

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 10th December 2012 commencing at 7pm

Present: Chair of the Committee: Cllr E Newman
Councillors: Cllrs A Butcher (arrived 7.10pm) G Fuller, B Wallbridge and P Wilkinson

In Attendance: Mrs L J Welch (Parish Clerk).

86. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for lateness were accepted from Cllr A Butcher and apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Sheena Russell who had a work appointment and Cllr Rob Appleyard who had another engagement.

87. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

88. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

89. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

90. Planning Applications for Consideration

90.1 There were no objections to the following applications:

12/04848/FUL	Single storey extension to rear of garage and first floor extension over garage (re-submission)	3 Lincombe Rd
12/04882/FUL	Two storey rear timber frame extension	18 Welton Rd
12/05071/AR	Display of 1no. non illuminated totem sign	Norton Hill Garage, Fosseyway
12/05085/FUL	Single storey side extension/conservatory	40 Bryant Ave

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Westfield Parish Council

90.2 Whilst the Committee did not object to the following application, it commented that this was a large extension and asked Planning Officers to ensure that it was not intrusive to other buildings.

12/05135/FUL	Single storey front and single storey rear extension	7 Nightingale Way
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91. Planning Decisions

The Committee noted the recent planning decisions in the Parish.

92. Mendip Local Plan

The Committee received the invitation from Mendip District Council to comment on their draft District Local Plan. Following an indepth examination of the Mendip Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) relating in particular to the border with Westfield, the Committee agreed to register its comments in respect of the land highlighted for housing just outside the Westfield PC border (NRAD001), as a site which would require a change to the plan.

RESOLVED (1) To register the Parish Council's concern that housing development numbered NRAD001 would have a significant impact on the Parish of Westfield, relating primarily to the traffic on the A367 which runs through the centre of the Parish and on the capacity within local schools. The development would also impact on the doctors and dentists and, to an extent would alter the ambiance of the Parish, putting a pressure on the existing infrastructure. Should the housing development be accepted into the Plan, the Parish Council requests that a dialogue be opened to find an effective means of meeting the needs of the Westfield community created by this development.

(2) To contact the BANES Planning Department for information on whether cross boundary negotiation of s.106 funding is possible, and if so, how it is managed.

93. National Planning Policy Framework

The Committee received information on the National Planning Policy Framework and its implications for housing developments in BANES. Following lengthy consideration of the proposed 2,700 homes and 1,000 jobs in the Somer Valley area and the impact in Westfield, the Committee agreed to register its questions and comments with BANES.

RESOLVED To respond to BANES as follows: Where would the 2,700 homes be located and if a proportion are in or near Westfield, as one of

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Westfield Parish Council

the strategic locations, has consideration been given to the strain on the A367? Road safety is of high concern on the A367 which narrows considerably through Westfield and which is a busy route to school. It should be noted that both the road and the pavements are extremely narrow on the route to school and traffic calming and safety of children should be given high priority.

Has consideration been given to the change in ambiance on this small parish which a new development would create? In particular on the fact that youth services and services for the elderly are already scarce and a community centre is urgently required. Lack of investment in the infrastrucre of Westfield over the years has meant that the small doctors surgery is under pressure and there are no dental practices in the parish. The shopping area is in desperate need of an upgrade, having been untouched since the 1950's and the Parish Council would welcome the opportunity of working to sustain and improve these facilities.

How does the Plan anticipate the 1,000 jobs in the Somer Valley? The Parish Council would very much like to create an employment hub and work towards the economic development of this area.

Finally, has consideration been given to the possible housing development numbered NRAD001 in the Mendip Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the effect of this, combined with the proposed new housing in the Somer Valley, would have on Westfield?

94. Time Capsule and Plinth

Cllr Fuller reported that the plinth was made, the casing had been put in. The commemorative stone had been picked, following consultation with all Councillors, and would be cleaned and delivered on Friday. All Councillors would be welcome to attend on Friday 14th December at 10am to witness the burial of the capsule. It then remained for the plaque to be embedded on the stone and this had been requested for the week commencing 17th December. A press release would be sent out next week. A letter of thanks would be sent to the Bath Stone Group.

