

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 29th October 2024 at 7.30pm,
held in the Community Hall, Bruton.**

Councillors present: Anderton, Baker, Buckland, Coulter, Crawford, Dunn, Fradley, Hood, Jones, Robinson, Taylor.

In the Chair: Cllr Anderton.

Officers present: Town Clerk.

Members of the public: 3

Apologies were received from Somerset Councillors Trimnell and Power.

Public session started: 7.30pm

Members of the public were attending to address councillors about the three planning applications for large developments, currently active, in Bruton. They wished to raise some concerns including the Somerset Council Planning Committee – South meeting held in August, and to request that Bruton Town Council takes further action

The following is a summary of issues raised, in no particular order.

- The 2019 Swept path analysis that covers the junction of Brewham Road with the A359. The contractors that conducted the original survey were engaged to undertake the survey again and the resulting report is virtually identical. Concerns were voiced that analysis report is not independent.
- Attendees feel that Somerset Council Planning have not considered further documentation, and comments on the portal suggest that there is no cause for concern.
- Attendees requested that the town council seek further advice and guidance from Streets Reimagined, to review the planning documents and also to request that a representative from Streets Reimagined attends the next Planning Committee – South meeting in November 2024 to speak on behalf of the town council.
- The governance around the planning process at Somerset Council. has been woeful.
- Residents asked that further information was requested to demonstrate how the priority for the junction will be presented ,if the development goes ahead.
- The safety of pedestrians is paramount.

Public session ended: 7.40pm

Meeting started: 7.40pm

Town Council Meeting 29th October 2024

MINUTES

24/099: Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies were received from Cllr Bateman.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to accept and approve the apologies submitted and the reasons given.

It was noted that lack of attendance of a councillor for a six month period will mean result in automatic resignation from the council, creating a casual vacancy.

24/100: 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.

24/101: Minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).

To receive, approve and sign [the minutes of the last Town Council meeting](#) held on 24th September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to receive, approve and sign the minutes from the full council meeting on 24th September 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

24/102: Reports from Somerset Councillors:

- a. Lucy Trinnell – apologies received.
- b. Tom Power – apologies received.

The monthly report from Somerset Councillors has been circulated.

24/103: Minutes and Recommendations from Committees and from those Working Groups that report to the Full Council:

Item c, Planning and consultation Response Committee, was dealt with first.

- a. Events Committee – to receive [the minutes from the meeting](#) held on 1st October, and to note or approve any recommendations and decisions as required.

Cllr Crawford provided a short verbal update. Cllr Dunn is now the vice chair of the Events Committee.

- b. Strategic Planning – to receive the [minutes from the meeting](#) held on 15th October 2024, and to review the [2017 Town Plan](#). To note or approve any recommendations and decisions as required.

Cllr Coulter provided a short verbal update.

- i. To note the recommendation that the Highways Safety Awareness Training Course, provided by Somerset Council and aimed at volunteers is to be publicised via the town council website.
Noted.
- ii. Bruton Play Areas Working Group. To consider the recommendation of installing a zip wire, by Sovereign (play equipment provider), and to use earmarked reserves to fund this installation.

Councillors support this recommendation. However the priority of reviewing the play area provision in Bruton to consider larger investment remains. Research needs to be conducted to establish where the young people that use the Jubilee Park Play area live.

It was proposed to accept the quote from Sovereign.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to instruct the Sovereign to install the zip wire, as per the quote received and to fund the installation equally from Jubilee Park Development and Jubilee Park Play Area Sinking Fund earmarked reserves.

- iii. Somerset Council Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme – to obtain quotes for gully emptying only from Somerset Council under this scheme, and from other providers as a comparison.

The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk are meeting with the representative for the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme (EHMS) to discuss gully clearance within the parish boundary. Somerset Council do not seem to have adequate records of gully clearance which is a cause for concern. Once further details are established, there will be more to discuss and decisions can be made. A suggestion was to trial the service and to see what the outcome is.

