

**Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee 'FUTURE BRUTON' meeting, Tuesday  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Bruton Community Hall**

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

In the Chair: Cllr Coulter.

Officers present: Town Clerk.

Members of the public: 2 (local resident and a Chamber of Commerce representative).

Public session started: 7.30pm.

The local resident had submitted a plan for proposals to improve various elements of West End at the junction at Shute Lane, and wanted to make further comments. Gregg is part of the character of the West End area. Concern remains high regarding the pedestrians crossing the road at the T-junction of West End with Shute Lane. The junction is not 'tidy' and traffic speeds in that areas. A more structured junction seems necessary, and requested that this area is included in the Bruton Town Plan. Residents and businesses in this location have made great efforts to improve the 'look' of the area.

Public session ended: 7.34pm

Meeting opened: 7.34pm

**MINUTES**

**SP24/19: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies have been received from Brian Mullis, and Cllr Bateman.

**It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to accept and approve the apologies and the reasons submitted.**

**SP24/20: 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.**

**SP24/21: Minutes from the last meeting.**

To agree the [minutes from the last meeting](#) on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as a true and accurate record.

**It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to approve the minutes of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**SP24/22: Bruton Town Plan.**

To receive an update regarding the preparations to review the Town Plan. To discuss and decide upon next actions.

Cllr Jones overviewed the progress made so far with recruiting members for the steering group, which includes listing the members from the organisations detailed in the Steering Group.

Cllr Jones is happy to lead the Bruton Town Council input for the plan, and work with two other councillors. Bruton Town Council representation on the working group needs to be agreed at the next full council meeting.

Premises have been offered to have the initial working group meeting, and subsequent meetings. The first meeting date is currently being arranged.

An aspirational timeline was displayed, initially used in the 2016/2017 plan timeline as a guide.

The actual working group members are to be determined, as the list of those who seem willing to contribute, is long.

The plan that was created for West End, provided last year, also needs to be included for consideration.

**SP24/23: Strategic Plan: Appearance of the Town.**

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

The new software – Civic.ly – is fully live from April 2025 and will assist with asset management. It is hoped that the software can also be used for logging and managing areas where maintenance is required. This should help with targeting the smaller tasks which will assist overall with the appearance of the town. There is no limit on the amount of users for Civic.ly, which is helpful.

Care is required to ensure that tasks are not being duplicated, with Parish Online. Councillors requested access to Parish Online to be able to access the information layers available.

**SP24/24: Strategic Plan: Bruton Play Areas Working Group**

To receive any updates from Bruton Play Area Working Group.

The zip wire has been installed, and the first visit to re-tension the wire is next week.

This working group has not really worked, due to lack of commitment from members to attend meetings. The important part of the working group is to make sure that the play areas are more strategically placed which are of benefit to all ages rather than multiple small play areas that are aimed at younger age groups.

Since two large developments have been approved by Somerset Council, recently, and a third application for a different site is ongoing, it's important to consider the following actions: to summarise the S106 information of the planning applications that have been agreed by Somerset Council so far (including the ongoing application) and to consider writing to Somerset Council setting out the requirements for play areas in Bruton Town as a whole.

The clerk is to collate the S106 information received so far, and to summarise the play area facilities suggested in the determined and not yet determined planning applications, to go to Town Committee in March. This report should provide sufficient information for councillors to consider the next actions to convey the requirements for play areas in Bruton.

**SP24/25: Strategic Plan: 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.

The developers leading the larger planning applications recently determined have been less keen to engage about safe and active travel. One developer has been very open to discussing possible contributions to 'County Fields' which was encouraging.

Somerset council has £2.775 million budget allocation for safer cycling and walking (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan wider strategy), with officer time included. This will not assist specific areas in Bruton, but will benefit the wider area.

An update about 'County fields' was provided by the clerk. To date, there has been little engagement from Somerset Council with the town council to progress the devolution of the County Fields area. Cllr Hood suggested approaching Somerset Council with a 'County Fields' project that could be ready to go. Cllr Robinson is to approach the Somerset Council officer directly to try and move the project forward.

**SP24/26: Flood/Resilience Action Plan.**

Cllr Jones has written up a provisional plan, after the engagement event last year. The document needs to become a living document, which can be utilised when required.

The key thing is populating the plan with, for example, where sand bags are located, a place for safe refuge. The plan needs populating with details that are regularly checked, and kept up to date. Discussion followed about who could take ownership of this. The parts that are missing are, for example, a farmer with a tractor who can move through flood water.

An entry asking for volunteers, was suggested in The Dove, on the website and on social media.

It was proposed to circulate the flood plan as it is, around to councillors for input. This is not a public document, but a document to be lodged in strategic places that can be accessed when required for implementation, or checking of the details.

A large scale flood incident would be met by Somerset Council, but the town council plan would support the wider emergency plan, and also be a first response while a larger response was in progress.

**SP24/27: Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, 7.30pm, to be held in the Community Hall.

Meeting closed 8.23pm.

**END OF MINUTES**