

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 3rd December 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller
Councillors: A Butcher, A Clarke, R Moss, S Hamilton,
S Russell, B Wallbridge and P Wilkinson.

In Attendance: Mrs L Welch, Parish Clerk
Mrs B Burridge, Administrator
1 Member of the Public

Comments from a Member of the Public

Mr Harris referred to the Email he had sent regarding the renaming of the Westhill Play Park. He had read the letter in the Journal from Bruce Shearn about renaming Westhill Play Park after Chris Cray. Mr Harris felt that as a prominent Councillor from the area should be recognised and something should be done to commemorate his work.

89. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted with the reasons given from:

- Cllr R Appleyard who had a prior engagement and
- Cllr E Newman who was unwell.

90. Proposed Budget 2013/2014

Cllr Moss explained the budget was aiming to achieve a 0% increase in the precept. Next year there was likely to be an increase in the outsidess services costs. This year we accepted an outside tender on a one year basis, in part to look to see if the specification was right. The specification for next year will be refined, picking up omissions in the first year.

The new presentation of the budget separates expenditure for central services from recreation gardens, as these need to be dealt with differently from in the past as they are separate charities and trusts; so for accounting purposes they need to be separate accounts. One worry was that as a new Council we had no reserves. Voluntary reductions in staff working hours and income from sale of assets has now created adequate cash flow reserves.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

For next year there will be a different way of calculating the tax base which will most likely cause it to decrease. However there is a scheme to help parishes; a grant has come through to BANES of £215,000 which will be shared around the parishes based on the 2011 – 2012 Council tax.

Reserve levels are healthy now and the Finance and Personnel Committee would like to recommend the budget which aims to achieve a 0% increase in precept.

Cllr Moss thanked Cllr Wilkinson and all the Finance and Personnel Committee and staff for their hard work.

Resolved: To agree the budget for 2013/2014 in principle.

91. Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Hamilton declared a personal interest as Chris Cray's sister in Item 10 (b) Requests from local residents.

92. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 5th November 2012

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 5th November 2012 be signed as a correct record.

92. Matters arising from the minutes for reporting only

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

93. Committee Reports

- Resolved:**
- 1) That the Minutes and recommendations contained therein of the Environment & Development meeting held on 12th November 2012 be noted;
 - 2) That the Minutes and recommendations contained therein of the Finance & Personnel meeting held on 26th November 2012 be noted.

94. Midsomer Norton Silver Band

Resolved: That Midsomer Norton Silver Band be awarded a Grant of £1,000 on the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee.

95. Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from Outside Bodies but Cllr Russell informed the Committee that she was attending the Radstock Museum meeting on the 4th December.

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96. Consultation from BANES on the Midsomer Norton proposed Order

Resolved: That BANES be asked to include the whole area of Westfield in this Order but to specifically mention outside the shops, bus shelters, both play parks and Westhill Road, including the row of garages.

97. Requests from Local Residents

Resolved: That Emails a) and b) be taken to the next Environment and Development Meeting for a decision.

98. Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked Lesley, Hazel and Brenda for their work in organising the Grant Presentations and Christmas Light switch on as well as negotiating with Tony Denning for his help in organising the trees and lights. The event went off very well and lessons have been learnt from this and we now know what we have to do to make it better next year; with more lighting to enable everyone to be thanked. The Chair will be visiting the Somerset Guardian to request that an article be put in the paper thanking everyone.

99. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

There was nothing to report from the BANES Councillors.

The Meeting finished at 7.25 pm

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Signed Dated