

**Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee 'FUTURE BRUTON', Tuesday 15th
October 2024 7.30 pm, at the Community Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Coulter, Bateman, Mullis and Jones

In the Chair: Cllr Coulter

Officers present: Deputy clerk, Assistant town clerk

Members of the public: 0

Public session not required

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

MINUTES

SP24/09: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies received from Cllrs Hood, Robinson, Fradley, and Anderton.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to accept and approve the apologies submitted.

SP04/10: 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).

None.

SP24/11: Minutes from the last meeting.

To agree the [minutes from the last meeting](#) on 16th July 2024 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-0] to approve the minutes of the 16th July 2024 as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Coulter signed the minutes.

SP24/12: Strategic plan: Appearance of the Town.

- a. To discuss any progress made with the proposed quarterly audit of streets and public places.

Deferred to next meeting, Cllr Buckland and Bateman to liaise prior to discussions.

- b. To discuss the Highways Safety Awareness Training Course, and to consider how this would be beneficial to Bruton Town Council.

The suggestion was made for officers to publicise the Course via the Community Office and social media, to attract interest in the community and encourage volunteers to undertake training.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-0] for officers to publicise via the Community Office and social media inviting volunteers to undertake training.

SP24/13: Bruton Play Areas Working Group.

- a. To receive an update from Bruton Play Area Working Group.

Cllr Fradley was unable to attend the meeting but she has conducted extensive research into suitable play equipment. She recommends that a zip wire be installed as soon as possible as it attracted more interest than any other item of play equipment and funding is available.

- b. To discuss the quotes obtained to install new play equipment at Jubilee Park, and consider the next steps.

Cllrs Fradley recommended the Sovereign play equipment company due to a noted better quality of service.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-0] to recommend the use of ear marked reserves to fund the installation of the Sovereign zip wire.

SP24/14: Safe and Active Travel (walking and cycling).

To receive an update on any progress with safe and active travel aspirations (for example at County Fields) and to discuss any next steps.

Item deferred to next meeting.

SP24/15: Somerset Council.

To consider how the financial crisis will affect Bruton: asset and service devolution.
To consider the impact on future years budget.

It was suggested that the Town Council plan ahead to identify which items or services Somerset Council (SC) may cease to manage, which of these might be of interest to the local community, and what might be the budgetary impact. One of these might be the free car parks.

It was further suggested that quotes be obtained from alternative providers for bin emptying and gully clearing. Officers are still awaiting further information from SC and Kier.

It was noted that local councils can join together to employ enhanced highway services, sharing costs and making the most of the paid time, and that discussions have already taken place with Castle Cary council regarding this.

It was suggested that once information and quotes are available, an informed consultation would be possible so as to engage the community in these decisions.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-0] to obtain quotes for gully emptying, including from local contractors, with no other aspect of the enhanced highways scheme taken forward at this stage.

SP24/16: Bruton Town Plan.

To discuss a refresh of the town plan, and to consider a budget recommendation to support the refresh. Within the town plan, to discuss the direction of development, and how that will affect the town.

A town plan was last created in 2016/2017 and is available for review in the office.

A proposal was made to begin the design of an updated town plan, to start with a working group and a survey to establish what the community want.

It was suggested that a working group could be formed to include 3 councillors and representatives of Good Company and the Chamber of Commerce.

£2500 was suggested as a budget for this; the last town plan cost £2000.

This could also be helpful for planning ahead with potential future announcements from Somerset Council.

It was RESOLVED [2-0-2] to submit a copy of the previous town plan to Full Council and to recommend a budget of £2500 to design a renewed Town Plan.

SP24/17: Resilience/Flood Emergency Plan.

To receive an update and discuss any next steps.

No update available this evening.

A workshop has taken place, but further discussions need to take place.

SP24/18: Date of next meeting. Tuesday 18th February 2025, 7.30pm, to be held in the Community Hall.

End of meeting at 8:25pm

END OF MINUTES