- c. Planning and Consultation Response Committee – to receive the minutes from the meeting held on 16th October 2024. To note or approve any [recommendations](#) and decisions as required.

This item was moved to the start of agenda item 24/103

Cllr Jones gave an over view of the planning and consultation response committee meeting on 16th October, the minutes of which are available on the town council website.

A S106 contribution for the proposed development at Cuckoo Hill regarding on or off site play area was discussed. Councillors recommended that the play area off site would be more beneficial.

In July Somerset Council Planning Committee -South heard the two Brewham road applications after a 5 year hiatus. After considerable discussion, both of the applications were deferred to a subsequent Planning Committee – South meeting, pending a further independent road safety audit.

The Planning and Consultation Response Committee recommended that Full Council to commission Streets Reimagined to review the road safety audit undertaken, and to present to the Somerset Council Planning Committee – South, if required. It was proposed that funding the fees for this service are taken from the Walking and Cycling budget this year (£1000) and the Walking and Cycling earmarked reserves (£1000).

This recommendation was discussed by councillors, and it was recognised that the town council needs to be seen to do everything possible to ensure that Somerset Council Planning Committee – South consider the applications with as much information regarding the safety of pedestrians and cyclists as possible.

It is possible to have more than one representative speaking, and if the report is conducted quickly enough then it should be included in the meeting papers.

Proposal:

To commission Streets Reimagined to conduct the safety audit report, and attend the Somerset Council Planning Committee – South meeting in November to make representations regarding the importance of pedestrian and cyclist safety when these planning applications are considered.

It was resolved [11-0-0] to commission Streets Reimagined to conduct the report, and attend the Somerset Council Planning Committee – South to make representations. To undertake the report and representation, up to a value of £2000, to be taken out of reserves and budget as suggested earlier.

- d. Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group – to receive any updates.

The working group have not met recently.

- e. BruBowl Working Group. To receive any updates.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the Lottery grant funding application has been submitted. The Clerk confirmed that the new deposit account has been opened and that transfer of the funds raised in the community, currently held by Good Company, has been formally requested from Good Company.

24/104: Clerk's Report.

To receive [a short report](#) from the Town Clerk to update on ongoing matters. The report has been published on the town council website.

The Clerk overviewed the report briefly, and also confirmed that the Assistant Clerk is being appointed Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Shepton Montague Parish Council.

24/105: Somerset Council

To discuss and agree a process and timescale for consulting with residents about the proposals from Somerset Council to charge for some services.

Councillors agreed that some of the finer points for options regarding the proposed changes from Somerset Council need to be presented to residents. It is important that residents understand the cuts that Somerset Council are proposing. The aim is to arrange a public meeting, possibly for early December, so as to fit in with the budget process.

A list of the key Somerset Council services that will be affected by the proposed cuts would be helpful; for example waste and dog bin emptying, gulley management and other Highways services, the appearance of the town (verges and weed management).

It was proposed that a small group of councillors work with the Clerk on a timescale and a process to hold the public meeting.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to agree a small group of councillors to work with the Clerk to produce a timescale and a process for the public meeting.

It was proposed that councillors Anderton, Hood, Jones and Robinson work with the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to approve the councillors as listed to work with the town clerk to arrange the public meeting.

24/106: Community Grants (2024/2025 budget).

- a. To re-consider the grant application for Friends of Sexeys School (24/25 budget). A grant of £750 was agreed earlier this year, subject to the town council applying for additional funding to provide the original amount applied for of £1500. To discuss and decide whether to agree to pay £750. It was recommended that this grant is now considered in the 25/26 grant applications budget.
- b. To re-consider the grant application for Wild Ones Woodland therapy (WOW). A grant application was received for £1000 (24/25 budget), which became part of a town council application for additional funding from Somerset Association of Local Councils.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to remain with the original decision and not approve this grant from council funds.

