

Clerk's Report for Full Council 23rd September 2025

Bruton Town Council

Accountability and Governance Annual Return (AGAR)

The External Auditors have requested some additional information for the recently submitted AGAR, which has been submitted. The conclusion of audit has now been received, and is published on the town council website. There were no requests to view the unaudited accounts during the period of exercise of rights to view.

Internal Auditor Interim Visit

The internal auditor interim visit has been scheduled for Thursday 30th October 2025.

Town Meeting to discuss the budget for 2026/27

The Town Meeting to discuss the budget for 2026/27 is scheduled for Wednesday 12th November 2025, at the Community Hall, 7pm.

PCSO

The PCSO, Mya Greenfield, along with her colleague, met with the town clerk and the town council chair in early August. The recent anti-social behaviour was discussed, as were some recent incidents of late night disturbances in Bruton.

Mya has followed up on some of these issues, and provided feedback over the past few weeks.

There is a 'Come Meet Us' event at Jubilee Park on Sunday 5th October, 11:00 to 12:30 hours, where Mya and her colleague will be available to meet members of the public and discuss queries and concerns.

Jubilee Park

Car Park Walls

The wall of the Dovecote Car Park was damaged on 30th July. After speaking with the insurance company, a claim has been registered, and a quote for the repairs obtained. The insurance claim is now agreed, the repair works can take place in September (hopefully w/c 15th September).

Youth Provision

The Town Clerk met with the Team Leader for the youth provision on 21st August, to discuss ways to tackle the anti-social behaviour being experienced in Bruton currently.

The youth provision provided two trips over the summer holidays; to Brean, and to Splashdown. There was also Laser Tag in the park early September.

As the trips were so successful, after discussions with the Team Leader, an application for a Somerset Association of Local Councils Health and Wellbeing grant is to be submitted. This will provide three supplementary 'pop up' sessions for young people in the school holidays, when sessions are not taking place. The grant application is an item for discussion on the full council agenda.

Abbey Ponds

The Scheduled Monument Consent was granted on 3rd September. The main contractor has been put in touch with the archaeologist, in order to coordinate the works for the watching brief that is required as part of the Scheduled Monument Consent. Project meetings with the key stake holders have taken place, and the designs for the information boards, and way finding signage are being worked upon. A further meetings is scheduled for 1st October.

A provisional start date (to be confirmed) is 3rd November. Communicating the works, the start date, and the closures of the footpaths will be considered when the start date has been confirmed.

Photos of the ponds area have been taken, to demonstrate progress once the footpath upgrade starts. Photos of the completed upgrade will also be required, to submit within the grant feedback, and also to Historic England.

The monthly reporting to GWR is taking place, as per the requirement in the grant conditions.

The hedge at Abbey Ponds was cut back recently. This has not been tackled for some years, and had to be suspended from this time last year, due to bad weather and unstable ground. The aim is for the hedge to be 'thickened up' at the bottom, to provide a natural barrier for livestock.

Highways

Double yellow lines, still to be installed

The double yellow lines, agreed recently by Somerset Council as part of a wider Parking Order, are due to be painted during September. These areas are at Station Road, and Lower Backway.

Grit Bins

Officers have conducted the annual check of grit bin, as requested by Somerset Council, removed rubbish and reported back on the salt levels in each grit bin.

Somerset Council

Somerset Council are producing Parish Information Sheets, which will be used to circulate important information and briefings to Town, City and Parish Councils. These information sheets will be circulated when received and then saved on Sharepoint.

Active Travel – County Fields

A meeting took place between a Somerset Council surveyor, the town clerk and two town councillors at the end of August, regarding the status of the 'County Fields' area, and whether the entrance to the footpath/cycleway can be facilitated over an area owned by Somerset Council. An update is available for councillors to consider at the full council meeting.

END OF REPORT