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Minutes of the Bicester Town Council Environment Committee

A meeting of the **Bicester Town Council Environment Committee** was held on Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 19:00hrs on Zoom.

Present:

Cllr Jason Slaymaker – Chairman
Cllr Zoe McLernon – Vice Chairman
Cllr Harry Knight
Cllr Richard Mould
Cllr Robert Nixon
Cllr Lynn Pratt
Cllr Dan Sames
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Alex Thrupp

In Attendance:

Samantha Shippen – Chief Officer
Phil Evans – Service Manager
Zara Sankey – Administration Officer

1. 041/2021 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that apologies were received from Cllr Nick Mawer. Cllr Dan Sames substituted for Cllr Nick Mawer.

2. 042/2021 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dan Sames declared an interest in item 12. CDC Environmental Planting Scheme as Executive Member at Cherwell District Council.

3. 043/2021 Minutes of Environment Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the following Environment Committee meeting held on: **ENV05/1920 – 4th February 2020 to be signed at a later date.**

4. 044/2021 Public Session

No members of the public were present.

5. 045/2021 Minutes of the Events Working Party

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the following Events Working Party: **BE02/2021 7th July 2020.**

6. 046/2021 Tree Management Policy

RESOLVED that the Committee **AGREED**:

1. To **APPROVE** the Tree Management Policy (GP24) for submission to the Council's Policy Committee for adoption subject to the inclusion of the word "works" as the final word in the penultimate bullet point of 4.14;
2. That Officers present a report on tree works to the Committee at least annually;
3. That Officers provide a straightforward short guide for residents to include contact details for CDC and OCC where appropriate.
4. That resulting disputes be referred to the Environment Committee where appropriate.

The Chairman brought forward item 12 on the agenda.

Cllr Dan Sames left the meeting at 20:01.

12. 047/2021 CDC Environmental Planting Scheme

RESOLVED that the Committee **AGREED** to:

1. **SUPPORT** the planting scheme as a great initiative which will both brighten up the area and fit the policy to deal with air pollution issues in the area;
2. Request that Officers, **REVIEW** any costs to be contributed towards the scheme and forward maintenance and include in future budgets;
3. Request CDC to consider alternative hard materials other than flagstones for landscaping.

7. 048/2021 Tree Planting Requests

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. **APPROVE** the planting of trees at Shelley Close subject to local consultation;
2. **DECLINE** the request to plant an oak tree in play area 27 Trefoil Drive;
3. **APPROVE** the planting of an appropriate species "street tree" in play area 27 Trefoil Drive, leaving the choice of tree to officers;
4. **REQUEST** that Officers bring a report on planned replacement of trees on town council land with an appropriate forward plan for such.

Cllr Dan Sames returned to the meeting at 20:31.

8. 049/2021 Play Areas Review Update

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. **REQUEST** that Officers arrange a date for a visit to the play areas under review and those recommended for closure;
2. **REQUEST** Councillors consider alternative suggestions for play areas proposed for closure to be discussed on the tour;
3. **REQUIRE** Officers to report to the next meeting on progress.

Cllr Alex Thrupp and Cllr Lynn Pratt had connection problems and came in and out of the meeting, with timings as follows: Cllr Alex Thrupp 20:47 – 20:54, Cllr Lynn Pratt 20:56 – 21:20. Cllr Lynn Pratt lost her connection at 21:21.

9. 050/2021 Play Areas Reopening Plan

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. **NOTE** the detail and financial update on the re-opening of play areas & outdoor gyms;
2. **REQUEST** that Officers review the remaining closed play areas within a month or so to take stock of how play areas are being used.

10. 051/2021 Bowls Club Advertising

RESOLVED that the Committee **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the request of Bicester Bowls and Tennis Clubs for advertising banners subject to any required planning consent and the signing of a legal agreement setting out the specific terms of the agreement.

11. 052/2021 Bandstand Ornamental Garden Balls Games Signage

RESOLVED that the Committee **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the request of Bicester Bowls and Tennis Clubs for advertising banners subject to any required planning consent and the signing of a legal agreement setting out the specific terms of the agreement.

13. 053/2021 Sports Pavilions

RESOLVED that the Committee **AGREED** that officers make arrangements to make the pavilions clean and safe then bring a report on costs for upgrading to be considered with budgets.

14. 054/2021 Forward Plan

RESOLVED to:

1. **REMOVE** the Tree Policy and summer bedding;
2. **ADD** Garth Park Bylaws to be reviewed in Sept/Oct;
3. **ADD** refurbishment program for pavilions in Sept/Oct;
4. **AMEND** wheelchair swing responsibility to Cllr Jason Slaymaker.

15. 055/2021 Date of Next Meeting: 28th September 2020

Close of Meeting: 21:42hrs