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Bicester Town Council



Annual Town Meeting

Ref: BTC02/2627

Monday 18th May 2026 at 19:00hrs

**Council Chamber, The Garth House, Launton Road,
OX26 6PS**

Members:

Cllr Paul Wheatley – **Chair**, – Cllr Dan Hallett – **Vice-Chair**
Cllr Tom Beckett, Cllr Nick Cotter, Cllr Donna Ford,
Cllr Dan Hallett, Cllr Sam Holland, Cllr Harry Knight, Cllr Damien Maguire,
Cllr Rachel Mallows, Cllr Nicholas Mawer, Cllr Christopher Pruden, Cllr Alisa Russell,
Cllr Les Sibley, Cllr Jim Webb and Cllr John Willett

Other Circulation:

CDC

Cllr John Broad, Cllr Frank Ideh, Cllr Simon Lytton and Cllr Rob Parkinson

OCC

Cllr Sean Gaul, Cllr John Shiri and Cllr Matt Webb



Council Offices, The Garth,
Launton Road,
Bicester,
Oxon. OX2 6PS
Telephone: 01869 252915
Email: enquiries@bicester.gov.uk
www.bicester.gov.uk

Tuesday 12th May 2026,

To all Electors of Bicester,

The Annual Town Meeting which will be held on **Monday 18th May 2026 at 19:00hrs** in **The Chamber Room, Bicester Town Council, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6PS** by the Chair of the Council, **Councillor Paul Wheatley.**

Paul Canning
Deputy Town Clerk

Agenda

All Council Meetings are open to the public and press, unless otherwise stated.

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence. Committee members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify Bicester Town Council (enquiries@bicester.gov.uk) prior to the meeting, stating the reason for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 4-6)

To **CONFIRM** the **Minutes** of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on **Tuesday 27th May 2025.**

3. Mayor's Report

(Pages 7 – 9)

To **NOTE** the Town Mayor's Report for 2025/2026

4. Reports from the Town Council 2025/2026

To **NOTE** report from the Town Council for 2025/2026

5. Reports from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Councillors Serving Bicester Wards

To **NOTE** reports from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Councillors serving Bicester Wards.

6. Consideration of any written resolutions of which the Town Clerk has been given three days' notice

7. Public Questions and Comments

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 22nd June 2026 – The Garth House, Launton Road, OX26 6PS

Minutes of the Bicester Town Council

A meeting of the Bicester Town Council was held on Monday 27th May 2025 at 19:00 hrs at the Chamber Room, Bicester Town Council, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6PS.

Present:

Cllr Alisa Russell (Chair)
Cllr Paul Wheatley (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Damien Maguire
Cllr Rachel Mallows
Cllr Nick Cotter
Cllr Chris Pruden
Cllr Les Sibley

In Attendance:

Phil Evans, Town Clerk
Maria Galic, Civic and Democratic Administrator
Cllr John Broad (CDC)
Cllr Sean Gaul (OCC)
Cllr John Shiri (OCC)
Cllr Matt Webb (OCC)

11/ Apologies for Absence

2526 RESOLVED that Apologies were received from Cllr Tom Beckett, Cllr Donna Ford, Cllr Dan Hallett, Cllr Sam Holland, Cllr Harry Knight, Cllr Jim Webb and Cllr John Willett.

12/ Minutes

2526 RESOLVED that the MINUTES and RESOLUTIONS contained in the following Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting were APPROVED being Proposed by Cllr Wheatley and Seconded by Cllr Pruden:

- BTC03/2425 - Monday 20th May 2024

13/ Mayor's Report

2526 RESOLVED that Committee NOTED the Mayor's Report.

14/ Reports from the Town Council 2024/2025

2526 RESOLVED that Reports were received from the Town Council Councillors on behalf of Policy, Environment, Planning and Finance Committee and additionally Cllr Ford on behalf of OCC:

Policy Committee

Environment Committee

The following achievements were highlighted for the year 2024/2025:

Whitelands:

- Room divider installation in the Function Room (The Loft), providing flexible room booking space
- Defibrillator installation

Play Areas:

- Inspections have led to 'spot renovations'
- Garth Park £400k spending approved
- Langford Outdoor Gym
- Langford 3 in 1 park, a possible new super park

