

Minutes of the Environment Committee

A meeting of the **Environment Committee** was held on **Monday 22nd July 2024** at **19:00hrs** at **The Chamber Room, Bicester Town Council, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester Oxon, OX26 6PS.**

Present:

Cllr Rachel Mallows (Chair)
Cllr Donna Ford
Cllr Harry Knight
Cllr Nick Mawer
Cllr Alisa Russell
Cllr Les Sibley
Cllr Damien Maguire
Cllr John Willett

Public in attendance:

Brian Welters

In Attendance:

Paul Canning, Office Manager
John Burnett, Service Manager
Shannon O'Connor, Events and Marketing Administrator

1/2425 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that apologies were received from Cllr Harry Knight and Cllr Chris Pruden.

2/2425 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that the following Cllr's were also CDC councillors, Cllr Ford, Knight, Mawer, Russell, Willett and Sibley.

3/2425 Minutes of the Environment Committee

RESOLVED that Committee **APPROVED** the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** of the following meeting:

- **ENV01/2425 – 17th June 2024**
- **AWP01/2425 – 16th June 2024**
- **CSWG01/2425 – 20th June 2024**

4/2425 Public Session

- Brian Welters – Forward plan Tiny Forests.
- Mr Welters read out the BTC Emergency Climate resolution 2019 to councillors urging the Council to monitor and report steps taken to improve its environment footprint.
- Mr Welters highlighted Cllr Beckett was going to assist with looking at funding with Mr Welters
- Mr Welters requested a policy to be looked at for Climate emergency and Cllrs agreed to add to this to forward plan

- Cllr Mallows asked Mr Welters to share some images of established tiny forests from his previous commitments at High Wycombe.

5/2425 Motion

RESOLVED that Committee **AGREE** the motion.

- Cllr Mawer provided a verbal update for his reason to bringing this motion forward and urges all Cllrs to do the play area inspections.
- Cllr Mallows highlighted to the committee that this motion was not the original one which was created but a second version presented to the committee.
- Committee and officers openly discussed the play areas across Bicester
- Cllrs requested that officers tell cllrs when updates happen so they can keep residents informed.
- Officers are requested to update the play area spreadsheet and keep this as a working document.
- Cllr Mallows highlighted a compliance point that all play areas must be fenced off
- Committee highlighted the importance that officers understand all current compliance issues and appropriate actions are to be taken.
- Committee highlighted the importance of accessibility across all play area updates

6/2425 Youth Engagement Event

RESOLVED that Committee **APPROVED** BTC to sponsor a Youth Engagement Project

- Committee had an open discussion regarding the potential ideas and the approach – Freshers fair, local community groups, secondary school engagement, gaming café, coffee and music bar
- Bicester Town Council Staff will not manage this but sponsor/support
- Committee agreed on a 3-tier approach to enhance this project in the future
- Councillors have requested the Officer to investigate and provide a draft report for Octobers meeting.

7/2425 Wall and Buildings repair

UN-RESOLVED that Committee **OBJECTED** the report and asked for an amendment of the Recommendation to the following:

Officers are to obtain 3 quotes to ensure the procurement process is correctly followed and met.

- Officers to provide and obtain and trail of compliance for procurement
- Cllr Ford questioned the status of the insurance claim for some proposed work within the report
- Cllr Sibley highlighted the need for traffic management

8/2425 Purchase of new machinery

RESOLVED that committee **APPROVE** the purchase of 10 items of new machinery from Supplier C, with funding to be taken from existing budget purchase of new machinery 110/4100 in line with financial regulations.

- Cllr Maguire suggested electric and battery-operated equipment
- Committee questioned the life span of the suggested equipment, to which officers provided a verbal update on the requirement for re-bust and trusted equipment.
- Officers are to provide details of Supplier C to committee

11/2425 Approved Projects

RESOLVED that Committee **NOTED** the work schedule for approved projects

- Cllr Mawer highlighted a resident complaint he received regarding the Bure Park Knee Rail, committee and officers discussed this and agreed it is safe and to standard.
- Officers to contact CDC regarding the Bicester Litter Pick in Autumn 24

12/2425 Forward Plan

RESOLVED that Committee **REVIEWED** and **COMMENTED** on the Forward Plan:

- Climate control policy – suggestion of a review in Policy Committee

13/2425 Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 23rd September 2024 - 7pm, The Chamber Room, Garth House

CLOSE OF MEETING: 20:34 hrs