

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 13^h June 2016 commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr B Wallbridge (Chair) Cllrs A Butcher, D Cooper (Vice Chair), K Docherty, G Fuller, R Hopkins, E Jackson, P Williams.

Also attending: Mike Woodhouse, Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk

Comments from the public

Mike Woodhouse attended to give feedback on the footpaths from the Nightingale Way estate. There are three pathways: (1) Nightingale Way via Five Arches to Silver Street – this requires a hand rail all the way down; (2) Nightingale Way to Five Arches, Ivy Walk to Primrose Road – this requires channels to be cut in the steps for pushchair users and in the section from Five Arches to Ivy Walk – vegetation needs cutting back and channels are required for push chair users. Finally the section from Ivy Walk to Primrose Road needs the surface to be smoothed over because it is very hard to keep it free from snow in the bad weather; (3) Pit Path to Longfellow Road – the footpath needs improvement. The Chairman thanked Mike Woodhouse for this information, which would be addressed further in item 18 Government Funding to boost cycling and walking on the agenda.

24. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

There were no apologies for absence.

25. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

Cllrs E Jackson and P Williams declared personal interests in item 11 Red Phone Box at Charlton Road, in that they both were acquainted with people who had expressed interest in the Phone Box.

26. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

27. Planning Applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following applications.

Date Rec'd	App No	Applicant	Location	Proposal
25.05.2016	16/02484/FUL	R Evans	6 Robin Close	Single storey rear extension with partial second storey
06.06.2016	16/02601/CLE U	M Charlton	The Old Stables, Waterside	Use of land and stable building as a single dwelling (use C3) (certificate of lawfulness for an

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

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			Farm	existing use)
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16/02767/TCA, Green Gables, Wells Road 1 x rowan, fell – The Committee objected on the grounds of lack of information. The application indicates that there is a TPO on this tree but does not say why it needs to be felled. Further, the Committee queried whether this should have been checked before it went out for consultation.

28. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

29. Planning Appeal

Planning appeal on planning application 15/05814/FUL Erection of 2 no dwellings with associated works at Perry Close, was noted.

Resolved: To reiterate the Committee’s comments to the appeal.

30. Joint Meeting with Mendip DC and BANES Planners

The meeting on 12th May was noted and the Committee considered planning application 2016/0980/OTS Land to the North of the White Post Inn, Three form entry school, up to 188 residential dwellings and associated public open space, landscaping and infrastructure. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group member Cindy Carter was thanked for her timely advice.

Resolved: (a) That an objection to the planning application be made to Mendip DC on the following grounds (1) It is a non sustainable development and contrary to the NPPF which states that applications should be refused if they do not provide for sustainable transport; (2) Page 18 of the Design and Access statement states that this infrastructure is not sustainable with this development; (3) It is on greenfield land outside the settlement boundary of Chilcompton and outside the district boundary; (4) There is poor connectivity between the estates – whilst the plans suggest three roads connecting the two new estates, in reality there will be no connecting roads because of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). Therefore all access to the school will be via the A367 and Silver St; (5) There is not enough splay in the junction bowl at the Silver Street side; (6) On the edge of a settlement housing density should be lower than elsewhere. The 188 units are too dense and further would not allow for two cars per plot.
(b) The Committee requested that the Council liaises with Midsomer Norton Town Council and that a press release is sent out.

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31. Green Space Designations

The Committee discussed the grounds on which the proposed green space designations were refused by BANES.

Resolved: That Cllr Jackson pursues this with the BANES Officers concerned.

32. Recreation Grounds

The Committee discussed the potential of using £8,019 in ear marked reserves for further play equipment at Westhill Recreation Ground.

Resolved: That Sam Plummer and the two new Youth Workers be requested to talk to the young people to ascertain exactly what they would like. If necessary grant funding might be sought to increase the budget available.

33. Flowers in Public Places

The Committee received an update from Cllr Cooper and discussed a more planned and long term approach towards the provision of water for the flower displays in Westfield. The Committee thanked Cllr Cooper for all her work, the flower display looks magnificent already.

Resolved: That quotes be sought for the installation of taps and automatic watering devices at (1) Jubilee Green, close to the raised beds or behind the noticeboard; (2) next to the coal truck planter at Ruskin Road; (3) next to the coal truck planter on the opposite side of Wells Road.

34. Red Phone Box at Charlton Road

There was a lengthy discussion on the potential use of the Phone Box.

Resolved: (1) That contact be made with the applicants from U3A, WAGS and Ms Watkins (Community library/book swap) to ask for detailed information on how they would turn their suggestion into a viable scheme. For example, if and how they would move the phone box and make good the ground below it, renovating it inside and out and how it would be used, managed and maintained.
(2) That the other applicants be informed that they were not successful.

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35. Gap in the wall at the Methodist Church Car Park

The Committee discussed the serious hazard of the gap in the wall at the Methodist Church car park which is immediately in front of the new pedestrian crossing.

Resolved: That a further letter be sent to BANES insisting that it be looked at from a safety point of view and restored as it was originally.

36. Elm Tree in Westfield

The Committee discussed the possible location of an elm tree in Westfield to mark the 90th Birthday celebrations of the Queen and to help reinforce the identity of Westfield.

Resolved: (1) That St Peters Church be thanked for their willingness to offer a place for the tree in their grounds. However, the elm grows to 50-60 feet in height and its roots have a considerable spread, for this reason the suggested location was felt to be too close to the bungalow and the Committee understood the reluctance of the church to have it close to the road due to the drainage system there.

(2) Due to the difficulty in finding a prominent yet safe place for the tree, this item be deferred to the next agenda.

37. Events

(1) ***Fun Fair at Norton Hill Recreation Ground*** – The Committee was grateful for Mr Moore’s written feedback, which would be taken into account if the Fun Fair were to return next year.

(2) ***Fun Day at Westhill Recreation Ground*** – There was fantastic feedback for a brilliantly organised event. The next Fun Day is 4th June 2017.

38. Centenary Fields

The Committee considered being part of the Centenary Fields scheme and declined.

39. Extension to the provision of festive lights on lampposts

The Committee felt it would be good to extend the festive lights in a balanced way to spread across Westfield.

Resolved: That costings be sought for (1) the relevant adjustments required to 12 lampposts; and (2) the additional costs of renting 12 more festive lights from our existing provider.

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40. Westfield Warbler

The Committee discussed the fact that the Get Mapping Software on the BANES licence has 'Radstock' in Westfield and it apparently can not be changed. For this reason it is difficult to use the Get Mapping map of Westfield to promote Westfield without causing confusion. This matter has been raised with BANES.

Resolved: (1) to purchase the Ordnance Survey map and street index from Local Authority Publishing at a cost of £250.
(2) to apply for a licence from Ordnance Survey to allow the Parish Council to use the map in an unlimited capacity. There is no cost for this as a public sector body.

41. Government Funding to boost cycling and walking

The Committee considered the publicity from BANES for government funding to improve footpaths to encourage people to walk or cycle to work. This did not extend to cutting back of vegetation but concentrated more on capital costs such as surfacing. Mr Woodhouse's advice at the beginning of the meeting was appreciated.

Resolved: That Cllr Jackson and the Clerk continue to pursue this with BANES.

42. Items for the next agenda

- The Batch behind Wells Square (Cllr Jackson)
- A retrospective look at the planning application for the sign outside the college (Cllr Hopkins)

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

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