

Clerk's Report for Town Committee 22nd September 2026

Reports of ASB in and around Bruton High Street:

Officers received a report of increasing ASB in and around Bruton High Street. The response was (and always is) to encourage reporting to Avon & Somerset Police via online reports/calling 101.

By chance, the Town Clerk discovered that regular in-person meetings occur between the PCSO lead and Wincanton Town Council and has therefore sought to set this up in Bruton moving forwards. This took place on Wednesday 9th September and will now continue on a monthly basis.

Highways:

- **Parking outside Sexey's Hospital;** Cllr Hood and I met with Highways representative onsite to agree the removal of the correct 2 parking spaces (Eastern end places - at the pinch point). This TTRO will be processed with the aim for works to be completed before the end of the year.
- **Church Bridge on Patwell Street – to explore road marking to visually narrow the road, explore viability and cost of widening pavement and request refresh of current 20mph markings;** action outstanding.
- **Wyke Road incidents – to explore extending 30mph zone from Bruton To Wyke, creating 30 zone along entire route, hazard warning signage for drivers;** action outstanding.

Abbey Ponds GWR project update:

As you will all have noted by now, 4 of the 5 stones have been successfully installed. The roadside stone was sadly damaged/stained on delivery and there is an agenda item about the next steps.

GWR Community Fund have been kept informed of this further delay, and the aim is to receive/install the final stone by 17th September. I have prepared the end of project report for GWR ready for sending once the final stone is in place.

Damaged wall at Bishton Green:

At the end of July Somerset Council cleared vegetation from the wall to reveal the extent of the problem:



This matter remains in their hands and officers have direct contact with the team leading this.

On 7th September a further email was sent requesting urgent attention due to the progression of the decay:



The hollow appears to have deepened and the cracks have progressed to beyond the wooden construction.

Town Ranger:

Steve Hall signed the contract as the new Town Ranger which began on 1st August 2026.

The areas aimed for his focus are; general tidy up/weeding/litter picking in and around the Town Centre.

Steve has been attending the office regularly and successfully using Civic.ly to report jobs/defects and this has all worked very well. In fact, we have recently received the following feedback from a resident:

'Just a note to say how much more presentable the town is beginning to look with Steve's weekly sessions.

The Bartons, Lower Backway and the approach to Riverside Park across the river all have that more cared for look.

Cleaning up the signs also makes a big difference. A little and often throughout the year makes a big difference for the residents and the many visitors we are attracting

I hope the Council will make sure this is part of their 'visible' presence and mission in the town over the coming years.

Well done with the initiative'

The play area inspections have raised a few issues, which are in the attached report, which need to be considered for Town Ranger action.

Civic.ly report attached:

There are 2 reports attached detailing some of the work that the Town Ranger has completed, including photos, for your information.

Cycle Racks:

A quote has been received for installation from SLR. Permission has been sought from Somerset Highways and is awaited. This item will return to the agenda for final decision when permission has been received from Highways.

Jubilee Park:

- The new accessible picnic bench has been successfully installed and looks great:



- Some of the stones from the lower car park have been successfully moved to border the top car park, allowing wheelchair access to the new bench:



- MUGA floodlights questions have been answered and are in the meeting papers. This is on the agenda for a final recommendation to be made for next year's budget.
- We have received permission to fell the Field Maple tree (opposite the pavilion) from the LPA. The tree surgeon will schedule its removal in the coming weeks. The trunk will be kept for a wildlife habitat and will be placed behind the fence line at the foot of the Dovecote hill, behind the tyre swing/MUGA. Once this has taken place, I will get in touch with Bruton Flower Club to organise its replacement.

Bishton Memorial Bench:

I have not yet had a chance to create a post as planned, to thank the family for this donation via the website/social media.

Mills family memorial bench request:

I have spoken to the family, who would be happy to provide an additional bench for County Fields, but would still like a memorial bench at the cemetery if at all possible. This is on the agenda for further consideration.

Walls:

I have successfully registered with the Diocese for an online application for the works in St Mary's Churchyard (this is needed for all works, but application with initial view for walls contract coupled with JP walls). Cllr Dunn has agreed to assist with the application.

Work Experience – Sexey's School Student presentation:

This is now on display via the digital display screen in the office window.

Bleed control kits:

Two kits have now been installed at the Bruton Enterprise Centre and the Unionist Club, and have been registered with the emergency services. The third kit will be purchased via BUFC independently for installation at Jubilee Park.

Japanese Knotweed review:

The second assessment this year has taken place, which has revealed some low growth next to the small compound only. A further visit is booked in October, with only one further visit in the autumn next year required.

Community Office:

- I have been looking at better storage in the office and a general 'spruce', with Health & Safety in mind, following our recent assessment. The office is very cluttered and is in desperate need of proper storage. I have added something in the budget proposal in the agenda following discussions with officers to cover the cost of storage.
- We received a combination lock from Somerset Council in order that we can ensure the museum volunteers are always able to lock the iron gates, following issues with them being left open. Cllr Taylor very kindly did some welding to them in order for the combination lock to be used. I will ensure the museum and Bellitudo are informed when this new lock is adopted.

END OF REPORT