General & Council Assets

- Repairing the Garth Park Wall along Launton Road
- Christmas tree improvement in 2024
- New vehicles for the Outdoor Team and Cabin
- Lucerne Avenue play equipment new climbing frame

Outstanding / Ongoing Plans

- Renovation of bandstand
- Security CCTV at Southwold play park

Planning Committee

- The planning Committee has continued to receive hundreds of applications for the year 2024/25
- The Committee did receive presentations from developers like Puy du Fou – no planning application has yet been submitted
- Bicester Village also presented on their plans for Oxford Road pitches and car park which has already received permission

Finance Committee

The Council has continued to provide:

- Regular, transparent updates and reports on the Council's revenue and expenditures
- Investments and operational balances were actively monitored
- Reserves have been reviewed in alignment with long term strategy
- Financial Regulations were reviewed and updated in line with current legislation
- Clear and balanced budget set for 2025-2026 and this has been based upon community transparency

15/ 2526 Reports from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Councillors Serving Bicester Wards

RESOLVED that reports were received from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council Representatives:

OCC Cllr Ford

The following points were highlighted:

- Works on Banbury Road junction have completed
- Some areas such as Southwold Lane were not fully resurfaced
- Cycling in Sheep Street commenced in March 2025 with some concerns on its safety
- Cabinet member for environment suggested switching off streetlighting which raised local concerns
- A proposal was received for 20 mph speed limits
- In February 2025 a decision for ANPR cameras on Sheep Street was approved, and there have been concerns with how stakeholders are consulted with the implementation of this

A request has been put forward to OCC to look into the possibility of banking hubs in Bicester in buildings such as libraries

OCC Cllr Gaul

The following points were highlighted:

- Bicester has currently gone through a tragic time in respect of Bicester Motion, but the community has pulled together in support
- Lib Dems have formed an overall majority administration on OCC
- The newly elected councillors are in agreement, to explore ways of restoring some of the lost youth services in Bicester
- The OCC Councillors ask Bicester Town Council to consider where it stands on local government reorganisation and also question if Bicester's voice will be strong in the proposed models, as well as considering the possible costs of reorganisation

CDC Cllr Sibley

The following points were highlighted:

- Cllr Waine has received this year the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his 20 years' service as a member of OCC
- Request to reinstate the Annual Town Meeting to take place in March and not May
- A4095 realignment - councillors need to continue pushing forward these projects
- Middleton Stoney Road – the widening of existing footpath and additional traffic lights, signalised pedestrian crossing needs to continue with this project
- Oxford Road footpath – progress has been made regarding land issues, and cycleway by Esso garage and it will come shortly
- EWR Level Crossing – councillors and MP are trying to ensure that EWR keep this road open and consider possible crossing solutions for traffic and pedestrian crossings

Motion of Thanks

A Motion of Thanks was proposed by Cllr Mallows and Seconded by Cllr Pruden in respect of Cllr Sibley's longstanding membership of OCC.

CDC Cllr Pruden

- Market Square – progress been made and Cllr Pruden has requested a briefing on this at Town Council Level

CDC Cllr Mawer

- Local Plan – includes Caversfield in its North Ward. Caversfield Parish Council has concerns due it to being a category c village with little to no development other than infill and are concerned about significant changes to this.

16/ 2526 Consideration of any written resolutions of which the Town Clerk has been given three days' notice

RESOLVED that no resolutions were received.

17/ 2526 Public Questions and Comments

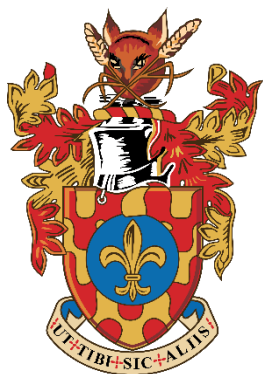
RESOLVED that no questions were received.

