

**Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Consultation Response Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in the Community Office, Bruton**

**Present:** Cllrs Bateman, Fradley, Jones & Taylor  
**In the Chair:** Cllr Fradley  
**In attendance:** Deputy Town Clerk  
1 member of the public

**P25/25 Apologies for for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Cllrs Baker, Dunn & Robinson

**P25/26 Declarations of interest**

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).

No interests were declared.

**P25/27 Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).**

That the Minutes of the Planning & Consultation Response Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (if available) be approved and signed by the Chair.

**It was RESOLVED 4-0-0 [for-against-abstain] that the Minutes of the Planning & Consultation Response Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.**

**P25/28 New Planning application**

To consider the following application, make recommendations to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and notify the full Town Council at its next meeting:

**[25/01884/FUL](#) Annexe at Tolpenny, Higher Tolbury, Bruton, BA10 0DJ**  
Demolition of existing annexe and erection of self-build dwelling.

The applicant who was in attendance put the application in context, giving a brief account of its relationship with previous planning applications on or near the site.

Members noted that the new dwelling would fit in well with the dwellings next to it, that in terms of construction standards and sustainability it would be superior to the dwelling it replaced, that it provided adequate vehicular access, and that the provision of three new parking places and an EV charging point to supplement the three existing parking places represented a positive improvement.

**It was RESOLVED 4-0-0 to recommend APPROVAL of this application.**

**P25/29 Somerset Council Local Transport Plan (LTP)**

To consider a response to Somerset Council's LTP consultation.

Cllr. Jones gave a brief account of the LTP, noting elements relevant to Bruton. He pointed out that the consultation gave the Town Council an opportunity to remind SC of several important Transport-related initiatives which the Town Council had urged on the Local Authority for years, without apparent success. Members discussed some of these long-standing requests and requirements, including the following:

- Enabling level (wheelchair-friendly) access to the downline (westbound) platform of Bruton Railway Station, currently accessible only via a footbridge. Direct access is technically feasible, and the space is sufficient for service buses to stop, turn and wait at the railway station, improving rail-bus connectivity and supporting Somerset Council's commitment to sustainable transport.
- Granting the Town Council ownership or control of County Fields, enabling the construction of a footpath between the Town Centre and the Frome Road, near the Enterprise Centre. This would give the occupants of many of the 300 or so existing and planned dwellings along the Frome Road the opportunity to walk safely to and from the town centre, including with pushchairs and other wheeled aids. Such a development would support Somerset Council's Active Travel policy as well as its commitment to sustainable transport.
- Exercising better control over Bruton's street lighting, adjusting lighting levels as appropriate to serve the needs of residents and wildlife, and switching street lights off during the small hours where this is permitted by statute. Such action would support Somerset Council's commitment to net zero, sustainability and bio-diversity, and be in accordance with its Declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Members also noted a certain incoherence between Somerset Council's Local Plan, and its Local Transport Plan. The Local Plan has promoted rapid urban growth in Bruton, with planning permission granted for c.160 new dwellings on the east side of town since January, but since employment opportunities in Bruton are severely limited, most working occupants will be employed in larger urban centres and many will have to drive there. This is clearly contrary to the aims of the LTP which seeks to prioritize walking, cycling and public transport over the use of private cars. A more joined-up approach, integrating Somerset Council's Planning and Transport policies would clearly be beneficial to residents, Council Tax payers, and the environment.

**It was RESOLVED 4-0-0 to direct the Deputy Clerk under delegated powers to respond to Somerset Council's Local Transport Plan consultation, in conjunction with Cllr. Jones, and incorporating the views expressed by Committee members in the foregoing discussion.**

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm

**Patrick Pender-Cudlip,  
Deputy Town Clerk**