

Clerk's Report for Full Council 25th February 2025

Bruton Town Council

Precept Request

The Town Clerk submitted the precept request to Somerset Council on Monday 27th January.

Cover in the Council Office

Thank you very much to Cllrs Dunn, Baker and Jones for their support recently covering the office whilst the Deputy Clerk has been taking extended leave in January on a Friday.

Community Grants for 2025/26

The Community Grant decision letters have been sent out to all organisations that applied. A few of the organisations have responded to extend their thanks to the town council; One Planet Bruton, Bruton United Football Club, Bruton Community Hall, Bruton Mini Day, Citizen's Advice Somerset, SSCAT bus..

Youth Provision

A report covering September to December 2024 has been received and circulated to councillors. The Youth Provision is now located in the Jubilee Park Pavilion every Thursday (apart from school holidays), from 5pm until 7pm.

Allotments

Cuckoo Hill

A new shed was stolen from a plot on Cuckoo Hill allotments, at the beginning of February. The police have been notified, and also the PCSO Supervisor. A request has been made by the clerk's office for the car park at the allotments/cemetery to be included in police patrols.

Annual allotment rents

The annual rent notifications went out at the beginning of January, and some reminders to pay have been sent at the start of February. There are some unoccupied plots at both sites, and a couple of unoccupied raised beds. Availability has been advertised on the town council website, social media, in the office window and also in The Dove.

Jubilee Park

Zip Wire

The zip wire has been installed, and a post installation inspection undertaken. There are some snagging items on the report, which will be addressed when the zip wire is re-tensioned on 27th February.

Removal of ash trees (diseased)

The removal of the three ash trees, agreed by full council in September 2024, is still to be scheduled.

The installation of the zip wire, and also the tree works, have been notified to the Land Management company, as per the conditions of the lease.

Abbey Ponds

Scrub clearance

The lower grate in the ponds has been cleared. The works agreed by Town Committee in November 2023, to clear the vegetation from left hand pathway, up from the lower gate to the top gate, has taken place. New compost bin areas have been installed at the top end of the ponds (outside the scheduled monument area).

A group of students from Kings are undertaking regular scrub clearance around the ponds, within the framework of the S17 Management Agreement. Regular updates are being received from the group, and details of the works forwarded to Historic England, in line with the agreement.

Lease

The 'most up to date' copy of the lease for the Abbey Ponds field, has been obtained from the solicitor. This was an action point from Town Committee in January 2025. The lease, and any associated paperwork, is available for councillors to view on Sharepoint.

Station Road Car Park

The annual rent review has been received, and is correct. There is an agenda item to formally acknowledge receipt of the review.

Engine Shed

The town clerk met with the Somerset Council Conservation Officer on 18th February 2025 to discuss the pre-planning advice for the required works to the Engine Shed. A short overview, with some suggested next steps, has been circulated to councillors, and should be an agenda item for Town Committee in March 2025.

END OF REPORT