

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 14th October 2013 commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllrs A Butcher (Vice Chair, in the Chair), A Clarke, D Cooper, G Fuller, B Wallbridge and P Wilkinson.

In Attendance: Mrs L Welch (Parish Clerk)

Comments from the public

The Chair welcomed Steve Collins, Chair of the Carnival Association. Mr Collins was attending the meeting to address the concerns raised by Councillors.

- (1) The impact on traffic in Westfield due to the parking up of floats between the White Post and Charlton Park from the Saturday evening until Monday evening. Mr Collins outlined the work of the Carnival Association in looking at every other possible place to park up the floats and this was the only viable option. Whilst it will indeed cause temporary traffic congestion, the Police are supportive of the proposal and it will give people an opportunity to look at the carts in the daylight on the Sunday. He understood the predicament for Westfield and will look into temporary traffic lights, although the Police would prefer complete closure.
- (2) The finishing point was a big concern, since Westfield residents will be left out if the Carnival finishes at the Methodist Church. Steve Collins was supportive of the finishing line being moved further up the road nearer the school, providing logistics could be worked out.
- (3) The finish time in Westfield was of concern because it is a long circuit and if it started at 7pm it is likely to be 10-10.30pm before it reaches Westfield. Mr Collins confirmed that this is the time when the longer carnivals do indeed end, however it is not possible to do the route in reverse because of the camber of the road at the Charlton Road / Silver Street junction.
- (4) When Westfield Parish Council gave its grant last year there were positive indications that the carnival could be known as the Somer Valley Carnival, even if a formal name change was not implemented. The Carnival Association is against re-branding at this time because negotiations to go back on the county circuit are in a delicate balance and re-brandings will not help this matter. Also it has been called the Midsomer Norton and District Carnival since 1946. From the Parish Council's point of view it would face questions as to why it is funding a Midsomer Norton organisation. Mr Collins outlined the next landmark as early February, when they will know whether they have a 'yes' vote to join the county circuit. The Committee thanked Mr Collins for all his hard work in this matter.

71. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Eddie Newman who had stepped down from this Committee due to ill health.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

72. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

Cllr Fuller declared an interest in item 4 Planning Applications, no. 13/03590/FUL erection of 3 bedroom dwelling at 40 Bryant Avenue, since the applicant was known to him.

73. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

74. Planning Applications for Consideration

74.1 There were no objections to the following applications:

13/03658/FUL	Two storey side extension.	12 Upper Court
13/03563/FUL	Change of use from industrial and office use to B1, B2 and B8 – mixed industrial, Office, Warehouse and Storage.	Parker Transport Warehousing, Third Avenue
13/04046/FUL	Erection of 2 no. three bedroom semi detached dwellings.	Land off Upper Court
13/0466/FUL	Single storey side extension	10 Longfellow Rd
13/04018/FUL	Side porch	35 Lincombe Rd
13/01913/FUL	Front porch, following demolition of existing porch	38 Longfellow Rd
13/03766/FUL	Erection of one and a half side extension and demolition of garden wall	43 Waterside Way

74.2 The Committee had no objections to the following application in principle, providing the parking arrangements outlined in the application are adhered to, because parking is tight in this area.

13/03590/FUL	Erection of 3 bedroom dwelling.	40 Bryant Avenue
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74.3 13/03787/CA Demolition of Existing Structures, Former GWR Railway Line, Frome Road, Radstock – The Committee had been invited to comment on the above planning application. The Committee remain concerned regarding the proposals and their impact upon both Radstock and the wider community and reaffirmed its previously submitted objections.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

75. Planning Decisions

The Committee noted the recent planning decisions in the Parish.

76. Placemaking Plan

Cllr Butcher reported on the workshop he attended on 28th September. Firstly a snapshot Character Assessment was required which involved some desk work and then site visits. The more input from the public, the more powerful the end result. Secondly, a review of the sites earmarked by BANES (including those which would impact on Westfield from outside the boundary) was required.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the BANES Design Meeting dates be circulated to all Councillors so that they may be given the opportunity for wider information.
 - (2) that Cllr Butcher be the designated person to pull the Placemaking Plan together for Westfield.
 - (3) that Cllr Butcher accompanies Cllr Fuller to the Questers meeting the following week to encourage involvement from them.

77. Snow Wardens' Annual Meeting

- RESOLVED**
- (1) That a meeting of the Snow Wardens be arranged for Monday 9th December at 6pm, immediately prior to the Environment and Development Committee meeting.
 - (2) That this be publicised in the Westfield Warbler at the end of November, together with the Journal and the Guardian, with the aim of encouraging more volunteers. Publicity to include people who are willing to collect and store salt in their front gardens to aid the gritters in their routes.

78. Zebra Crossing at Westfield Shops

The Committee considered a request from Steve Rivers, Neighbourhood Manager of CURO that a pelican crossing be installed to replace the zebra crossing at the junction of Elm Tree Avenue and Wells Road.

- RESOLVED**
- That the Clerk contacts Stefan Chiffers of BANES to request a meeting with the Chair of the Council, and invite Steve Rivers, to explore the best solution to this problem. Flashing 'crossing ahead' signs were an alternative suggestion to a pelican crossing.

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Signed **Dated**

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79. Community Support Officer

The Committee felt that employing a person to grow the flowers for the public display in Westfield would not be cost efficient.

RESOLVED To remove this item from the agenda.

80. Westfield Hub

It was noted that the Chair of the Council, Vice Chair of the Council and Vice Chairs of Finance and Personnel and Environment and Development Committee were planning to meet the following Wednesday.

81. Westfield Fun Day

It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council were meeting members of Luckington Carnival Club the following evening and would report back to the full Council on the future working arrangements of this event.

82. Norton Hill Recreation Ground

- (1) It was noted with pleasure that Awards for All had given a conditional offer of £10,000 to the play area at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. The Parish Council would consult the young people about their preferred play equipment by hopefully putting up a presentation board at the school where the young people could express their preferences.
- (2) It was noted that whilst the Sport England grant had not been successful for sports equipment at the disused area of hard standing, another grant application had been submitted to Quartet and also John Westlake of the Business Connectors Programme had visited the site and was looking into the possibility of local businesses undertaking the building of the petanque court free of charge.

83. Business Connectors Programme

The Committee noted that John Westlake had met the Chair of the Council, Cllr Cooper and the Clerk the previous week. The outcome of which was reported in the previous item.

84. Parish Council presence at the Carnival on 14th November 2013 at 7.30pm

The Committee discussed arrangements for the Parish Council presence at the Carnival on 14th November.

RESOLVED (1) that if the Methodist Church hall is available that night, that the Midsomer Norton Town Councillors be invited to share refreshments with Parish Councillors, and that the gazebo be put up to offer hot chocolate to local residents.

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Signed **Dated**

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85. Westfield Christmas Lights Switch On – 28th November at 6.30pm

The Committee received an update on the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch on event.

86. Items for the next agenda

- Election of Chair
- Feedback from the Questers regarding the Placemaking Plan
- 30mph signs through Westfield

87. 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