24/107: Youth Provision

- a. To consider how to support the availability of a venue for the youth provision in Bruton. To consider funding a venue until 31st March 2024, and making provision in subsequent annual budgets.

The clerk overviewed the report submitted by the assistant clerk regarding supporting a venue in Bruton for the youth provision. The youth workers are delighted with the facilities, and are more than happy to use the changing rooms, kitchen and toilet area in the Jubilee Park Pavillion.

It appears that the Jubilee Park Pavilion and Youth Club Trust Trustees did not meet to discuss the proposal submitted by the town council to request that the new youth provision be able to use the pavilion, prior to the list of requirements being received by the council for consideration. The suggestion was to review the charitable documents regarding the provision being used for youth provision. Maintenance support whilst the venue is in use is the responsibility of the Trustees to provide.

Councillors are very happy to support the use of the venue by meeting hire costs, proposed at £10 per session.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to pay for the hire of the venue for the youth provision sessions.

- b.** To note suspected regular drug dealing at Jubilee Park has been reported to the police by the youth club volunteers.

Noted.

24/108: Bank Reconciliations.

- a.** To approve the bank reconciliations for the current and deposit accounts and credit card for the period 1st September 2024 to 30th September 2024.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to approve the bank reconciliations for the period 1st September to 30th September 2024.

- b.** To note that Cllr Cullen attended the community office to view and sign the bank reconciliation to 31st August 2024 on 1st October 2024.

Noted.

24/109: Accounts for Payment.

- a.** To approve payments list for October 2024.

It was RESOLVED [11-0-0] to approve the payments list for October 2024.

- b.** To note the transfer of £15,000 made by the clerk from the CCLA deposit account to the Unity Trust current account.

Noted.

24/110: Spend to budget to 30th September 2024

To note the spend to budget as circulated and published from 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024.

Noted.

24/111: Reports - to receive reports from:

- a.** Members representing the Council on outside bodies.

Cllr Jones reported that the Local Community Network meeting took place last Thursday. The draft S19 statutory report for the river Cam is now available, in connection with the floods in May 2023. Primary Care Network have some exciting projects regarding women's health up coming.

b. Town Councillors.

Cllr Fradley is hoping to liaise with the local business regarding a planter (or similar) at Library Corner.

Cllr Crawford has received some complaints about the volume of vehicles along Quaperlake St and that the pavement is dangerous. Cllr Crawford also asked if the picnic benches are to be replaced at Packhorse Bridge. This will be discussed at Town Committee next month.

Cllr Buckland reported that he spoke to a resident about Antisocial Behaviour on the Packhorse Bridge green, which could be exacerbated by the picnic benches being replaced.

Cllr Dunn reported that a stile near the top of Trendle Lane leading to Wyke Lane is very wobbly. She was advised that this can be reported online. The stile is in Pitcombe parish.

Cllr Jones reported that a resident contacted him regarding Industrial Estate users have been trespassing into her garden, and behaving aggressively. There is also an apparent planning breach. The deputy clerk is dealing with this.

Cllr Baker reported that the defibrillators in Bruton are all in working order. The town council are responsible for regular inspections and replenishing the supplies to the defibrillators at West End, Enterprise Centre, Unionist and Jubilee Park Pavilion supplies, but the West End defibrillator is inspected by the Rotary.

Cllr Coulter reported receiving complaints about flooding at Plox.

Cllr Hood has also received complaints about flooding at Plox. He attended the Pumpkin festival at Hauser & Wirth, and reported that the event was excellent and really well attended.

c. Chair.

Cllr Anderton recently attended the harvest festival for Wyke. He also attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting (now renamed Bruton Bureau for Business). He suggested that the group requests a councillor to attend future meetings, and to have a representative from the town council.

24/112: Date of the next meeting of the Full Council: The next full council meeting is Tuesday 26th November 2024, 7.30pm at the Community Hall.

Agenda items to the clerk for consideration by Friday 15th November 2024.

The meeting closed 8.56pm.

END OF MINUTES