

Clerk's Report for Full Council 25th November 2025

Bruton Town Council

Internal Auditor Interim Visit

The internal auditor interim visit took place on Thursday 30th October 2025. The report will be made available on the town council website for viewing, and is in the papers for this meeting.

Town Meeting to discuss the budget for 2026/27

The Town Meeting to discuss the budget for 2026/27 took place on Wednesday 12th November 2025, at the Community Hall, 7pm. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Youth Provision

The youth group continues to provide a safe and supported environment for young people who attend, with activities and hot food each week. A quarterly report covering June to September 2025 has been circulated to Councillors.

A meeting took place on 17th November between the Town Clerk and the Team Leader to further discuss the pop-up session taking place on 23rd December.

Posters are displayed on noticeboards, the office window and the town council website. An advert has been submitted to The Dove for the December issue.

Abbey Ponds

A project meetings with the key stake holders took place on 12th November to discuss the progress with the footpath, installation of the gates, and also the wayfinding and information signage. There should be a presentation of final design choices at the full council meeting on 25th November.

Once the fixing requirements for the signage is known, Historic England can be contacted to request amendment of the Scheduled Monument Consent.

The issue with the rain washing away the surface material is being addressed by the clerk. Multiple conversations have taken place between the clerk, the contractor, the archaeologist and Historic England. The next steps are being discussed.

Photos during the refurbishment have been taken, to supply to GWR as part of the grant conditions. These will be submitted with the monthly reporting in November, to demonstrate the progress of the work. 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. These are available on sharepoint, for councillors to view.

Allotments -Durslade Community Garden.

One Planet Bruton, Somerset Wildlife Trust, allotmenters, with support from Hauser and Wirth (landowners, Durslade Community Garden) and town council grounds maintenance contractor, are working with the Town Council to achieve Somerset Wildlife Trust 'Wilder Allotments' awards. The monthly 'Hoedown' sessions will assist with working towards the award by helping to install features such as a 'deadhedge' and a raingarden, to help make space for nature.

Grounds Maintenance.

The specification for the grounds maintenance tender has been agreed at Town Committee. This has been published on 'Find a Tender' with a closing date of 16th December 2025 for tender applications to be received. There is a draft schedule for the Abbey Ponds grounds maintenance, for consideration at the Abbey Ponds Working Group on 12th January 2026.

Trees.

Station Road Car Park.

The trees along the river at Station Road Car Park were cut back, on 1st November. The canopy was taken back, to reduce the risk of the trees falling when there are high winds. This was as a result of the tree that fell during the storm last November. This work was conducted on a Saturday, to minimise disruption in the doctors surgery car park. Thank you to the contractor for being so flexible.

Patwell Pump.

The horse chestnut tree at Patwell Pump requires attention. Initial observations were that the tree needed to be taken down, as the tree has canker. Due to a complaint received from a member of the public (who subsequently submitted a second opinion from their tree contractor) who maintained that the tree should not be removed, the decision was taken to obtain a completely independent report from an arborist.

The arborist has been instructed to undertake a survey of the tree, which will result in a full report.

Planning permission has also been requested from Somerset Council, to remove the tree, but the outcome of this is not yet known.

Hummingbird School

The Council Chair, and the Town Clerk, recently enjoyed a visit to Hummingbird School, recently opened in Bruton. A tour of the school, along with a short presentation and discussion with the headteacher was both enjoyable and really informative. Councillors are invited to visit; there is an opportunity to do so every Wednesday morning at 9.45, contact the school to make arrangements.

END OF REPORT