

Westfield Parish Council

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 2nd September 2013 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller
Councillors: A Butcher, A Clarke, D Cooper,
S Hamilton, R Moss, S Russell, B Wallbridge
and P Wilkinson (Vice Chair)

Also Present: Seven members of the Public

In Attendance: Mrs L Welch, Parish Clerk

Public Access

Mr Corbett wanted to bring the Council's attention to the parking in Longfellow Road and asked when the proposed timetable was for the yellow road markings. He also advised that the proposed development of a special school at Shepton Mallet had fallen through which would mean the parking problems would not be reduced. Cars should be parked on the school premises, yellow lines only make the problems elsewhere.

He went on to say that the Westfield Walkers were pleased that the footpath would be reinstated to the original location and that the Farmer has agreed to this proposal. However the farmer had requested a meeting and they would prefer that B&NES Officers and Parish Councillors were present.

Another Westfield resident asked about the clean up in Midsomer Norton on a Sunday with people in yellow jackets doing community work and wondered if something could be done in Westfield.

Cllr Moss informed him that this was done by the Community Pay Back Team and it was hoped that this would be rolled out to other parts of Bath and North East Somerset Council. It costs approx. £100 per day. He had not heard anything regarding the negotiations taking place but there was a possibility that this would be rolled out as B&NES Councillors will be asked if they want it.

The resident then asked about the dead tree and the overhanging hedge by the Rugby Club side which needed cutting back. Cllr Fuller will look into it.

Mr Mansergh of the Jack and Jill Hill Preservation Society spoke about the proposed 35 Acre Solar Farm at New Tynning Farm, Waterside Lane. This will be visible driving through Kilmersden on both sides of the road. The farmer is a tenant farmer

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

and has no interest and no benefit. The Landlord will benefit, as will INRG Solar, Ireland. The site chosen is grass land for 240 milking dairy herd and the rest of the farm is arable. They felt the whole project would be a disaster for the local community. There will be 3m high security gates and two 8m steel towers to hold security cameras. These solar panels will be on both sides of the road. The Environment Agency has objected as there will be an increased risk of flooding.

Cllr Fuller thanked everyone for their comments.

50. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs E Newman who was unwell and from Cllrs R Appleyard who had another meeting.

51. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Butcher declared an interest in Item 9, Proposed changes to the Rights of Way network in Westfield, as it was in close proximity to his property.

52. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1st July 2013

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2013 be signed as a correct record.

53. Committee Reports

Resolved: a) That the Minutes and recommendations contained therein of the Environment and Development meeting held on 8th July 2013 be noted.

b) That the Minutes and recommendations contained therein of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 22nd July 2013 be noted.

Cllr Wilkinson mentioned that the Finance and Personnel Committee had agreed to an additional day a week for cleaning up the recreation grounds over the summer.

54. Finance and Personnel Committee

The Council considered the recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee minutes of the 22nd July 2013.

Resolved: That Cllr Cooper joins the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

55. Planning application 2013 – 1356 solarpanels at New Tynning Farm, Waterside Lane

The Parish Council unanimously objected to this planning application, without objecting to solar panels and renewable energy in principle, on the following grounds:

- (1) Visually it is too large and will create a blot on the landscape which is not balanced in any way by a benefit to the community.
- (2) The Environment Agency has raised concerns about the possibility of this development creating flooding in Haydon. As the nearest large settlement, in the event of a flood, Westfield would be called upon to accommodate and help those in need. The impact on Westfield is therefore substantial and damage to the community is far wider than the immediate settlements.
- (3) Economically this development will affect the whole area including Westfield. This is prime grade farmland which, if the planning application were successful, would be used entirely for private profit. Whilst the Parish Council supports self sustainable renewable energy in principle, the idea of taking land used to make food and replacing it with land used to make energy does not make sense and furthermore is damaging to the community. This proposed solar farm is in the wrong place.
- (4) The infrastructure of Westfield as a Parish would be severely affected by the building of such a huge development. Consideration of this planning application should therefore address the impact on Westfield in the building of this solar farm.

56. Drop in Café for young people

The Council noted that PCSO Carol Lawrence was unable to attend and It was agreed to defer this item until she was available.

57. Placemaking Plan

Cllrs Butcher and Wallbridge have made some progress on the Placemaking Plan. Cllr Butcher has been in touch with B&NES and asked for copies of the maps; so far he has only received some old maps but has been promised the correct ones shortly. He will attend the Workshop on Character Assessment and Site Assessment at the Guildhall, Bath on Saturday 28th September and Cllr Wallbridge hoped to join him.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

58. Proposed changes to the Rights of Way network in Westfield

Resolved: That the proposed changes to the Rights of Way network in Westfield be agreed.

59. Health and Safety Policy

Resolved: That the Health and Safety Policy be agreed

60. NatWest Bank – Dormant Trust Accounts

Unfortunately the long drawn out process of trying to reclaim Trust account monies held in accounts numbered 11205024 Norton Hill Recreation Ground £8,389.45 and 11205040 Miners Recreation or Pleasure Ground at Westfield £7,339.00 has been a logistical minefield and ongoing for the past two years.

The NatWest Bank advise that they are unable to process Dormant Reclaim forms as they have not been authorised by the existing signatories; unfortunately the process has been going around in circles as the NatWest Bank will not divulge who the original authorised signatories are. Some paperwork, from before the demise Norton Radstock Town Council days, listing Councillor P Jovcic-Sas and Cllr C Dando as signatories has been discovered but it is not known whether these were actually ever accepted by the NatWest Bank.

Resolved: That Westfield Parish Council agreed that the existing signatories on the two Trust Accounts as detailed above are no longer relevant and that these will be replaced by the following, with any two of three to sign.

- Cllr R Appleyard;
- Cllr P Wilkinson;
- Cllr E Newman

61. Pit Path

Cllr Hamilton reported that nothing was being done on the pit path and it was overgrown again. Cllr Moss advised that there would be a financial implication if we took over the upkeep of the pit path.

Resolved: That a quote should be obtained to maintain the footpath. This should be brought back to Council.

62. Notice Board

Cllr Moss reported that he was unable to ascertain the progress on the Notice Board until the College returns after the holiday.

Resolved: That quotes be obtained for two notice boards for the Parish and be brought back to the next Council meeting.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

63. Outside Bodies Reports

- a) Cllr Moss reported that the Big Local consultation finished at the end of August. When the results are back they will be going to Press and to Parish Members. There will be a public meeting at the end of the year to elect a Partnership Board.

£20,000 is available to distribute which was not used for the consultation and at the moment they were looking into running a type of “Dragons Den” (which has been done in Cornwall) and invite applications for £5,000 which will be 100 x £500 slots for organisations to make a presentation and locals would vote how the money should be spent.

- b) Cllr Diana Cooper was nominated to take Cllr Clarke’s place to represent the Council on the Radstock Museum Trust.

64. Chairman’s Report

The Chair reported that the Defibrillator needed to be checked once a week and asked if Councillors could sign up to do this for a month.

65. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors’ report

Cllr Moss reported that the time limit on the Sainsbury appeal had passed.

He then advised that the Ward Initiative does not run in the last year and that there was nothing specific over the next 18 months but he would inform us if anything came up.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated