BRUTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Committee meeting held at Bruton Community Hall on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: Cllrs, Dunn, Fradley, Crawford, Coulter, Anderton, Tooth, and Jones

In the Chair: Cllr Dunn

Officers in attendance: Assistant Town Clerk (ATC).

Members of the Public: 5

Public Forum began at 7:30pm
Three residents from Quaperlake Street expressed concerns regarding speeding traffic.

The agenda item on this matter was brought forward for earlier discussion.

Resident on Patwell Street came to discuss the collapsed riverside wall from Crown Green footpath leading to Bishton Green.

The agenda item on this matter was brought forward for earlier discussion.

A presentation was given by Beau Lotto from Hummingbirds Learning Lab regarding plans for expansion to an additional education site in the field behind Hauser & Wirth Somerset, adjacent to King's School sports pitches. Beau shared his professional background and described the ethos of Hummingbirds Learning Lab, the plans for the new site and invited feedback and engagement with the project.

Meeting opened at 7:30pm.

Minutes:

T26/63: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).
To receive and approve any apologies of absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Baker.

It was RESOLVED [For-against-abstain] [7-0-0] to approve the apologies received.

T26/64: Declarations of interest.
Declarations of Interests Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (This does not preclude any later declaration).

Cllr Jones declared an interest in Hummingbirds School in reference to the presentation provided by Beau Lotto.

Agenda items brought forward for discussion, following the public forum:

T26/69; To consider problems caused by frequently speeding traffic, in particular on Quaperlake Street, High Street and Patwell Street.
To consider advertising for a Community Speedwatch campaign following interest from a member of the community.

The residents at Quaperlake Street would like to explore the following:

- The launch of a community speedwatch (one of the residents would be happy to assist with this process)
- Road markings from the High St turning into Quaperlake Street have almost disappeared, could this be raised with Highways?
- Are there any practical solutions that can be explored with Somerset Council Highways team?

A Community Speedwatch requires a lead and willing volunteers in the community. Residents at Quaperlake Street are keen to launch as soon as possible, and Cllr Tooth agreed to lead this project.
Cllr Jones highlighted that there are residents at Cole Road (details to be passed on) experiencing speeding issues who may also like to join a Community Speedwatch.
The clerk will report the fading of the road markings to Somerset Council and explore any other possible solutions to the problem of speeding traffic.
It was noted that due to an increase in reports to Avon & Somerset Police from the community, the PCSO's reported that they are aiming for some mobile speed units to be deployed to Bruton.

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T26/70; To discuss collapse of riverside wall at Crown Green/Bishton Green and subsequent closure of footpath and rear access to affected property.
To receive update from Somerset Council and resident concerned and consider any actions.

Affected Patwell Street resident shared a letter he had written today to Somerset Councillors Lucy Trimnell and Tom Power which highlights the following:

- The closure of the footpath prevents rear access to his property.
- Following a 7 month period of no action to repair this wall during dry weather, it is very frustrating to learn that the plan is to now wait for drier weather conditions when the river is lower - Summer of 2027.
- In this 7 month period the poor conditions of the wall and footpath has significantly deteriorated, resulting in a further significant collapse recently. Delays to repair will incur more damage and therefore larger efforts and higher costs for repair.
- This is a frequently used and popular connecting route for the community and visitors to Bruton.
- This has already resulted in the cancellation of Packhorse Fair in 2026 and is highly likely that Packhorse Fair 2027 will also be cancelled.
- The subsidence to the path has now deteriorated to less than 100cm from resident's property back fence and garden, which has led to the need to seek professional advice.
- There is a connecting archway to the resident's garden wall. If this collapses, which appears likely, this would affect a listed structure, adding to mounting final costs.
- Similar repair works took place further down river at King's School during wet weather conditions some years ago, so it would seem it is possible.
- **The resident would like to request that Bruton Town Council support with expediting Somerset Council repair works as soon as possible.**

The resident was thanked for sharing his communication with Somerset Councillors and it was proposed that Cllr Jones would work with the Deputy Clerk to write a letter to the officer at Somerset Council, echoing the relevant concerns and to expedite repair works to the wall and footpath.

T26/65: Minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 41 (1)).
To approve the minutes of the meeting dated 22nd September as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
Nominated on call for MUGA lights – need information – Cllr Fradley and Coulter.

It was RESOLVED [7-0-0] to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 22nd September 2026 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
Cllr Dunn signed and dated the minutes.

T26/66: To receive a short-written report from the clerk and an update regarding actions from the previous meeting.
This report will be circulated and will be available on the Bruton Town Council website.
The clerk summarised the report which was noted by all.

