

**Minutes of the Town Committee meeting held at
Bruton Community Hall on Tuesday 18th March at
7.30pm**

Councillors present: Cllrs; Coulter, Crawford, Anderton, Buckland, Robinson, Baker

In the Chair: Cllr Buckland

Officers in attendance: Assistant Clerk (AC).

Members of the Public: Cllr Jones

Public session not required, Cllr Jones will speak for agenda item T24/92 regarding Abbey Ponds.

Meeting started: 7:34pm.

Minutes

T24/86: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

To receive and approve any apologies of absence.

Apologies for absence were received for Cllr Fradley.

It was RESOLVED [For-Against-Abstain] [6-0-0] to approve the apologies for absence and accept the reasons given.

T24/87: 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 declared.

T24/88: Minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).

To agree [the minutes of the last meeting](#) on 28th January 2025 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED [6 0-0] to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 28th January 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

T24/89: To receive a short-written report from the clerk and an update regarding actions from the previous meeting.

This report will be circulated and will be available on the Bruton Town Council website.

ATC summarised the report which was noted by all.

T24/90: To receive recommendations from Strategic Planning Committee regarding Bruton Play areas

To review the Planning obligations for the three large developments, which contains sufficient information to enable councillors to consider the next actions to convey the requirements for play areas in Bruton.

It was suggested that ideally a meeting should be set up with the relevant Somerset Officer to discuss options with the s106 funds, with a view to enabling funds to involve updating other play areas, including Jubilee Park.

Clerk to get in touch with the relevant officer at SC to discuss options and ensure the correct wording for the steer of S106 funding.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] for clerk to contact SC officer to discuss broadening the options for S106 funds to include updating of all play areas, including Jubilee Park play area.

ACTION:ATC

T24/91: Footpaths working group.

To note that this working group has now completed it's objectives and will no longer meet in the same format.

Noted.

T24/92: Abbey Ponds working group.

To receive an update from the last working group meeting and to agree any recommendations as required.

Cllr Jones gave a verbal update.

- a. To note that clearance of the vegetation along the walls has taken place and to decide next action for assessment/survey of the walls.

A Large impact has been made on clearance at the top pond which leaves a better position with historic England.

- b. To note a grant application has been made to GWR Customer Community Improvement Fund 2025/26.

The grant application was noted.

A Decision is expected in March and the application includes full upgrade of the route between the station and Hauser & Wirth, including upgrade to pathways and accessibility.

- c. To recommend that Bruton Town Council apply for a Countryside Stewardship agreement covering Abbey Ponds and the Dovecot field.

Cllr Jones explained that a higher tier will be available which would be the preference, and would therefore like to change this recommendation to add “once the higher tier of Countryside Stewardship is available”.

The benefit of the Countryside Stewardship is that it will increase funding opportunities.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to apply for the Countryside Stewardship once the higher tier is available for application.

ACTION:ATC

- d. To recommend that Bruton Town Council considers splitting Abbey Ponds from the general grounds maintenance for the contract renewal.

It is recommended to separate the Abbey Ponds ground maintenance contract as a separate contract, to allow a clearer maintenance plan with its own budget. This will also help to define the volunteers role.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to recommend that Abbey Ponds has a separate ground maintenance contract of its own.

ACTION:ATC

T24/93: Allotments

- a. To receive an update regarding the recent allotment inspections.

There have not been any recent inspections.

- b. To discuss the management of unoccupied plots.

There are a number of unoccupied plots at the moment and a plan is needed to ensure management of these plots to avoid a surge in weeds potentially affecting other plots and causing problems.

It was suggested that a further push on social media would be a good idea to help fill the plots, it is unusual to not have a waiting list for these.

Silage sheeting may be a cost effective way to suppress the weeds on unoccupied plots.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] for the clerk to go ahead with the purchase of silage sheeting to suppress the weeds and organise covering the empty plots.

ACTION:ATC

T24/94: Jubilee Park

- a. To discuss the planned works for the Jubilee Pavilion and to discuss recommendation to Full Council in support of the BUFC grant application.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to recommend to full council that the clerk write a letter in support of this grant application on behalf of the Town Council

ACTION:ATC

- b. To review the quote from the contractor to address the mole problem on the Jubilee Park lower playing field

It was RESOLVED [5-1-0] to approve this quote and to employ this contractor.

ACTION:ATC

T24/95: Town Committee Budget.

To note Spend to Budget 28 Feb 2025.

Noted

T24/96: Library Junction Area Enhancement.

To receive an update from the working group.

Cllr Fradley was not present this evening to provide a report, therefore this item was deferred. Cllr Buckland provided some photo examples of suggested

installations super-imposed on the area and will share this with the working group in the meantime.

ACTION:CLLR BUCKLAND

T24/97: Higher Backway car park wall.

The wall in between the car park and Bruton Primary School has been suggested as an ideal spot for an art project. To discuss options and decide next action.

It was noted that at one stage the Primary School had other plans for the wall between the school and the car park. It was also noted that Higher Backway car park is the little one nearer Coombe Street. This particular car park is in fact Tolbury Mill.

An initial action to approach both the primary school and Somerset Council with this suggestion, as the wall belongs to them. ATC to make contact with both parties.

ACTION:ATC

T24/98: Engine Shed Preplanning application advice.

To review the report summarising the meeting with the Conservation Officer and the quote received for the Heritage Impact Assessment and to decide next action.

It was suggested to contact Andrew Leach at King's School, and Roger Gallannaugh for the possibility of historical photographs/drawings to support the Heritage Impact Assessment. It may be that Roger Gallannaugh will be able to recommend someone to provide some detailed drawings and to look at this option as well as the contact we used for the condition survey.

King's school have a drone and an expert operator who may be able to help with some footage from above.

A shout-out on social media may also help in gathering old photographs of the engine shed.

It was noted in an office file that when the Community Hall signed the lease agreement for access arrangements, there was a comment suggesting that they will support with maintenance of this side of the building. Although it is recognised that they may not be in a position to directly help with funds, it could be that some grant funding can be accessed by the hall. This is something worth ATC exploring.

ACTION:ATC

T24/99: Walls Maintenance

To discuss a walls maintenance schedule and decide how to proceed.

Once the wall survey report is received it can guide the creation of a walls maintenance plan and schedule.

A schedule is definitely needed, but until the information is received from the surveyor we cannot create a plan.

T24/100: Water supply at the cemetery and allotment sites

To review the utility supplier for the next 3 years.

No quotes were available, but happy to continue with clerk's recommendation.

T24/101: Date of next meeting 20th May 2025.

The next meeting is on 20th May 2025. Agenda items to the Assistant Clerk by 9th May 2025.

Cllrs Robinson, Coulter, Anderton, and Crawford gave apologies ahead of the May meeting. It was recommended that the May meeting is postponed as so many are unavailable.

ACTION:ATC

**END OF MEETING AT 8:27PM
END OF MINUTES**