

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 4th January 2016 commencing at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Chair: Cllr R Moss
- Cllrs: A Butcher, D Cooper, K Docherty, G Fuller, R Hopkins,
E Jackson, B Wallbridge. P Wilkinson and P Williams
- Apologies:** Cllr A Seaman-Moss.
- Attending:** Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant

102. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Angie Seaman-Moss who was unwell

103. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs Moss and Hopkins declared a non pecuniary interest in item 9, Big Local, as members of this group

104. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7th December 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

105. Committee Reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 14th December 2015

Cllrs reported that they are still getting positive comments from Westfield residents regarding the Christmas lights.
Cllr Wilkinson reported that the Craft Fayre was very successful and gave thanks to all for their support.

Resolved: (1) That the Minutes and recommendations therein of the Environment and Development meeting held on 14th December 2015, be noted.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 16th December 2015

Resolved: To add the Pension deficit item to the next Finance and Personnel meeting agenda for further discussion

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 16th December 2015, be noted.

106. Approval of items over £5,000 and consideration of any virement

There were no items over £5,000 for approval.

107. Feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

It was noted that the grant application from the Community Rights Programme was successful. £7850 has been awarded. Cllr Wallbridge proposed the commission of the Housing Needs Survey and the public consultation should go ahead, Cllr Wilkinson seconded. The vote in favour was unanimous.

Resolved: That the WNPWG go ahead with commissioning the Housing Needs Survey and the public consultation.

The Council noted that the next meeting was 12th January 2016.

108. Gateway Sign to Westfield

It was felt that the increase in price from the previous quotation was substantial.

Resolved: To ask for clarification of the increase in cost, to find the cost for purchase of one sign and to distribute explanation to councillors by email. To purchase one sign once the above has been undertaken and approved by the Chair and Chair of each committee.

It was proposed that the word 'Parish' be removed from the sign, leaving just Westfield and Welcomes Careful Drivers. Cllr Jackson proposed, Cllr Wallbridge seconded. Vote was carried - 8 in favour, 2 against.

Resolved: To remove the word 'Parish' from the sign.

109. Churches in Westfield

(a) St Nicholas Churchyard

No update was available from St Nicholas.

(b) St Hugh's

A valuation of the site had been received. No formal approach has been made to Downside to ascertain if they are prepared to sell the site. No answer had been received with regard to the running costs of the building.

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It was reported that the Big Local may be interested in creating a community hub at the building.

110. **Big Local for Radstock and Westfield**

Resolved That the proposed agreement between the Big Local for Radstock and Westfield Steering Group and the Parish Council as the Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) be agreed.

111. **Outside Bodies Reports**

Radstock Museum Society - Cllr Jackson reported that there are vacancies for Trustees. Cllr Seaman-Moss is the Council's representative at the Society but has had no communication from them. Cllr Jackson will investigate. There is a new edition of 'Five Arches' available for purchase.

Mardon's Social Club – Cllr Cooper reported that there is concern that Linden Homes have put an application for change of use of the offices above the club to residential. Cllr Moss reported that he had been contacted in his capacity as a BaNES councillor by a PR company with regard to this change of use. Cllr Moss invited the company to come along to a meeting and explain the reasons for change of use to the Council. There is to be a meeting at Mardon's of a group that call themselves 'Residents of the Nightingales' next week. Cllrs Cooper and Moss to attend.

112. **Chairman's Report**

Cllr Moss echoed previous comments about the success of the lights and the lights switch on event in November. He thanked all those involved in the organisation.

113. **Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report**

Cllr Moss reported an unexpected shortfall of Local Government settlement of £3.5 million. This will have an effect on services and he will report more information when it is known.

Cllr Jackson reported an expectation that there will be a proposal to increase Council Tax, 2% of which should be to cover adult social care. There will be a report on Mental Health provision at the end of January.

A press release will be circulated on people's responsibility for their trees.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

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Signed Dated