

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 13th April 2015 commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllrs B Wallbridge (Chair), A Butcher, D Cooper, and G Fuller.

Absent: Cllrs Appleyard, Clarke and Wilkinson.

Attending: Mrs L Welch (Parish Clerk)

176. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Clarke and Wilkinson who were unavailable.

177. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

178. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2015 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

179. Planning Applications for consideration

179.1 There were no objections to the planning application below:

15/01125/TPO	Mr M Hawson	Etavoni Ltd, Wellsway	Fell Larch and Pine and shorten back another Larch covered by Tree Preservation Order
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179.2 There were no comments on the following planning application:

15/01103/TCA	Mrs M Griffiths	Khandalla, Welton Rd	Silver Birch - fell
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179.3 ***14/04003/OUT Outline planning application (all matters reserved aside from access) seeking permission for 81 no. residential dwellings and associated works on land at the former St Peter's factory, Cobblers Way:*** At the Annual Parish Meeting last month the people of Westfield made it clear that they are strongly against large housing developments until facilities, infrastructure and employment support such housing. For this reason the Parish Council supports this mandate from local people and strongly objects to this planning application .

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

180. Planning Decisions

The Planning Decisions were noted.

181. Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee received an update on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, with tenders for the work of Consultant having been received for opening in Part 2.

The Committee discussed the possibility of an e learning course. The Committee also discussed setting up a map of Westfield where local people could record the wildlife they have seen, as a means of building up evidence for both the Neighbourhood Plan and also to lend weight to responses to planning applications.

Resolved: (1) to circulate within the Committee the ALCA resources on a recent seminar on Neighbourhood Plans; and
(2) the Clerk to contact the Clerk of Midsomer Norton Town Council regarding how they have set up their wildlife map and the possibility of the Parish Council undertaking a similar exercise and sharing results.

182. Westfield Publications

The Committee noted a meeting with Ignyte where publications such as the Westfield Guide and the Warbler were discussed and how they might be combined in a single quarterly publication for Westfield. Publications by Ignyte such as Midsomer Norton Life were circulated for information. The following resolution was made with 3 for and 1 against.

Resolved: to recommend to the Finance and Personnel Committee that the quotation from Ignyte to produce a 28 page quarterly magazine on high quality paper with a glossy cover at a cost of £1000 per quarter be agreed.

183. Improvements to Westhill Play Area

The Committee was pleased to receive very full and comprehensive responses to the consultation with local residents on priorities for improvements at the site. A full discussion on the youth shelter took place and the Committee considered the advantages and disadvantages of moving it to Norton Hill Recreation Ground next to the basket swing where it could be seen from the road but was not close to houses. However, there was a suggestion that the Bowling Club would object.

Resolved: (1) given there was a balance of opinion between keeping the youth shelter where it is and moving it, the Committee agreed not to move the youth shelter.

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Signed **Dated**

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(2) given that the consultation showed a balance of opinion between tarmacking the bmx track as a first priority and improving play equipment as a first priority, the Committee agreed to tarmac the bmx track and improve play equipment, seeking grant funding to enhance existing funds to accommodate both priorities. A consultation with children of local schools in the appropriate age range would take place to determine exactly which pieces of play equipment were most popular.

(3) to pick up on another item raised several times in the responses, it was agreed to seek quotes from Greensward for gravel to mitigate the mud at the entrances to the site.

184. Front Garden Competition

The Committee discussed arrangements for the 2015 Front Garden Competition and noted that neighbours could nominate each other this year.

Resolved: to go ahead with the Front Garden Competition this year.

185. Fun Day – 7th June

The Committee discussed arrangements for the Fun Day together with a request to pay for the sound system in the amount of £145.

Resolved: to pay for the sound system in the amount of £145.

186. Norton Hill Recreation Ground – Boules open session on 28th April 6pm

The Committee discussed final arrangements for this open session.

Resolved: that two keys to the Pavilion and the disabled toilet be provided to Cllr Cooper for the purposes of this group.

187. Westhill Recreation Ground – state of the car park surface

The Committee viewed photos of the state of the car park surface which Westhill Sports and Community Centre had raised as having deteriorated since the start of the building works.

Resolved: to contact Halsall and request re-instatement including any damage to the ground where the current portacabins are situated.

188. Fun Fair 11th-17th May

The Committee received a report on a meeting with the Fun Fair Organiser on 19th March 2015, together with a draft letter to local residents.

Resolved: that the arrangements be noted and the letter to residents be circulated.

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Signed **Dated**

189. Flags at the local shops

The Committee received information about WW2 commemorative flags.

Resolved: Not to purchase commemorative flags but to put up the Union flag and England flag at appropriate times.

190. Promoting Parish Council events via social media

In the light of the Community Engagement Strategy, the Committee considered social media and its potential use in promoting Parish Council events.

Resolved: Not to pursue a Parish and Local Council app, but to undertake a trial on Twitter to promote Parish Council events.

191. Request for dog bins on the Westfield Trading Estate

The Committee received a request from a local resident for a dog bin on the Westfield Trading Estate. There was a further discussion on dog bins on the cycle path on the boundary of Westfield and Midsomer Norton.

Resolved: to contact BANES with a request for a dog bin to be located and emptied at the end of the Westfield Trading Estate close to the fields, since this is a known dog walking route.

192. Items for the next agenda

Feedback on the Boules Open Session on 28th April at 6pm.

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.

193. Consultant for the Neighbourhood Plan

A Tender was opened for the work of Consultant for the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan, together with a letter from a Consultant outlining why they could not quote on the basis of the specification.

Resolved: (1) Before proceeding to contact Julie O'Rourke for advice on whether the quotation represented good value for money.
(2) to contact other Local Councils for advice on how they proceeded.

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Signed **Dated**

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194. Flowers in Public Spaces

The Committee discussed the arrangements for the flower display in Westfield, possible signs thanking those who worked on the displays and the grant to WAGS for all their work.

Resolved: (1) to highlight the importance of quality and consistency in the flowers purchased for the display, to provide WAGS with £1,000 upfront as a grant in respect of the outlay and work required for the flower scheme this year and to ask WAGS to keep a tally of money spent and to get back to the Parish Council if expenditure exceeded this figure, so that a further grant may be considered.
(2) to purchase signs for the planters thanking those working on the displays.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

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Signed **Dated**