

Minutes of the Bicester Town Council

A meeting of the **Bicester Town Council** was held on **Monday 14th October 2024** at **19:00 hrs** at **The Chamber Room, Bicester Town Council, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6PS**.

Present:

Cllr Damien Maguire(Chair)
Cllr Paul Wheatley
Cllr Tom Beckett
Cllr Dan Hallett
Cllr Sam Holland
Cllr Rachel Mallows
Cllr Nick Mawer
Cllr Alisa Russell
Cllr Jim Webb
Cllr Nick Cotter
Cllr Donna Ford
Cllr Chris Pruden
Cllr John Willet

In Attendance:

Paul Canning – Deputy Town Clerk

26/ Apologies for Absence

2425 RESOLVED that apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harry Knight.

27/ Declarations of Interest

2425 RESOLVED that no declarations of interest were received.

28/ Public Session

2425 RESOLVED that no members of the public were present.

29/ Minutes of Town Council Meeting

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meetings:

- **BTC06/2324 – Monday 16th January 2024**
- **BTC07/2324 – Monday 11th March 2024**
- **BTC7A/2324 – Tuesday 26th March 2024**
- **BTC02/2425 – Monday 20th March 2024**
- **BTC04/2425 – Monday 20th March 2024**

30/ Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

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Monday 14th October 2024

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Signed

Dated

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meeting:

- **ENV01/2425 Monday 17th June 2024**

31/ Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meeting:

- **FIN01/2425 – Tuesday 4th June 2024**

32/ Minutes of the Planning committee Meeting

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meetings:

- **PL01/2425 -Tuesday 11th June 2024**
- **PL02/2425 -Tuesday 18th June 2024**

33/ Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meetings:

- **POL06/2324- Monday 22nd April 2024**
- **POL01/2425 –Tuesday 18th June 2024**

34/ Minutes of the Working Parties Meeting

2425 RESOLVED that Council **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** contained in the minutes of the following meetings:

- **BE01/2425 – Thursday 23rd May 2024**
- **BTAG01/2425 Thursday 13th June 2024**
- **CSWG01/2425 Thursday 20th June 2024**

35/ Motion – Local Neighbourhood plan

2425 RESOLVED that a presentation was received on the plan

Cllr Beckett presented the need for a local Neighbourhood plan involving residents as part of a larger group to put forward a plan for localism and hoped it would be approved with cross party support.

Councillors ensued a discussion on the motion with speakers, including Cllr Paul Wheatley, who expressed that the Town Clerk is happy to take the lead with the project, though concerns regarding the amount of time it could take.

Cllr Holland commented on the project's potential cost, and Cllr Sibley was concerned

about the duplication of work with the Cherwell Local Plan, which is already taking place along with OCC plans.

Cllr Pruden supported the local neighbourhood plan, though urged costs should be determined first.

Cllr Mawer shared a referendum would need to take place, and there was no guarantee that after the local plan was created, it would not be overturned by the District Council, creating concerns for cost and uncertainty.

Cllr Ford expected a more detailed presentation, including the attendance of a planning officer from Cherwell.

Cllr Webb supported the plan but was concerned about how the neighbourhood plan committee would be formed and who they reported to.

Cllr Maguire shared he was in favour of the local plan.

Cllr Mallows supported the local plan and noted that it might take time and be challenging, but it should not stop us from doing it.

Cllr Beckett then summarised the motion by thanking the councillors for their contributions. Funding can be applied for during the early stages of the project. A well-formed neighbourhood plan using expert support could overcome the uncertainty of the plan failing. Residents and groups would engage the people of Bicester and allow them to have their say. The neighbourhood plan would be a democratic tool enabling the people of Bicester to decide Bicester's future.

RESOLVED the Council voted and **APPROVED** the motion.
In favour - 8, Against – 4 and Abstained – 3

36/ Appointment to Outside Body

2425 RESOLVED the Committee **APPROVED** the appointment of Cllr Wheatley as the Town Council representative for the Bicester Garden Town Strategic Oversight Committee.

37/ Mayors Report

2425 RESOLVED the Committee **NOTED** the Mayors report.

38/ Earmarked Reserves Report

2425 RESOLVED the Committee **APPROVED** the report.

Councillor Pruden thanked all BTC Officers and staff for their hard work over the last few months, Cllr Maguire also thanks those officers that are not here for one reason or another.

39/ Date of the next meeting

2425 Monday 13th January 2025 – 7pm

CLOSE OF MEETING: 19:58 hrs