

Minutes of the Policy Committee

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

Present:

Cllr Rachel Mallows (Chair)
Cllr Paul Wheatley (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Tom Beckett
Cllr Nick Cotter
Cllr Dan Hallett
Cllr Sam Holland
Cllr Nicholas Mawer

In Attendance:

Jodi Clarke, Finance Assistant
Phil Evans, Town Clerk
Matthew Barber, Police Crim Commissioner
Cllr Calum Miller, Oxfordshire County Councillor

62/2 Apologies for Absence

324 RESOLVED that apologies were received from:

- Cllr Harry Knight
- Cllr Alisa Russell
- Cllr Les Sibley

63/2 Declarations of Interest

324 RESOLVED that no declarations were received.

64/2 Matthew Barber - Police & Crime Commissioner

324 19:04 Cllr Calum Miller arrived.

Police Commissioner Matthew Barber attended the meeting to allow councillors the chance to ask questions and talk about issues they may have within Bicester.

Matthew Barber informed the councillors that they are working on an app called Disc App that can be used by retail shops to make reporting crimes easier. This app is capable of holding CCTV footage that can be shared with other retail shops.

The Police Commissioner touched base on having a control room for the county rather than having several different networks, TVP can then link all cameras to the one hub, they are working on transparency for everyone. Currently this isn't live but may be later in the calendar year.

Cllr Cotter raised that normally people are doing these types of crimes due to underlying issues, what are TVP doing to assist with this?

The Police Commissioner explained that there is a big issue with confidence and people reporting crimes, they understand that the public see if TVP can't deal with shoplifting

then how will they deal with bigger crimes. TVP are working on prevention, they recognise what treatments can be ordered by the courts, they want to work with CPS to make drug treatment apart of sentencing.

Cllr Cotter then raised that the biggest crime seen is economic crime, what can you do about the economic crime?

The Police Commissioner explained that there needs to be a wider education on preventing Cyber Crime & Fraud.

Cllr Holland asked the Police Commissioner how are TVP bringing technology forward?

The Police Commissioner explained that currently I can take a lengthy amount of time to download the footage from body cams, meaning that officers are having to spend time in the station waiting for this to be completed before they can continue with the work. The body cams are going through an upgrade to make this time shorter.

He then explained that when it comes to presenting footage some organisations have to go to the station to collect the footage whereas Cherwell District Council are sent a link that they can access from the offices, having the central hub would make this easier for all parties involved.

Cllr Mallows asked The Police Commissioner, what can we do to help?

The Police Commissioner explained that the following:

- The Council & Organisations to become the eyes and feed back to TVP.
- Report the issues raised by residents to PC in our local area.
- TVP want to bridge the gap between the police & the public.

Cllr Mallows also raised a concern a resident had that has been reporting a drug dealer dealing for over 4 years and still nothing had been done, can this be looked into?

The Police Commissioner explained that if they cannot deal with it but if the detail were emailed over then they would look into who the case is sat with. They also explained that no action may be due to lack of evidence, they could be watching waiting to get some evidence before approaching.

Recruitment for TVP was raised, The Police Commissioner explained that the last big recruitment period was 30 years ago. TVP have a small gain on retention of officers, they are doing all they can to keep officers happy, Officers that were due to retire during Covid stayed on longer then expected, those officer may now be retiring which makes the numbers look bigger.

The Town Clerk asked the Police Commissioner asked what spec/ model camera Bicester Town Council would need to be able to use the central hub at a later date. The Police Commissioner asked the Town Clerk to forward them the details so they can put the Town Clerk in touch with who they use.

Cllr Hallett asked about Drug & Alcohol testing, how can you shorten the testing time?

The Police Commissioner explained that these are time limited offences, they have a new system on mobile phones that mean less paperwork. In house drug testing meaning shortening the time for front line policing.

Cllr Hallett also asked about the following topics:

1. Cycle theft in Town
2. Electric Scooters

The Police Commissioner informed the councillors that bike theft in Cherwell was coming down. CCTV & lighting will help to prevent these types of crimes, increase the visibility.

The Police Commissioner explained that for an officer to seize a E-scooter they must be performing a crime before they can intervene. Normally a warning is given and if another officer then sees the person in question the E-scooter can then be seized as a warning has already been issued. The Police Commissioner also touched base on the fact that E-scooter may become legal in the future but bikes are equally as dangerous as scooters, E-Scooters are not a problem it is the behaviour of the rider.

Cllr Beckett raised that we need community engagement.

The Police Commissioner explained that they are looking into ways engage with the community the same way they try to engage with the police i.e. Facebook, WhatsApp instead of calling for non-blue light emergency's.

Cllr Miller asked about the wages and the impacts. The Police Commissioner explained that PCSO & PC are paid the same but the PCSO wages can change whereas the PC do not. They explained that this is the same struggle most public sectors come across.

The Councillors thanked The Police Commissioner for their time.

19:59 – Matthew Barber left the meeting.

20:00 – Cllr Miller left the meeting.

65/2 Public Session

324 RESOLVED that there was Representation offered.

66/2 Minutes of Policy Committee

324 RESOLVE that the Committee **APPROVED** the following minutes with a few amendments:

- **POL05/2324** – 19th February 2024 at 19:00hrs

To add “Bicester Garrison HQ will be in situ for at least the next 10 years.” To section **56/2324** of the above minutes.

67/2 Policy Review

324 RESOLVED that the following policies were **APPROVED** with the following amendments:

- GP3 – Fraud & Corruption Policy:

Section 5 – Replace “HM Customs and Excise Inland Revenue” to “HMRC”

Section 9 – Change Chairman to Chair.

Section 11 – PCAW has become Protect Advice with a new website:
<https://protect-advice.org.uk>, Phone number also needs updating.

Section 13 – Typo on the last line, (extra line return after “The”)

- GP22 – Flag Flying Policy

Section 3 – Should read, 'They are numbered one to four, the first being the pole nearest the bandstand.'

Section 7 – Expansion of detail: 'The flags of Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland shall be flown on their respective Saint's days from flagpole 4. Those dates are;

- 1st March - Wales, Saint David's Day
- 17th March - Northern Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day
- 30th November - Scotland, Saint Andrew's Day

Section 15 – Change Chairman to Chair.

68/2 Exclusion of Press and Public

324 RESOLVED that the Exclusion of Press & public was adhered to.

69/2 Standing Report - Lease's

324 Cllr Mawer proposed the rent be decreased from £7,800 to £5,800 and the Grant Aid be deducted to £1,000 as per the Grant Aid Policy. Seconded by Cllr Cotter and the Committee **AGREED**.

Cllr Mawer asked about the lease for Whitelands, the Town Clerk informed them that the lease is still with CDC but has a meeting with them next week.

70/2 Forward Plan

324 Cllr Beckett requested that the cemetery be placed onto the forward plan.

Date of next Meeting: Date Not Specified at Time Not Specified.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 21:07 hrs