

Bruton Town Council

Bruton Town Council Appendix A: List of documents for retention or disposal adopted 28 July 2026 minute reference 26/57a.

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Minutes	Indefinite	Archive	Original signed paper copies of council minutes of meetings must be kept indefinitely in safe storage. At regular intervals of not more than five years they should be archived and deposited with the Higher Authority
Agendas	Five years	Management	Bin (shred confidential waste)
Accident/incident reports	20 years	Potential claims	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Scales of fees and charges	Six years	Management	Bin
Receipt and payment accounts	Indefinite	Archive	N/A
Receipt books of all kinds	Six years	VAT	Bin

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Bank statements including deposit/savings accounts	Last completed audit year	Audit	Confidential waste
Bank paying-in books	Last completed audit year	Audit	Confidential waste
Cheque book stubs	Last completed audit year	Audit	Confidential waste

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Quotations and tenders	Six years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Paid invoices	Six years	VAT	Confidential waste
Paid cheques	Six years	Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Confidential waste
VAT records	Six years generally but 20 years for VAT on rents	VAT	Confidential waste
Petty cash, postage, and telephone books	Six years	Tax, VAT, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Confidential waste

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Timesheets	Last completed audit year Three years	Audit (requirement) Personal injury (best practice)	Bin
Wages books/payroll	12 years	Superannuation	Confidential waste
Insurance policies	While valid (but see next two items below)	Management	Bin
Insurance company names and policy numbers	Indefinite	Management	N/A

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Certificates for insurance against liability for employees	40 years from date on which insurance commenced or was renewed	The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998 (SI 2753) Management	Bin
Play area equipment inspection reports	21 years		

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Investments	Indefinite	Audit, management	N/A
Title deeds, leases, agreements, Contracts	Indefinite	Audit, management	N/A
Members' allowances register	Six years	Tax, Limitation Act 1980 (as amended)	Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Information from other bodies e.g. circulars from county associations, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), principal authorities	Retained for as long as it is useful and relevant		Bin

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Local/historical information	Indefinite – to be securely kept for benefit of the parish	Councils may acquire records of local interest and accept gifts or records of general and local interest in order to promote the use for such records (defined as materials in written or other form setting out facts or events or otherwise recording information)	N/A

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Magazines and journals	Council may wish to keep its own publications For others retain for as long as they are useful and relevant	The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) requires a local council which after 1 February 2004 has published works in print (this includes a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper, a map, plan, chart or table) to deliver, at its own expense, a copy of them to the British Library Board (which manages and controls the British Library). Printed works as defined by the 2003 Act published by a local council therefore constitute materials which the British Library holds	Bin if applicable

Record Keeping

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
To ensure records are easily accessible it is necessary to comply with the following: • A list of files stored in cabinets will be kept • Electronic files will be saved using relevant file names	The electronic files will be backed up in a cloud-based programme as appropriate.	Management	Documentation no longer required will be disposed of, ensuring any confidential documents are destroyed as confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
General correspondence	Unless it relates to specific categories outlined in the policy, correspondence, both paper and electronic, should be kept. Records should be kept for as long as they are needed for reference or accountability purposes, to comply with regulatory requirements or to protect legal and other rights and interests.	Management	Bin (shred confidential waste) A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR.

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Correspondence relating to staff	If related to Audit, see relevant sections above. Should be kept securely and personal data in relation to staff should not be kept for longer than is necessary for the purpose it was held. Likely time limits for tribunal claims between 3–6 months. Recommend this period be for three years	After an employment relationship has ended, a council may need to retain and access staff records for former staff for the purpose of giving references, payment of tax, national insurance contributions, and pensions, and in respect of any related legal claims made against the council	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR

Documents from legal matters, negligence, and other torts

Most legal proceedings are governed by the Limitation Act 1980 (as amended). The 1980 Act provides that legal claims may not be commenced after a specified period. Where the limitation periods are longer than other periods specified, the documentation should be kept for the longer period specified. Some types of legal proceedings may fall within two or more categories. If in doubt, keep for the longest of the three limitation periods.

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Negligence	Six years		Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Defamation	One year		Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Contract	Six years		Confidential waste. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Leases	12 years		Confidential waste
Sums recoverable by statute	Six years		Confidential waste
Personal injury	Three years		Confidential waste
To recover land	12 years		Confidential waste
Rent	Six years		Confidential waste
Breach of trust	None		Confidential waste
Trust deeds	Indefinite		N/A

For Halls, centres, recreation grounds:

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
• Application to hire • Invoices Record of tickets issued	Six years	VAT	Confidential waste A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR
Lettings diaries	Electronic files linked to accounts	VAT	N/A
Terms and conditions	Six years	Management	Bin
Event monitoring forms	Six years unless required for claims, insurance or legal purposes	Management	Bin. A list will be kept of those documents disposed of to meet the requirements of the GDPR

For allotments

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Register and plans	Indefinite	Audit, management	N/A
Minutes	Indefinite	Audit, management	N/A
Legal papers	Indefinite	Audit, management	N/A

For Burial Grounds

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
• Register of fees collected • Register of burials • Register of purchased graves • Register/plan of grave spaces • Register of memorials • Applications for interment • Applications for right to erect memorials • Disposal certificates • Copy certificates of grant of exclusive right of burial	Indefinite	Archives, Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 204)	N/A

Planning Papers

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Applications	One year	Management	Bin
Appeals	One year unless significant development	Management	Bin
Trees	One year	Management	Bin
Local development plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Bin
Local plans	Retained as long as in force	Reference	Bin

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Town/neighbourhood plans	Indefinite – final adopted plans	Historical purposes	N/A

CCTV

Document	Minimum Retention Period	Reason	Disposal
Daily notes	Daily	Data protection	Confidential waste
Radio rotas	One week	Management	Confidential waste
Work rotas	One month	Management	Confidential waste
Observation sheets	Three years	Data protection	Confidential waste
Stats	Three years	Data protection	Confidential waste
Signing in sheets	Three years	Management	Confidential waste
Review requests	Three years	Data protection	Confidential waste
Discs – master and working	For as long as required	Data protection	Confidential waste
Internal Operations Procedure Manual	Destroy on renewal Review annually	Management	Confidential waste
Code of Practice	Destroy on renewal Review annually	Management	Confidential waste
Photographs/digital prints	31 days	Data protection	Confidential waste