

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 10th June 2013 commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr E Newman (Chair), Cllrs R Appleyard, A Butcher (Vice Chair), A Clarke, D Cooper, G Fuller and B Wallbridge.

In Attendance: 3 members of the public.
Mrs L Welch (Parish Clerk)

Comments from the public

There were no public comments.

16. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wilkinson who was unwell.

17. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

Cllr R Appleyard declared an interest in item 6 Planning Applications no.s 13/01914/FUL Construction of 14 new dwellings at Elm Tree Inn, Wells Rd and 13/01944/FUL Erection of 10 new houses following demolition of 52 garages at rear of Bryant Avenue, Westhill Rd, as a director of CURO. He also declared an interest in item 16 Allotments, as the Chair of Westfield Allotment and Garden Society.

18. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

19. Community Libraries Pilot Project

The Chair welcomed Ginny Anderson, Projects Officer for Alternative Services, Bath and North East Somerset Library Service. Ms Anderson outlined her role in setting up and rolling out community libraries and, for the future, Link Libraries which are places where people can order and pick up library books, at a cost. Community Libraries work best where there is a place where books can be collated safely, where other events are going on, preferably with wi fi and volunteers to run the scheme.

Although there are two statutory libraries close by in Radstock and Midsomer Norton, the Committee discussed the importance of finding out whether there was a need for a community or link library for those less mobile, especially given the lack of mobile library service in Westfield. This might work if it was a

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Signed **Dated**

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small part of a multi use facility. The Chair thanked Ginny Anderson for attending the meeting.

20. Westfield Fun Day – 16th June 2013

The Chair welcomed a representative from Luckington Carnival Club. All events were booked, the necessary licences had been obtained and the event had been advertised in the local press, a banner outside the local shops and via leaflets. The Carnival Club would not allow vehicles on the grounds if it was wet and all alcohol would be kept inside. A copy of the risk assessment and necessary notices and licences would be passed to the Clerk.

21. Planning Applications for Consideration

21.1 There were no objections to the following application:

TPO and a Notice for Trees	Located within the front curtilage of Towerhurst.	Towerhurst, Wells Rd, Radstock No 32
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21.2

13/01914/FUL	Construction of 14 new dwellings comprising three 3-bedroom houses, seven 2-bedroom houses, two 2-bedroom apartments and two 1-bedroom apartments	Elm Tree Inn, Wells Rd
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The Committee raised concerns about (1) overdevelopment of the site due to the fact that this is extremely dense housing and the associated traffic and parking problems this brings; (2) that it should be designed in keeping with the current street scene which at this location consists predominantly of miners' cottages which help define the character of Westfield; and (3) the re-siting of the bus stop.

21.3

13/01944/FUL	Erection of ten houses in the form of 5 blocks of semi detached units following demolition of 52 garages.	Garages at rear of Bryant Avenue, Westhill Rd.
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The Committee had no objections but requested that traffic calming on Westhill Road be addressed, possibly with no parking on parts of the opposite side of the road to the new housing, with chicanes to slow the traffic. A contribution from the s.106 to the recreation ground opposite would be well used.

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22. Planning Decisions

The Committee noted the recent planning decisions in the Parish.

23. Neighbourhood Planning (Cllrs Butcher and Wallbridge)

This item would be brought back to the next meeting.

24. Dog/ Litter Bin Review at Westhill Recreation Ground

The Committee reviewed the state of the dog and litter bins and

RESOLVED To purchase three new litter bins (Super Trimline 50HSL black) at a cost of £103.39 each to replace (1) the dog bin at the Beech Terrace entrance to the site, which is broken; (2) the dog bin at the rear of the Westhill Sports and Social Club which has a rusted through lid; and (3) the broken litter bin in the car park.

25. Grass verge at Maple Drive

The Committee discussed the grass cutting on the verges at Maple Drive, which it was confirmed came under the responsibility of BANES. It was confirmed that a 5-6 week cutting cycle was in operation in this area, which is wholly inadequate. Cllr Appleyard reported that it was being reviewed in BANES at director level.

26. Noticeboards

Cllr Appleyard confirmed that the noticeboard at the local shops was still under construction by Norton Radstock College. It would include a legend on the back about Jubilee Green. Any spare funding would go towards a noticeboard outside the allotments on Waterside Park and at Nightingale Way.

27. Advertising for new football teams at Trust Grounds

The Committee noted the article on the website and in the Westfield Warbler. Also, a press release to the Journal and the possibility of advertising via the leagues. Westhill Sports intends to have two adult teams at Westhill next year.

28. Westfield Walkers

Cllr Fuller reported on a meeting with Public Rights of Way Officer, Sheila Petherbridge and three Westfield Walkers, Cllr Moss and himself. The notes of the meeting were circulated. Sheila Petherbridge and Cllrs Moss and Fuller were to meet the farmer to discuss moving one of the routes which had deviated from its original path, back to its defined route.

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29. Westhill Sports and Social Club

The Chair welcomed Paul Thatcher who attended in his dual capacities as (1) representing Westhill Sports Team and (2) Committee member of Westhill Sports and Social Club.

Following a successful season last year, the Football Club will be putting two teams into the league this year. However, the changing rooms at Westhill Sports and Social Club are possibly the worst in the district. He asked if there were any plans to add new changing rooms to the site, possibly similar to those at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. There was a discussion on past attempts to upgrade the facilities and the will at Westhill Sports and Social Club to develop their premises as a community centre for the benefit of the people of Westfield.

RESOLVED that Paul Thatcher discusses with Westhill Sports and Social Club the possibility of putting forward two members to represent the Club on a working group consisting of two Parish Councillors, a BANES Councillor and two Club members. The aim of the Working Group would be to look at the feasibility and funding opportunities to build new changing rooms on the grass to the rear of the car park and report back to the Parish Council.

30. Allotments

The Committee discussed the need to define the paths to maintain the look of the site and the size of plots.

RESOLVED that the £100 income from WAGS and the remaining £90 in insurance money for the new cultivator be used to purchase timber towards the edging of the plots at the allotment site, with WAGS purchasing the additional timber to finish the site.

31. Items for the next agenda

There were no items raised for the next agenda.

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.

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Signed Dated