

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 11th July 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: 3 members of WAGS

Comments from the public

Juliette Millard, Treasurer of WAGS, gave an update on finances and activities at the allotments. She showed some photographs of areas being regenerated, using grant money to clear away stones from the pathways and to create two more raised beds for use by local children.

They raised £152 from sale of plants at the Westfield Fun Day and aim to use the money to buy two wheelbarrows.

The committee are considering the possibility of using the red phone box from Charlton Road, though are concerned about the cost of moving it.

43. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Cllr Butcher arrived at 7:30pm due to work commitments.

44. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

- Cllr Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 10 Gap in the Wall at the Methodist Church Car Park as a member of the Trinity Methodist Church.
- Cllr Hopkins declared an interest in agenda item 4 Planning Applications as he lives opposite the college.

45. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

46. Planning Applications for consideration

Committee made the following comments regarding planning applications:

16/03410/TCA – felling of 5x Sycamore trees at 16 Wells Road

The Committee objected to this on the grounds that the trees were most likely left as a condition of planning when the houses were built and that there is a strong chance that they are part of a 'bat line'.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

16/03312/OUT - Erection of a three bedroom detached dwelling within the grounds of 8 Jubilee Road

The committee objected to this proposal on the grounds of over development, loss of amenity and it being out of character for the area.

The Committee took a retrospective look at the planning application for the sign outside the college, as requested at the last meeting. No further comment was necessary.

47. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

48. Active Travel: A briefing about 'road diets' from BANES

The Committee discussed road diets, whereby roads are narrowed to improve traffic flow and noted the comments in the briefing.

49. Government funding to boost cycling and walking

A meeting was to be held with Midsomer Norton TC, Radstock TC and Jessica Fox Taylor of BANES regarding capital improvements to pathways.

Resolved: Clerk to continue to try to get a date for the meeting

50. Recreation Grounds

The Committee discussed the suggestion of improvements at the Norton Hill field gate entrance, as deferred from the March meeting.

Resolved: (1) To ask Greensward to just put the sand that is left over from the field work to spread it around the land inside the gateway and take no other action.

(2) To request a quote from BANES to sweep the path to Norwest Bowling club during the leafing season as it gets very slippery and dangerous with falling leaves.

51. Red Phone Box at Charlton Road

Applicants from U3A, WAGS and Community library/book swap had been contacted for further information. The only further interest was from WAGS, who are trying to establish whether they can cover the cost of removing it and putting it in the allotments.

Resolved: To find the costs of leaving the box where it is and restoring it, against the cost of removing it.

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52. 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 and it was noted that BANES had no funding for works here.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Dave Dixon, with whom this issue has been previously raised, to ask him for urgent action due to the concern over child safety.

53. 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. Due to the difficulty in finding a prominent yet safe place, this issue had been deferred to this agenda.

Resolved: To plant two Elm trees in Westfield – one at Norton Hill and one at Westhill Recreation grounds with a plaque saying that they are to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday .

54. The Batch behind Wells Square

The unloading of rubbish at the batch has been formally recognised as unauthorised. Planning have written to the perpetrators, 16/00435/UNAUTH refers.

55. Front Garden Competition

The judging had taken place earlier in the day by two lecturers from the College. Norton Green Farm Nursery had kindly provided the prizes again this year. The winning property for the best Front Garden was 4 Inner Elm Terrace and the winning containers were displayed by G Mitchard and Son on Wells Road.

55. Remembrance plaque at the time capsule

The Committee received approximate costings for this plaque and considered wording.

Resolved: To order a plaque for £900 - £1000 with the wording "In memory of those that gave their lives in service of their country. Lest we forget"

56. Parish map and heritage trails

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The Committee asked for more information including costs of a Heritage Trail for Westfield. They also discussed Westfield maps to the rear of the noticeboards.

Resolved: To order a map to be permanently fixed to the back of the two noticeboards

57. Implications of the Infrastructure Act, as raised at the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting

The implications of the Infrastructure Act were read with interest and concern. Cllr Jackson to circulate further information

58. Flowers in public places

One tender had been received for the work on flowers in the planters/beds next year.

Resolved: (1) To make a list of appropriate companies and ask them direct for a quote for the work.
(2) To investigate the possibility of an automatic watering system with Bristol Water

59. Items for the next agenda

- Litter bin at Elm Tree Avenue – Cllr Jackson

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

60. Tenders for the heightening of the play area fence at Norton Hill

Resolved: (1) Councillors to undertake a site visit individually and email the Clerk with opinions about the need for the fence
(2) To delegate authority to the Clerk to purchase the fencing, if appropriate, once Cllrs had responded.

61. Costs for the festive lights extending through Westfield

Resolved: To go ahead with extending the light display at a cost of £4,100 to adapt the columns and £3,180 to provide the lights.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm

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Signed **Dated**

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