18/ 2526 Date of Next Meeting

Annual Town 2026 is to be confirmed

CLOSE OF MEETING:

19:45hrs



BICESTER
TOWN COUNCIL

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Town Meeting 18th May 2026 Mayor's Report

Chair: Councillor Paul Wheatley
Contact: paul.wheatley@bicester.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerk: Paul Canning
Contact: 01869 252915 paul.canning@bicester.gov.uk

Ward Affected: All Wards

1. Overview

During the period of **12th May 2025 to 11th May 2026** - the following visits were made:

The Mayor, Cllr Alisa Russell, attended the following functions:

May

- 13th** – Bicester Village 30th Anniversary, Blenheim Palace, Woodstock
- 16th** – Chair of West Oxfordshire District Council, Charity Garden Party, Oxfordshire's Museum
- 20th** – An Evening at Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames
- 30th** – Sweeny Todd, Bicester Choral and Operatic Society, The Cooper School

June

- 2nd** – Bicester pride, Flag Raising, Garth Park
- 3rd** – Hays Travel Store Reopening, Crown Walk
- 12th** – SERFCA, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Briefing, RAF Benson
- 17th** – 40th Festival of Voices, Dorchester Abbey

September

- 6th** – Bicester Pride, Opening, Garth Park
- 18th** – Baton, The Heyford, Upper Heyford, Meeting
- 25th** – Lord Lieutenant Awards, Abingdon School, Abingdon
- 27th** – Dandiya Night, Bicester Hindu Society, Kingsmere Community Centre

October

- 7th October** – Unlock Futures Fund, The Apartment, Bicester Village

14th - Court Sermon and High Sheriff's Law Lecture, Oxford
18th - USR UK Conference, Milton Keynes
24th - Chair of Vale of the White Horse District Council, Fundraising Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Abingdon

November

6th - Aylesbury Town Council Remembrance Service, St Mary's Church
9th - Bicester Town Council's Remembrance Sunday Service, Parade and Lunch
15th - Ribbon-cutting North Aston Farm Shop & Community Hub
16th - Mayor to Trinity Camerata's Concert, St Edburg's Church
29th - BTC Christmas Light Switch on

December

2nd - Pantomime, Oxfordshire Freemasons, Oxford Playhouse Theatre
4th - Bicester Town Council Christmas Light Trail
5th - Mayor of Witney Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Witney
6th - 2025 U.S. Embassy London Annex Holiday Gala, Chesterton Hotel Bicester
12th - St Edburg's Christmas Tree Festival 2025
12th – 15th - Twinning Visit to Neunkirchen-Seelscheid
18th - Chair West Oxfordshire District Council Civic Carol Service, St Bartholomew Church, Ducklington
20th - Ukrainian Christmas 2025
21st - Bicester Town Council Annual Mayoral Santa Fun Run

January

23rd – Bicester Town Council Quiz at the Nightingale, Bicester
30th – Oxford County Council Chair's Charity Gala Dinner

February

5th – The High Sheriff's Law Lecture 2026
6th - Chinese New Year VIP Breakfast event
10th – Bicester Faith and Civic Forum
20th – Bicester Mayor's Charity Gala

March

7th - Balul Martisorului – Spring Ball
22nd – Reading Business Club

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Wheatley attended the following functions:

July

12th – 15th – Twinning Visit, Essarts En Bocage, France
17th – Bicester Garrison, Charity Bike Race, Ambrosden
18th – Community Engagement, Bicester garrison, Officers' Mess

August

17th – VJ Day, Liberty and Lyrics, Garth Park

September

6th – New Yam Festival, Oxford Igbo Union, Cheney School
13th – Battle of Britain, Afternoon Tea, Carterton

18th – Cinnamon Tree, Grand Opening, Market Square

19th – Bicester Volunteer Fair, Opening, Methodist Church, Sheep Street

October

5th – Langford Community Orchard, Apple Day

14th - Court Sermon and High Sheriff's Law Lecture, Oxford

18th - USR UK Conference, Milton Keynes

18th - Diwali Annakut Darshan, Kingsmere Community Centre

November

4th - Memorial Plaque Unveiling, Oxford Town Hall

29th - The Bicester Concert Band, together with Five Acres School Choir Christmas Concert

29th - BTC Christmas Light Switch on

30th - Burford Town Council - Civic Service Invitation 2025

December

7th - Aylesbury Town Mayor's Carol Service 2025

January

27th – Holocaust Memorial Day Service

February

20th – Bicester Mayor's Charity Gala

April

3rd – Bicester Town Council Easter Fun Day

26th – Lord Mayor Oxford St George's Day Civic Service