

Minutes of the Bicester Town Council Policy Committee Meeting

A meeting of the **Bicester Town Council Policy Committee** was held Monday 20th December 2021 19.00 hrs at the Council Chambers, Garth House, Launton Rd, Oxon, OX26 6PS.

Present:

Cllr Richard Mould – Chairman
Cllr Lynn Pratt – Vice-Chairman
Cllr Dan Hallett
Cllr Nicholas Mawer
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Jason Slaymaker
Cllr Alex Thrupp
Cllr Freaser Webster

In Attendance:

Phil Evans – Service Manager
Julie Trinder – Administration Officer
Cllr Calum Miller – Oxfordshire County Council
Daza Usher – Bicester Boxing Club
Wayne Michael – Bicester Boxing Club

1. 409/2122 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED apologies were received from Cllr Dan Sames and Cllr Zoe McLernon.

2. 410/2122 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that declarations of interest were made by Cllr Lynn Pratt regarding Agenda Item 14 Bicester Town Council Leases under her portfolio for Cherwell District Council.

3. 411/2122 Minutes of Policy Committee

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting **POL03/2122** held on **Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 20.00hrs.**

4. 412/2122 Public Session

RESOLVED that the following representations were received:

4.1 Cllr Calum Miller, had the following questions:

1. Has independent advice given to Bicester Town Council been sorted?
2. What actions have been taken to restore faith in Bicester Town Council?
3. Have references been given for the previous Chief Officer by Bicester Town Council?

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Signed

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In response to Cllr Calum Miller's questions, The council sought and accepted legal advice that no action should be taken against the Chief Officer in respect of misfeasance in a public office; that no references for the Chief Officer were requested or given; and that Bicester Town Council had changed it's FOI procedure.

- 4.2 A presentation was given by Bicester Boxing Club regarding the growth of their club and the need for larger premises. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, Cllrs thanked Bicester Boxing Club for their time.

5. 413/2122 Major Town Initiatives

RESOLVED that Committee **NOTED** the minutes from:

5.1 Bicester Vision CIC Executive Board Meeting: 4th November 2021

5.2 Bicester Vision CIC Meeting: 2nd December 2021

6. 414/2122 Bicester Boxing Club

Committee listened to a presentation given by the Bicester Boxing Club.

7. 415/2122 Bicester Health and Safety Policy (GP2) Policy Review

RESOLVED that the Committee requested an **AMENDMENT** to the **RECOMMENDATION** to go to tender using the suggested budget of £2500.

8. 416/2122 Freedom of Information Policy (GP12)

RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the Freedom of Information Policy (GP12).

9. 417/2122 Freedom of Information Activity Report

RESOLVED that the Committee **NOTED** the Freedom of Information Activity Report.

10. 418/2122 Mayors Events Policy

RESOLVED that Committee **APPROVED** the adoption of a new policy – Mayor's Events.

11. 419/2122 Draft Budget

RESOLVED that Committee:

- a) **AGREED** the proposed 22/23 draft budget
- b) **RECOMMENDED** the budget be approved at Council 24th January 2022.

The Committee felt the Christmas events had been a great community achievement and thanked Bicester Town Council Staff for working on the Christmas Light Switch on and the Christmas Light Trail. Committee extended their thanks to all Bicester Town Council staff, Volunteers and Councillors, to Tesco for their kind donations and to Anytime Fitness for supporting the Santa Fun Run.

12. 420/2122 Forward Plan

RESOLVED that Committee **NOTED** the forward plan and requested that the Closure Policy for the Cemetery be an agenda item at the next Policy Committee Meeting.

13. 421/2122 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

14. 422/2122 Bicester Town Council Lease

RESOLVED that Committee **AGREED** Cllr Richard Mould and the Acting Chief Officer contact Cherwell District Council and bring this item back to Policy Committee at a later date.

15. 423/2122 Date of Next Meeting: 15th February 2022 at 19.00 hrs

Close of Meeting: 20:12 hrs.

