

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Tuesday 8th November 2016 commencing at 7pm

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

Apologies: Cllr G Fuller

Also attending: Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk, Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant

Comments from the Public

Val King who, along with Dave Fishlock, is the owner of the Shambles, attended to give a presentation on proposals for this site. The original application was refused and the site is now a non designated heritage asset, meaning that there is now some governance by the Conservation Officer. Proposals involve retaining the roadside façade; removing the retail shop fronts, taking it back to the original cottage frontages; and knocking down what is behind for housing and commercial space. There are 11 car parking spaces in total and 6 proposed residential units (to be tenanted). The Parish Council commented that there appears to be a greater need for small housing units than office space in this area and queried whether they would have difficulty letting the office space.

Cllr Butcher arrived at 7.10pm.

Lynne Waton, Church Warden for St Peters Church attended to outline plans for the renovation of the St Peters hall roof. The roof went up in the 1950's with an expected life of 25 years. It has had various work over the years but is now not waterproof and, given that the hall is used extensively, the situation is critical. Mrs Waton asked that this application be supported.

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Fuller who had another engagement.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- Cllr Butcher declared an interest in item 4 Planning Application no 16/05188/FUL Sun Chemical, since his house backs on to this land;
- Cllr Hopkins declared an interest in item 4 Planning Application no 16/05188/FUL Sun Chemical, since they are customers of his.
- Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 14 Flowers in Public Places due to her previous contact with Rob Wicke in relation to Radstock in Bloom.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

101. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2016 were amended at item 86 to read “ reported to environmental health ...” agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

102. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Committee had no objections to the following planning applications:

App No	Applicant	Location	Proposal
16/05188/FUL	Sun Chemical	Old Pit Road	Erection of new office, laboratory and research & development building along with site alterations for new heavy goods vehicle entrance following demolition of existing buildings
16/05374/FUL	St Peter's Church	Longfellow Road	Re-roof of main roof to church hall from cedar shingle to cement fibre lightweight slate

In respect of the Sun Chemical application, the Committee asked that words of support for this development which will be good for Westfield be sent to BANES and Sun Chemical.

103. PLANNING DECISIONS

The planning decisions were noted.

104. RECREATION GROUNDS – NORTON HILL

As raised at the last meeting, the Committee received the quote from C&R Fencing to continue their work of re-reinforcement of the top of the fenceline from Wells Road down to the Norwest Bowling entrance gate.

Resolved: That the reinforcement fencing be agreed at a cost of £971.00

105. RECREATION GROUNDS – WESTHILL

There was nothing to report at Westhill Recreation Ground.

106. EVENTS - Christmas Lights Switch On – Thursday 24th November

A verbal update was given on the actions taken so far. Cllr Williams raised the fact that a number of people last year asked if they might give a donation for the mulled wine and mince pies. This was weighed against the will for local people to feel this is a free event. It was suggested that a donation bucket be available behind the scenes for those who ask.

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Resolved: That authority be delegated to the Clerk to identify a charity which makes provision for those in need at Christmas, and makes appropriate arrangements.

107. HANGING BASKETS IN WESTFIELD

The draft risk assessment was received, including action relating to load testing of the hanging basket brackets.

Resolved: to note the risk assessment, ensuring that the engineer undertakes the load test of the ankerbolts in situ and that ankerbolts are used to fix the chains to the wall above each hanging basket as well.

108. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SNOW WARDEN SCHEME

The report was noted. Cllr James Honess volunteered to be a Snow Warden as well. Training was taking place at 7pm on 22nd November at the Norton Hill Pavilion.

Resolved: That the hi vis vests be hot pressed with 'Westfield Snow Warden' to help promote the scheme at a cost of £4 each.

109. BENCH AT SHAKESPEARE ROAD AND WELLS ROAD NEXT TO THE BUS STOP

Suggested benches and costs were brought to the Committee.

Resolved: to authorise the Clerk to purchase two benches with arms, similar to the Broxap £398 bench pictured on the agenda, but with synthetic wood effect to make them more vandal proof

110. PHONE BOX AT CHARLTON ROAD

The Committee thanked Cllr Cooper for investigating the costs of moving the phone box at Charlton Road, using local contractors and renovating it at a cost of £2,000 plus the costs of making good the site. There followed a detailed discussion on the potential usage and the historic value of keeping this 1935 phone box, together with the fact that there is a working public phone in a booth outside the Co-op at Elm Tree Avenue.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts BT about the possibility of the Parish Council moving the Charlton Road phone box and resiting it to house the existing public phone outside the Co op.

111. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

CURO Allotments at Fossey Cottages – local residents to bring a report to the Committee. (Cllr Jackson)

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Signed **Dated**

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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

112. FLOWERS IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Committee received the quotes.

Resolved: to accept the quote from Rob Wicke in the amount of £4,185, with Cllr Cooper delegated to talk to him outlining the Committee's reservations about the choice of planting because they are looking for a bold, vibrant and continuous display through the summer months which might better be delivered with bedding plants and offering the opportunity to revise the quote accordingly. Cllr Cooper to make a decision working within a budget of £5,500, and report on the outcome at the next meeting. Agreed 7 for and 1 abstention.

113. TENNIS COURT FENCING QUOTES

The Committee received quotes from three companies for the tennis court fencing at Norton Hill Recreation Ground

Resolved: to recommend to F&P Committee the acceptance of the quote from C&R Fencing due to the fact that their work to date at the site has been extremely good. The fencing to include Panel Mesh and cranked top and panel to 4m high section at a total cost of £13,284 plus VAT.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

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Signed **Dated**