

Minutes of the Bicester Town Council

A meeting of the **Bicester Town Council** was held on **Monday 1st June 2026** at **19:00 hrs** at **The Chamber Room, The Garth, Launton Road, OX26 2PS.**

Present:

Cllr Dr Paul Wheatley – **(Chair)**
Cllr Dan Hallett – **(Vice Chair)**
Cllr Donna Ford
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
Cllr John Willett

In Attendance:

Paul Canning, Officer
Isobel May, Events and Marketing Administrator
Cllr George Popescu (CDC)
Cllr Michael Wilson (CDC)
Cllr Sean Gaul (OCC)

29/ **Apologies for Absence**
2627 **RESOLVED** that apologies were received from Cllr Tom Beckett and Cllr Nick Cotter.

30/ **Declarations of Interest**
2627 **RESOLVED** that no declarations of interests were received.

31/ **Public Session**
2627 **RESOLVED** that no members of the public were present.

32/ **Update from Oxfordshire County Council**
2627 **RESOLVED** that an update was provided.
OCC Cllr provided an update on the following:

- **Leadership & Cabinet:** New County leader and cabinet appointed. Transport responsibilities split between policy/implementation and highways repair. Former leader Liz Leffman now oversees highways construction and repair.
- **Budget:** Council tax increased by 4.99%. Oxfordshire faces a £24m government funding shortfall, requiring savings across services.
- **Parking & Enforcement:** Ongoing parking issues in Bicester East. Resident permit schemes remain the most effective enforcement

option but may lack local support. Interim measures and further discussions are being explored for affected areas.

- **Quiet Ways Pilot:** Limited rural traffic-reduction pilot scheme planned, requiring strong local backing. Demand is expected to exceed available pilot places.
- **Roads & Highways:** Concerns raised about resurfacing quality, roadworks coordination, and incomplete works. Residents were asked to report specific issues for investigation. Funding design work for a Launton Road pedestrian crossing was suggested as a potential next step.

Cllrs raised the following:

- Parking enforcement is often not present during restrictions.
- Concerns that motorists may not be properly consulted on Quietway proposals.
- Increased traffic congestion in Bicester due to Oxford Road roundabout works and single-lane operation on Vendee Drive; request to review roadworks scheduling.
- Middleton Stoney Road resurfaced but lacks lane markings, making speed humps hard to see.

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Update from Cherwell District Council

RESOLVED that no update was provided due to CDC Cllrs waiting for their handovers.

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Minutes of the Bicester Town Council

RESOLVED that incorrect minutes were included in the agenda; officers apologised for the error and any inconvenience caused.

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Appointment of Committees

RESOLVED that Committee **AGREED** and **APPROVED** the Appointment of Committees and Working Parties.

Cllrs requested that the Officer review when the Committee Structure meeting occurs, suggested that should happen before Mayor Making.

RESOLVED that the following chairs of committee meetings were **APPOINTED** and committee membership confirmed:

Finance Committee

Cllr Russell was appointed as Chair of the Finance Committee.

This was Proposed by Cllr Russell and Seconded by Cllr Wheatley.

Members of this committee are Cllr Beckett, Cllr Cotter, Cllr Ford, Cllr Holland, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Webb and Cllr Wheatley.

Environment Committee

Cllr Sibley was appointed as Chair of the Environment Committee.

This was Proposed by Cllr Ford and Seconded by Cllr Knight.

Members of this committee are Cllr Ford, Cllr Hallett, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Pruden, Cllr Russell and Cllr Willett.

Policy Committee

Cllr Hallett was appointed as Chair of the Policy Committee.
This was Proposed by Cllr Sibley and Seconded by Cllr Ford.
Members of this committee are Cllr Beckett, Cllr Cotter, Cllr Ford, Cllr Knight, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Pruden and Cllr Wheatley.

Planning Committee

Cllr Mawer was appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee.
This was Proposed by Cllr Willett and Seconded by Cllr Maguire.
Members of this committee are Cllr Beckett, Cllr Cotter, Cllr Hallett, Cllr Holland, Cllr Knight, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Pruden, Cllr Webb and Cllr Willett.

RESOLVED that the chairs of Working Parties is to be confirmed at their first meeting.

Membership of the Working Parties was confirmed as follows:

Personnel

Cllr Hallett, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Russell and Cllr Wheatley.

Events

Cllr Holland, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Pruden, Cllr Webb and Cllr Wheatley.

Sports

Cllr Cotter, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Pruden and Cllr Webb.

Traffic

Cllrs have requested the Officer contacts OCC to invite them to the next full council meeting for an update of what is happening with the traffic meeting and what is required of BTC. This was a unanimous decision.

Assets

Cllr Ford, Cllr Maguire, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Pruden and Cllr Wheatley.

Standing Orders

Cllr Beckett, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Mawer, Cllr Sibley and Cllr Wheatley.

Representatives to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED that Committee **APPOINTED** the following Councillors to represent at Outside Bodies:

Bicester and District Twinning Association

Cllr Hallett, Cllr Russell and Cllr Wheatley

Bicester Area Oversight Group

Cllr Mallows

Bicester Foodbank

Cllr Wheatley

Bicester Town Centre Task Force

No Cllr appointed as they have requested for Officers to find further information of requirements.

Bicester Vision
Cllr Hallett

Feeoffee
Cllr Wheatley

Lady Jersey Trust
Cllr Mawer

36/ **Meeting Attendance Register**
2627 **RESOLVED** that the Committee **NOTED** the attendance register.

37/ **Date of Next Meeting:**
2627 **Monday 22nd June 2026, at 7pm, The Council Chamber, Garth House**

CLOSE OF MEETING: 20:23