T26/67: To receive working group notes and to consider any recommendations and actions:

1. Abbey Ponds Working Group meeting on 12th October 2026.

Cllr Jones shared that a quote has been sought for a written scheme of investigation and a phased programme of investigations, from the archaeologist involved at this site to date, however, a response is awaited.
Once the quote has been received it will be brought back to Town Committee as a recommendation to support building a case for a large heritage lottery application.

T26/68: Cuckoo Hill & Durslade Allotments:

1. To note inspection report (if available) and consider any recommendations or actions.

No report at this time as the next inspection is due next week on 17th November. A report will be available at the next meeting.

2. To agree the revised Tenancy agreement.

The key points of revision are; updated tenancy fees, No glyphosate or herbicides policy, and peat-free compost.
These changes were approved.

3. To receive a request to close gap in the Hedge between Cuckoo Hill houses; The gap is being used more frequently and has obviously been widened to allow easier access. What's now happening (witnessed) is people park in the car park, walk through the allotment and access Cuckoo Hill housing estate through the gap in the hedge. There are other issues we think associated with this, e.g. large quantities of wine/beer bottles and other domestic type waste being deposited in the waste bins in the car park.

The ATC will work with the Grounds Maintenance team to explore ways to block this gap. Cllr Coulter offered some small holly bushes for planting in the hedge to block the gap if this would be helpful.

T26/69;Brought forward, as above.
T26/70;Brought forward, as above.

T26/71: To consider contractor offer to tackle overgrown hedges at Brewham Junction and along Frome Road and decide next steps.
The current contractor that cuts the hedges at Cuckoo Hill Cemetery has offered to extend to other areas along Frome Road.

It was proposed that officers contact residents as it is the landowners responsibility. Since this meeting, at the time of typing these minutes, it has been discovered that these areas have already been tackled.

T26/72: To consider overgrown brambles at river sides at Church Bridge.

This would require a flood risk activity permit for approach from the river.
The clerk will investigate the possibility of trimming from the pavement side with the Town Ranger/Grounds Maintenance contractors.

T26/73: Community Office and communications:

1. To consider request from member of public for the office to be opened on Saturdays.

Cllr Crawford shared that opening the office on Saturdays in the past evidenced very rare visitor attendance.
For Health and Safety reasons, it is preferred that volunteers do not work in the office alone and therefore this is not considered viable at this time.

2. To consider whether the Council's current communications arrangements adequately meet public expectations and, if not, what additional resources or actions may be required to improve public awareness of Council meetings, projects, services and initiatives.

This item was deferred for full council consideration.

T26/74: Engine Shed; To receive the updated BERS report and consider possible additional costs involved to cover as a result during works.

The final report is still awaited. The deputy clerk has requested some re-wording of the report with clarification between statutory requirements and professional recommendations.

T26/75: Town Ranger; to receive Civic.ly report and note any recommendations.

The report was reviewed and noted by all. The clerk will enquire with civic.ly if a website appropriate report is possible to be shared via the website.
Officers are currently looking into possibilities for a designated leaves compost area for the Town Ranger to use in future, to avoid disposal costs, at the Town Ranger's suggestion.

T26/76: Jubilee Park;

1. To receive Jubilee Park Annual Play Area Inspection dated 9th September 26 and consider actions.

Last year's medium risk findings were addressed only, with no high-risk items and low-risk items agreed for monitoring.
There are now no medium/high risk findings due for repair, therefore cllrs propose that the clerk works towards repair low risk items with the Town Ranger and Grounds Maintenance team.

2. To receive request from Jubilee Park Pavillion and Youth Club Trust to refurbish the kitchen area in the Pavillion.

This item was deferred until it has been discussed at the next Jubilee Park Pavilion and Youth Club Trust meeting.

T26/77: Wall repairs at St Mary's Churchyard; to note the application for a Faculty has been submitted online and to consider the quote from Philip Hughes Associates for a written specification.

The Faculty submission was noted.
The quote for a written specification and the additional quote for Philip Hughes to act as contract administrators are both recommended to Full Council for consideration.

T26/78: Town Committee Budget.

1. To consider 2027/28 budget.

Noted by all.
It was noted that 'Other maintenance' budget does not seem to have been used much this year to date.

2. To note Spend to Budget.

Noted by all.

T26/79: To consider the date of the Annual Town Meeting.
The annual town meeting will need to take place before 22nd March to coincide with pre-election period.

It was RESOLVED [7-0-0] to be recommended to Full Council to agree that the Annual Town meeting is held on 16th March 2027.

T26/80: Date of next meeting 26 January 2027.
The next meeting is on 26 January 2027. Agenda items to the Assistant Clerk by 12th January 2027.

Noted by all.

END OF MEETING AT 9:00PM