis.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to receive and approve the apologies submitted.

SP23/32: Declarations of interest

Declarations of Interests 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).

Cllr Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest as his residence is located at West End.

SP23/33: Minutes from the last meeting.

To agree the [minutes from the last meeting](#) on 20th February 2024 as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Hood was asked to produce an outline of Safe and Active Travel as a whole, rather than just County Fields specifically.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to approve the minutes, with the above amendment, of the 20th February 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Cllr Coulter signed the minutes.

SP23/34: Strategic plan.

a. Appearance of the Town.

To discuss two reports circulated regarding West End, Bruton. To discuss the draft Quarterly Audit of Streets and Public Places form, and to decide on the next steps.

- The report regarding the junction of Shute Lane with West end was discussed. Shute lane was highlighted as an area of concern for road user and pedestrian safety. The constituency MP is currently focusing on raising the profile of safety issues at this location.
- The desire lines for pedestrians crossing the road, and the movement of traffic suggest that the zebra crossing placement is not ideal.
- Crossing at the junction is confusing for both pedestrians and motorists, as there are multiple entrances and exits.
- Comments about the visibility on the corner, and also the speed of the traffic.
- Incorporating a proper footway on Shute Lane would increase the safety for pedestrians.
- Previous experience suggests that Highways can be difficult to engage with.
- A different colour road surface at the junction would be an improvement.
- Bruton town is a Conservation Area. The heritage aspect of this area was discussed - referring to old photos suggested. The left hand side of West End is not in the Conservation Area.

- Recent experience (Library Junction) suggests that rather than being respectful of existing heritage aspects, request enhancement of heritage areas.
- Public perception is important. West End wasn't specified as an area in the last Town Plan.
- The Small Improvement Scheme at Somerset Council is currently suspended.
- The priorities of Bruton Town Council were discussed. It was agreed that safety on Shute Lane is a high priority.
- The High Street would be the next priority, but consider the High Street in its entirety to encompass West End.
- Supporting the report in principle would be beneficial to progress the basic ideas in the report.
- The planting outside the Methodist Church is a huge improvement.
- Would local businesses consider extending the planting at the West End area, without altering the layout of the pavement? There is a Chamber of Commerce meeting on 1st May that could consider this further.

It was proposed to support to recommend to Full Council to support this report in principle.

Cllr Coulter will send the reports to Bruton's Somerset Councillor. The member of the public is to discuss next actions with the businesses at West End, and report back to this committee at the next meeting. Cllr Hood is happy to attend a meeting to share experiences about the Library Junction Small Improvement Scheme.

Thank you to the member of the public present for liaising with businesses and collating the report, and to the businesses that have contributed.

Concern was raised regarding the installation of a new takeaway franchise establishment and the potential level of litter that may occur. Contact to be made with the provider to discuss these concerns, and that provision for a possible increase in litter has been made.

The member of the public present that the litter at Riverside Walk has been much improved recently.

The draft audit of streets and public places form circulated was discussed. It is important to keep the form as simple as possible, and to attach a map to facilitate ease of reporting of issues to be dealt with. A three year maintenance plan for the Town Council was discussed again, and that this can be incorporated into a regular audit.

The frequency of an audit was discussed, along with taking photos and then lodging onto Parish Online, and that this should be undertaken every six months. The initial set up would be by the Town Committee and for volunteers to lead when a process is in place. The audit to take place less than quarterly- may be six monthly. To be an agenda item on the next Town Committee meeting.

b. Bruton Play Areas Working Group

Bruton Town Council resolved to form a working group with an initial task of looking at play areas in Bruton, and forming a plan. To discuss the next steps.

Cllr Fradley has been trying to arrange a working group meeting to start the process.

Full Council will set the date for the first Working Group meeting, and the clerk will arrange a Terms of Reference for the first meeting.

c. Safe and Active Travel (walking and cycling): County Fields

To receive an update on any progress with the safe and active travel aspirations at County Fields, and to discuss any next steps.

This is safe and active travel in the Bruton area as a whole, not specifically County Fields.

There is a meeting arranged with the lead member for Somerset Council Transport and Digital next week to view safe and active travel proposals, in particular at County Fields.

An overview of Safe and Active Travel was provided by Cllr Hood. A priority route currently is County Fields, but there are other routes that are important. This needs to be put forward to the Local Community Walking and Cycling Plan (LCWHIP).

Cllr Jones recently attended a voluntary sector event at Haynes regarding Health and wellbeing, and discussed the LCWHIP with the Somerset Officers present. Cllr Jones has also made contact with Hauser and Wirth to request working together on a grant bid with GWR for better accessible facilities at the railway station.

There is no update available about School Streets locally.

Better signage is required for the marked Hauser and Wirth footpath via Abbey Ponds. It was suggested to install walking signs to indicate the gateway to the permissive pathway, which is to be a Town Committee agenda item.

The priority for Safe and Active travel is for the County Fields proposed footpath and cycleway. Safe and active travel should cover the junction into Shute Lane, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

SP23/35: Resilience/Flood Emergency Plan.

To receive an update regarding the recent Somerset Prepared/Emergency Plan workshop held in Bruton in March. To discuss any next steps.

Councillors Hood, Coulter and Jones attended the recent Flood Emergency Plan meeting - an Emergency Plan is required. It is vital for volunteers to be involved, and also to be willing to be named on the plan for various tasks. A single working document is required (town council officers to be involved with this). Currently there are three documents, which needs collating into a Communities Prepared Plan to support collaborative working.

The plan focussed on keeping things very local, for response and resilience. Cllr Jones is the plan lead, and will take the plan forward.

SP23/36: Date of next meeting. Tuesday 16th July (provisional) 2024, to be held in the Community Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

END OF MINUTES