Once the work was complete it was thought that a small flower bed around the plinth would be attractive and this might be worked into the scheme for the hard standing, which the BANES Councillors for Westfield had proposed from the Ward Councillors initiative fund.

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95. **Flagpole**

G M Engineering had altered the flagpole and it was ready to go in, hopefully this week. The Committee thanked Cllr Fuller for all his work in this respect. Now that these works are almost complete, the Clerk was asked to seek clarification of the BANES Councillors when the noticeboard would be installed.

96. **Events**

96.1 **Carnival – Thursday 15th November – feedback**

A very well received event. More lighting required on the Parish Council gazebo next year, with it being positioned in front of the time capsule stone.

96.2 **Christmas Lights Switch On – Thursday 29th November – feedback**

A lovely event, with 300 people estimated as attending and no negative comments. Next year lighting would need working out and an introduction of the Councillors at the grant presentation event beforehand would be good.

97. **Snow Warden Scheme**

The Committee discussed the Snow Wardens' meeting on 27th November 2012, as a result of which the gritter had been purchased and salt delivered both directly to the Snow Wardens and also to Norton Hill, so that it might be collected from that point should other stocks run low. There were gaps in the provision of Snow Wardens and it was hoped that once they were out and about it might encourage others to come forward. A press release and photo were suggested.

98. **Litter picking**

The Committee received estimated costs for in-house litter picking and maintenance.

RESOLVED to contact councils such as Paulton, Hallatrow and Timsbury for comparisons of how they deliver their litter picking service.

99. **Consultation with local residents on the piece of redundant land next to the tennis court at Norton Hill**

The Committee discussed a site meeting on 26th November to come up with ideas of what how this site might be used.

RESOLVED (1) to amend the proposed consultation letter with the addition of a community orchard and the deletion of a Multi Use Games Area and to circulate the letter to residents of Upper Court.

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Westfield Parish Council

(2) to go out to tender for the clearance of the land.

100. Signage

The Committee received quotations for new uniform signage on Trust Grounds.

RESOLVED That the Finance and Personnel Committee be asked to allocate £486.60 for the signs and approximately £100 for the installation (to be confirmed following a survey of the site) by Frome Signs.

101. Speed Impact Devices (SIDS)

The Committee discussed the need for approximately 6 Speed Impact Devices on the Wells Road (3 on each side) which might be moved to other locations when required. There was a preference for signs which tell you your speed.

RESOLVED (1) that grant funding be investigated.
(2) that High Littleton be asked for details of their SID.

102. 20mph speed limit in Westfield

The Committee discussed the consultation on the proposed 20mph speed zone in all areas of Westfield except the A367. In particular the Committee discussed how effective such use of funding would be, whether it would be observed and whether other forms of traffic calming would have more impact.

RESOLVED To respond to the consultation stating that the Council seriously queries the effectiveness of 20mph signs. In Westfield mobile Speed Impact Devices were likely to have much greater effect and possibly other means such as a raised crossing point to meet the needs of the high density of children. Please could consideration be given to using the funding in Westfield in this way.

103. To consider any recommendations from the Parish Council meeting of 3rd December 2012 in respect of item 10 of the Parish Council agenda, requests from local residents

(1) Request to park a van at Norton Hill Recreation Ground Car Park:
The Committee discussed the request in detail.

RESOLVED that Trust Ground should not be used for commercial parking.

(2) Request for Westfield Memorial Park to be re-named after Chris Cray:

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The Committee was sympathetic to the view that people who had done much for the locality should be honoured and discussed the matter in depth.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Parish Council that, in view of legal implications of changing a Trust Ground name, that this avenue is not pursued but that trees be planted, with plaques, in honour of Chris Cray and Ted Pack and that Cllr Sue Hamilton be asked if she would like to arrange the tree for Chris Cray.

104. Items for the next agenda

Parking at Longfellow Road: Residents were petitioning the MP and had met the BANES Highways Officer to find a working solution to the problem of cars, mostly relating to Fosse Way School, parking on Longfellow Drive. Cllr Appleyard had been working on behalf of the residents to find a solution at BANES, one possibility being to change the verge into parking bays. Whilst the Parish Council had no decision making powers in this matter, it would put this item on the next agenda so that feedback from BANES might be obtained and support may be given as required.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed Dated