

## Bruton Town Forum Meeting 2026

### Bruton Community Hall

The Hall is a key part of community life - at least we the Trustees like to think so and hope you all agree. Community spaces are part of everyday life for so many people in Bruton. They're a vital resource for us all. But behind the scenes, keeping them legal, warm, open and running is a constant challenge. The Charitable Incorporated Organisation that is now responsible for the Hall are well aware of the responsibility (and potential costs) of keeping this building alive and well.

### First some thanks - Grants received

- Bruton Town Council - which we have put in our funding pot for bigger grants we intend making and often require match funding.
- Good Company €500 - this enabled us to pay our rising heating bills whilst we look for more energy efficient ways to keep the Hall warm - so a new boiler and radiators need to be in before the winter. We provided portable radiators and encouraged users to switch them on as keeping warm is essential!

Other news: We have wi-fi, we are sharing this with St. Mary's, many thanks to Harry Mills (and Isaac) for being our point of contact with Gigaclear and our Operations Manager and general 'get things done person' in sorting this for us.

Energy Audit- we applied for and were awarded an Energy Audit by E3 Sustainability Ltd., through Thrive, a Somerset charity that (amongst other things) supports people who help run local community buildings. We completed a diy energy audit last year. The very comprehensive report on the building is very thorough and detailed, offering quick wins and long-term solutions. The Board will, with further advice, prioritise what is 'doable' and affordable and where grants can be obtained to help. The Energy Audit came in with costs totalling €44k, way out of our league. Our income is dependent on community use and like the stock market, goes up and down! We do have to prioritise a replacement heating system as our boiler is on its last legs.

We have reviewed and renewed the policies required for a community building, and are now in line with all Charity Commission requirements.

Part of this involves ensuring all new hall users have a Health and Safety information session, that info is on the notice-board and a pack in the kitchen. We have started to meet with all existing hall users to cover this.

Our main policies are also on the noticeboard.

The next step is to update our web-site and have all the information on line. We will need help with this..... so any offers.....

Finally - the hall needs to be future proofed; succession planning is key! If anyone is interested in joining us, finding out more about what needs to be done to keep this hall open and running for the next 25 years- the life of the new Rose, again, please get in touch. We particularly need help with bookings- that's a good thing, we're busy!

Bruton Community Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees

May 2026