

Clerk's Report for Full Council 31 March 2026

Bruton Town Council

Youth Provision

The final of the three youth club pop up sessions takes place on 15th April.

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

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.

Internal Audit final visit for 2025/26

The second visit for this current financial year has been arranged, for 14th May 2026.

Website upgrade for Accessibility Regulations

The Town Council IT contractor has worked really hard to ensure that the town council website complies with Website Accessibility Regulations. This is an external audit requirement. It was brought to the attention of the town clerk that work needs to be undertaken on the What's On Bruton, and Bruton Walks websites, of a similar nature. This will be discussed at a subsequent committee meeting.

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 has been set up for use.

Annual Pension return

The annual pension return has been submitted as required by the Local Government Pension Scheme provider for Somerset.

Abbey Ponds

An extension to the GWR grant deadline has been obtained, the revised completion date is now in May 2026. The foundation plates to two of the stone signs were installed w/c 9th March, with delivery of the stones yet to be confirmed.

To date the third stone sign position is under negotiation with Somerset Council Highways (Highways East). The ongoing request has been escalated via the Local Community Network Link Officer.

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 was installed earlier this month, on a tall tree at a nearby property. The town clerk met with Somerset Wildlife Trust, Hauser and Wirth and One Planet Bruton to discuss the installation of a bog garden near to the community shed, which should take place in the coming months.

A 'Hoe-Down', led by One Planet Bruton, took place on 7th March, continuing with the mulching of the fruit trees, and other tasks to support the 'Wilder Allotments'.

A group of KS1 students (ages 5 to 7 years) from Bruton Primary School had a visit to Durslade on 30th March, as part of their 'Seeds, soil and sunshine' learning topic. The town council grounds maintenance contractor will be chatting to the students about the allotment field.

Allotments – Cuckoo Hill

The reduction of the sycamore tree crown was completed on 9th March.

The National Lottery Community Fund grant application was successful, and the funds received. The grant application is to support the Community Raised Beds with a shed to store tools and a wheelbarrow for use. The Community Raised Beds is a joint venture with Good Company.

END OF REPORT