

Clerk's Report for Full Council 29 September 2026

Bruton Town Council

End of year Audit 2025/26

The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, required further information from the clerk regarding the end of year submission. This involved providing a substantial volume of additional information, and a robust exchange to ensure that the Town Council had considered the independence and competence of the internal auditor for this auditing year.

The conclusion of audit has now been received, and is published on the town council website, and in the Community Office window. There is also an agenda item to not receipt and discuss any next actions.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Town Council took part in a pilot scheme this year to submit the AGAR via a digital portal. There is further training about the portal and the changes due next year, which the clerk is attending towards the end of October.

Internal Audit (interim visit) 2026/27

The interim audit visit has been arranged for Thursday 5th November.

VAT 126 claim

The VAT reclaim to the end of June 2026 has been submitted and the VAT refund has been received.

Town Ranger

The Town Ranger contract has been active since 1 August 2026, and is already making a difference. Using the Civic.ly app, which is the town council asset maintenance mechanism, is going really well, for both logging of jobs, and demonstrating where the Town Ranger is working.

Town Meeting, 15 September 2026

The Town Meeting to introduce the budget for 2027/2028 took place on Tuesday 15 September. This year saw three members of the public attending, along with three councillors and two council officers. The budget was discussed, and there was an informal question and answer session, with further discussions. A really positive evening, and thank you to those who attended.

Wessex Water

The town council have received notification that Wessex Water will be upgrading the water recycling centre in of Gants Mill Lane over the next year. This is likely to increase traffic along the land, but it is hoped that traffic management at the

junction with Cole Road will not be required. Occasionally, there may be delays with construction traffic entering and exiting the site.

Somerset Council

Heating Oil Help

There is help available for heating oil costs, for eligible Somerset households. The information has been published both on the town council website, and social media pages.

Jubilee Park

Field Maple tree, near the pavilion building

A planning application has been submitted to Somerset Council to manage the field maple at Jubilee Park near to the pavilion. The Assistant Clerk and the Chair met with the Somerset Council Tree Officer recently to discuss the tree and the removal, as Somerset Council wanted the tree to remain. Somerset Council have now given permission for the tree to be removed.

Abbey Ponds.

The desk based archaeological survey has been instructed, with a report due in due course.

A volunteer day was organised to address the vegetation on the wild flower bunds, on 12 September.

The clerk has been liaising with the Meadow Restoration lead at Forest of Selwood to register Abbey Ponds with the Rural Payments Agency, with a view to applying for Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The area is in the process of being mapped.

The directional stones have been delivered and installed. There was an issue with one of the stones when it was delivered, and a replacement stone is being cut and marked up. The final stone will be delivered in due course.

Station Road Car Park

The Japanese Knotweed has been treated. The level of regrowth was less than expected, and it is anticipated that only one visit will be required next year.

Engine Shed

The planning application for Listed Building Consent requires a Bat Emergent Survey Report (BERS). The final of three required bat surveys took place in August, with the report available for councillors to view. The report has been circulated, and the planning application will be resubmitted for consideration.

END OF REPORT.