

Clerk's Report for Full Council 24th February 2026

Bruton Town Council

Youth Provision

A pop up session took place on 17th February, and the final of the three sessions takes place on 15th April.

Posters are displayed on noticeboards, the office window and the town council website.

A stakeholder meeting took place on 26th January to discuss progress to date, and to consider the next steps when the contract comes to an end in April 2027. The youth contract will be discussed at Finances and Resources Committee in April.

Budget and Precept

The budget was agreed at the last town council meeting, and the precept request was submitted before the deadline of 31st January 2026. Please note that the precept will be paid by Somerset Council in two equal payments for 2026-2027, rather than one complete payment in April.

End of year 2025/26

The Town Clerk has put the town council forward to be part of a pilot to Make the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) digital. This will involve some additional training, and the submission of the AGAR both electronically (by email) and digitally (by portal). It is hoped by taking part in the pilot, that the process will become digitalized and more straightforward.

Community Office

The new A3 printer will be installed on 9th April 2026. The new tablet for volunteers to use, which will assist with visitor enquiries, and reporting issues to Somerset Council, has been delivered and is currently being set up for use.

Spiral of Light Festival

A letter of thanks has been received from Friends of St Mary's for the support of Bruton Town Council for the event held on 7th February 2026.

Abbey Ponds

Historic England have agreed the revised fixing dimensions for the stone signs, within the Scheduled Monument Consent for the 'Connecting Bruton' project. The stone signs have been ordered, and there is a 4 to 6 week timescale for manufacture and delivery.

An alternative contractor has been sought to discuss installation of the stone signs. A quote for the works is an agenda item for discussion on this full council

agenda. A summary of the discussion with the grounds works contractor, and also the Highways issues faced has been circulated.

Due to the production timescale for the stone signs, it will be necessary to obtain an extension to the completion date for the GWR grant (currently 31st March).

Allotments

The annual rent renewal process went very well. There have been a number of raised beds and plots that have been reallocated, and now have new tenants in place.

Allotments -Durslade Community Garden.

The 'Wilder Allotment' signs have been received and need to be put up at the Community Garden. The 'rain garden' is progressing, and an owl box is due to be installed on an appropriate tree in a nearby property.

A 'Hoe-Down', led by One Planet Bruton, is scheduled for Saturday 7th March, to continue with the mulching of the fruit trees, and other tasks to support the 'Wilder Allotments'.

Allotments – Cuckoo Hill

The reduction of the sycamore tree crown had to be postponed due to the recent poor weather, the ground was too waterlogged for the work to be undertaken safely. This is to be rescheduled.

Grounds Maintenance.

The Grounds Maintenance contract was awarded at the full council meeting in January, and all applicants notified of the outcome. The contract has been signed, and the contract award notice has been posted on 'Find a Tender'. Three of the tender contractors requested feedback which has been provided.

The grounds maintenance specification for Abbey Ponds was agreed at Town Committee on 3rd February, and officers will be working on that to obtain quotes in due course.

Trees.

Patwell Pump.

The Horse Chestnut was removed on 13th February. The replacement of the tree will be discussed at a future Town Committee meeting.

END OF REPORT