

Minutes of the Town Committee meeting held at Bruton Community Hall on Tuesday 22nd July at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: Anderton, Buckland, Coulter, Crawford, Fradley, Taylor.

In the Chair: Cllr Coulter.

Officers in attendance: Town Clerk.

Members of the Public: 2

Public session started: 7:30pm.

Two residents attended regarding the increased levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Lower Backway.

A substantial discussion took place regarding the increased ASB at the Packhorse Bridge area. The clerk, and councillors, overviewed the actions taken so far. Residents were encouraged to continue to report all instances of ASB to the police. The officer team are in contact with the youth group provider to try and provide support. The officer team are also in contact with local schools and a line of communication is being sought with the local PCSO.

Meeting started: 7:43 pm.

Minutes

T25/19: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

To receive and approve any apologies of absence.

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Baker and Robinson.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to receive apologies and approve the reasons given.

T25/20: 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.

T25/21: Minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).

To agree the [minutes of the last meeting](#) on 3rd June 2025 as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Crawford raised that item 25/11b, the sycamore tree on Cuckoo Hill allotments is to have the crown reduced, and is not being removed. The clerk will make the necessary amendment to the minutes before publishing them.

It was RESOLVED [4-0-2] to agree the minutes from the meeting on 3rd June 2025, with the amendment as stated, as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

T25/22: 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.

The clerk informed councillors that the Japanese Knotweed in Station Road Car Park should be sprayed today, and that the adjacent business owners have been notified.

T25/23: To note recent reports of antisocial behaviour at the stepping stones area in Lower Backway and the steps taken by officers.

As discussed during the public part of the meeting. The clerk and councillors responded positively regarding actions currently being taken. Councillors commented on the increased litter which is a concern.

T25/24: To receive and discuss a proposal/request for a memorials.

- a. Previous request update following discussions. To decide next actions. Cllr Buckland has been in contact with the residents who would like a memorial for their parents, who were both very prominent in the local community. The residents are happy to provide a bench for the area (reclaimed, vintage style).

The additional proposal is to change the name of 'Man on a Bench' area, and councillors would like the landowner (the town council leases the land from South Somerset District Council, and now Somerset Council) to be notified. Cllr Buckland has also spoken to residents in the direct vicinity, and the proposal has been well received.

A sign on the wall near to the 'happy to chat' bench would be sufficient. The relatives are also considering a tree to be planted.

Recommendation to Full Council

To name the 'Man on the Bench' area as 'Bishton Green', with a sign on/near to the Packhorse Bridge wall, and that the town council funds the purchase and installation of the sign. That Somerset Council are informed of the change of name. The (donated) bench to be located as per the map provided.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to make the above recommendations as listed to full council at the July meeting.

- b. New request from the Bruton Horticultural Society (BHS) for memorial/celebration centenary year.

Planting trees has been suggested by the Horticultural Society as an appropriate memorial. Councillors suggested that providing the planter for library junction area, with a centenary crest for the BHS, and the upkeep of the planter could be within the gift of the BHS. This would be a more visible memorial to both the long serving members, and also to celebrate the centenary year.

The clerk is to contact the BHS to discuss further.

T25/25: To note recommended new non-glyphosate weed suppressant, [Katoun Gold](#) and discuss lifting the Town Council No Spraying policy for its use to treat weeds along footpaths.

The effectiveness of the product was discussed. Cllr Buckland suggested a recommendation to full council would be trialling the product up at the Dovecote car park, and review in 6 months. This car park is tricky to trim the weeds, as stones flick up and damage cars.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to recommend to trial the product for 6 months, on the top Dovecote Car Park, to consider the effects of the herbicide.

T25/26: Abbey Ponds GWR Grant project update.

As required under the terms and conditions for the grant provision.

- a. To review project spend to budget to date.

The budget to date was discussed, and the final gateway/ramp quote is still being collated.

- b. To discuss the archaeological supervision required and any quotes received.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to agree the archaeological quote as provided, and to engage Prospect Archaeology to provide the archaeological services as listed.

- c. To discuss the positioning of the signs along the ponds and decide exact locations.

Directional signage and information boards have been discussed, from a design perspective, and content.

- Directional signage, a couple options have been discussed, along with a finger post style on the small island outside of the church (in keeping with the black finger posts already installed).
- Information sign locations were discussed as per the map suggested at the entrance points (1,3,and 5) as an initial proposal, and that location 2 is not required.

Councillors finally agreed to recommend to full council that information boards to be located at positions 1 and 5, and for any additional information boards to be outside the scheduled monument area.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to recommend the above proposal to full council.

- d. To discuss the QR code link within the signage and the design.

There is not sufficient detail to discuss this at the time, but it is important to ensure that there is a QR code that continues to work.

T25/27: To receive permission request for use of the areas; Packhorse bridge, the Man on the Bench and Crown Green for next year's Packhorse Fair event.

It was resolved [6-0-0] that permission is given for the areas listed to be used for the packhorse fair event.

T25/28: Abbey Ponds working group; to receive minutes of last meeting on 14th July (if available) and note any recommendations.

The notes were not available, and the next meeting is scheduled for October.

T25/29 : Allotments.

- a. To receive an update regarding allotment inspections.

An inspection has been booked for Tuesday 29th July.

- b. To receive 2 quotes for hedge line reduction, neighbouring property gardens and discuss next actions.

A second quote is required for the hedge removal.

T25/30: Jubilee Park

- a. Accident at the newly installed zipwire equipment – to note report following additional inspection by Sovereign and to discuss any further action.

Noted.

- b. To receive 2 separate quotes and to discuss next actions;
 - I. Quote 1: cutting back the hedgerow at the lower hedge line between Jubilee Park and trainline.
 - II. Quote 2; removal of the old fence, including further cutting back to original railway fencing.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to approve quote 1 for the cutting back/tidying up of the bramble hedge after blackberry season. To review if the removal of the fence is possible at this stage, and not to clear anything past the fence at all at this stage. To defer any major clearance work on this area, and to revisit this discussion in 12 months' time.

- c. To receive quote for removing surface underneath removed (vandalised) play equipment and to replace with grass, compare with cost of new equipment/reinstating old equipment, and to decide next actions.

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to reinstall the old equipment, once repaired.

- d. To discuss building funds for renewing equipment at play areas as requested by Cllr Fradley.

A sinking fund for replacing play equipment needs to be considered within the budget, and this needs to be part of the proposed town committee

budget to be produced. To be an agenda item for the next town committee meeting.

- e. To receive the quote for installing guards around the newly planted trees in the Dovecote field (ahead of planting them).

It was RESOLVED [6-0-0] to agree the quote for installing the guards around the three newly planted trees at the Dovecote Hill, when planted.

T25/31: Town Committee Budget.

To note Spend to Budget 15 July 2025.

Noted.

T25/32: Date of next meeting 7th October 2025.

The next meeting is on 7th October 2025. Agenda items to the Assistant Clerk by 26th September 2025.

Agenda item: budget for 26/27.

It was suggested that Town Committee members attend the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting scheduled for 2nd September, to discuss the grounds maintenance contract.

Meeting ended at 9:15pm

END OF MINUTES