

## Minutes of the Environment Committee

A meeting of the **Environment Committee** was held on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025** 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 Damien Maguire  
Cllr Nick Mawer  
Cllr Chris Pruden  
Cllr Alisa Russell  
Cllr John Willett  
Cllr Les Sibley

### In Attendance:

Michael Lee (Officer)  
Tanya Govorusa

### Representatives:

Rugby Club rep

#### 1/ **Apologies for Absence**

**2526 RESOLVED** that apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harry Knight.

#### 2/ **Declarations of Interest**

**2526 RESOLVED** that no declarations of interests were received.

**Resolved** that the Vice chair was elected Cllr Russell.

#### 3/ **Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting**

**2526 RESOLVED** that the **MINUTES** and **RESOLUTIONS** of the **Environment Committee Meeting** were **APPROVED**:

- **ENV05/2425 – March 17th, 2025, at 19:00hrs.**

#### 4/ **Public Session**

**2526 RESOLVED** that members of the public were present.

- **Rugby Club Representative:**

- The elected chair of the rugby club spoke about the rugby club wanting to put fences around their pitches to help with their advertising for local businesses, so the club can be self-funding and give local businesses the opportunity to grow.
- The fence would also help with Health & safety issues, keeping the players away from spectators.
- The installation would be funded by grants, so no cost to council.
- He also thanked the Whitelands staff for all the support given to the team with what transpired at the Bicester Motion.

**5/ Garth Park Play Area Refurbishment**

**2526 RESOLVED** that committee **APPROVED** the retrospective works on the grounds of health and safety.

The council asked for improvements in the procurement process and a checklist is required due to miscommunication.

**6/ Traveller Incursion Defences**

**2526 RESOLVED** that committee **APPROVED** the proposal to the above costs.

- Councillors highlighted the following:
  - **APPROVED** with provision.
  - Officer investigates whether we own all these areas and if not get permissions off those that do.
  - Contact traveller office for help and advice.
  - Contact CDC - re their areas.

**7/ Memorial Wall Proposal**

**2526 RESOLVED** that Committee **APPROVED** in principle.

**8/****2526 Fence at Whitelands Rugby Pitches**

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to **APPROVE** the proposal.

- The Town Council agrees in principle that Bicester Rugby Club may erect fences round their pitches on Whitelands Sports ground.

**Subject to** 1) Planning Consent being granted for the advertising.

**Or** 2) A letter being received from Cherwell District Council confirming that planning permission is not required.

Further this agreement is conditional on a discussion with other Sports users at the next Sports Working Group and there being no objection from Cherwell District Council.

- **APPROVED** with provision that officer investigates.
- Rules re advertising at Whitelands.
- Find out why it was not passed previously.
- Planning conditions at Whitelands.
- To add as an agenda item at next sports meeting.

**9/****2526 Requests for Memorials in Various Locations**

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to **RESOLVE** the decision.

**RESOLVED** with provisos below:

**APPROVED** with provision that Officer investigates costs of new benches.

- Investigates other areas around town that could be used for these memorials (open spaces etc.)
- Use Whitelands and limited number in cemetery as Garth Park is fully utilised.
- Put map together of areas of interest that could be used.
- Councillor suggested two plaques on each bench.
- Councillor suggested for plaques to go on non-plaque benches.
- Memorial trees should go to Policy committee.
- Council thanked for all the work done prior to the funeral for one of the victims of the fire at Bicester motion.

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## **2526 Forward Plan**

**RESOLVED** that Committee **NOTED** the forward plan.

- Tiny forest, any progress being made, funding has been applied for to Earth watch
- Splash Park to investigate where we are at.
- Organise walk around play areas not done last time.
- Officer to start looking for play areas that need prioritising.
- Officer to create a poll for dates to do walk round.
- Officer to check who installed zip wires and what warranty periods they have.

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**2526 Date of next Meeting: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**CLOSE OF MEETING: 20:50 hrs**