

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 7th September 2015 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Chair: Cllr R Moss

Cllrs: A Butcher, D Cooper, K Docherty, G Fuller, R Hopkins,
A Seaman-Moss, E Jackson, P Williams, B Wallbridge and
P Wilkinson.

Attending: Lesley Welch, Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant

54. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

55. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

56. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6th July 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Item 50 Mardons Community Interest Group– Cllr Cooper advised that one of the promised access routes was complete, but queried if there was another one. There is a white line across the footpath and it is not clear what that is there for.

Resolved: Cllr Moss to investigate.

57. Youth and Community Centre

Charmaine Rogers was unable to attend. Cllr Wallbridge advised that she and other residents are prepared to run a youth group if a premises can be found. They need guidance on how to access funding and how to prepare themselves to run such a group. Councillors said they understood the need for a group like this in the area and would be happy to help with guidance.

58. Committee Reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 13th July and 10th August 2015

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

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Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meetings held on 13th July and 10th August 2015, be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 22nd July 2015

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 22nd July 2015, including the confidential minutes, be noted.

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

There were no items over £5000 for approval.

60. Feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2015 were noted. Cllr Moss thanked those involved for their work to date. The next meeting, on 24th September, would include project planning and appointment to the offices of Chair, etc.

61. Chairman's Badge of Office

The Council discussed whether to support in principle the purchase of a Chairman's Badge of Office.

Resolved: To support the principle. Cllrs voted 10 in favour and 1 against.

62. Appeal ref 15/00054/RF Erection of 1 no four bed dwelling, Hazeldene, Hazel Terrace

This item was brought to full Council due to the tight deadline for comments of 14th September 2015.

The Parish Council reiterated their original objections on the same grounds as previously (outlined below) and asked that they are taken into account at appeal.

The Council objected to both applications (14/02702/FUL and 14/04120/FUL) on the grounds that neighbouring properties were already four foot below the level of the proposed development and either planning application would be completely overbearing.

In addition the Parish Council pointed out that the planning timescales generally over the summer has been very tight.

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63. Annual Review of the Health and Safety Policy

Resolved: That the Health and Safety Policy be agreed.

64. Carnival Royalty

The Council received and discussed information about a joint venture to promote Carnival Royalty in this area.

Resolved: That the Parish Council does not support a Carnival Royalty competition in Westfield. This was carried by 5 votes to 4 with 2 abstentions.

65. Outside Bodies Reports

Community Carol Service – The Council agreed that Cllr Jackson and Cllr Fuller be its representatives at the meeting on 18th September.

Connecting Communities - The Council received information relating to the Somer Valley Forum.

Chamber of Commerce - Cllr Cooper reported that the name change is now complete to Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce. Its offices will be at Bath College, Somer Valley Campus. There will be a launch on Tuesday September 29th at 6pm at the college and all councillors are invited to attend.

Big Local - Cllr Moss reported that there will be a Dragon's Den 3 event at the end of November.

Mardons Social Club – Cllr Jackson reported that meetings were ongoing.

66. Chairman's Report

Cllr Moss reported that he had had complaints about the traffic in Radstock backing up into Westfield. He has made enquiries about whether work can take place over longer hours.

He has met with Matt Atkinson of Bath College about the level of students this year. We should be aware that quite a few students are likely to stop attending, which would leave the area with a higher level of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

67. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

Cllr Jackson also met with Matt Atkinson of Bath College. They talked about the need for practical courses and the college is looking to extend its horticulture and veterinary courses.

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She reported Curo's concern about the government's policy to allow housing association tenants to purchase their property, leading to financial problems for the company.

She is still chasing Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust for a report on improving mental health services in this area, after a critical CQC report.

Cllr Moss advised that there is a need to be conscious of the immigration of Syrian refugees into BaNES.

Resolved: Cllr Moss to make BaNES aware of Council's concern for the mental health of the refugees and the importance of ensuring that the mental health service can cope with the added pressure.

He reported that the petition for a referendum about a directly elected Mayor for BaNES, was successful. The referendum will take place around May next year.

A question was asked to the BaNES Councillors about the CIL money that should be available now that the Cobbler's Way development has been approved.

Resolved: BaNES Councillors to check when the money will be made available.

It was agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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