

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 7nd July 2014 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller
Councillors A Butcher, A Clarke, D Cooper, R Moss and P Wilkinson

Absent: Cllrs R Appleyard, S Hamilton, E Newman, S Russell, B Wallbridge

Attending: Three members of the public.
Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk

Comments from the public

Two members of the public attended regarding the ongoing parking problems at Fosseyway School and the local area. Six weeks ago they asked questions of the Head Teacher which have still not been answered. In particular they raised serious concerns about the entrance where children were walking to and from both schools and needed to cross the entrance to Fosseyway School but could not do so because of the constant stream of taxis which did not give way to the pedestrians. Some kind of marshalling of taxis by Fosseyway School staff would make a big difference.

Another query related to the number of pupils and staff. They understand that the Head Teacher has no say on the number of pupils. Recent job adverts for more staff will create more parking difficulties, although the 15 spaces allocated whenever possible in the church car park will help a little.

Finally, disappointment was expressed at the BANES minutes and procedures when the planning application was considered. At the meeting the paper stated that school numbers should not exceed 175. At the meeting the figure was changed to 210. In the minutes, no numbers are mentioned at all. Furthermore the Chair of the meeting did not declare an interest due to his past governorship at the school. Cllr Moss agreed to look into this and compare the minutes with the wording on the planning consent. He also asked that he be copied in on the correspondence to the Head Teacher so that he can help chase responses.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for the new boules , table tennis and basket ball area, they are superb. He queried the specification for the boules court as the right hand side appeared to be compact, and there were weeds. Cllr Cooper explained that a representative from the English Petanque Association had attended whilst the contractor was on site and work was done to his satisfaction.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

Finally the Parish Council was thanked for the recent Fun Day, in particular the fact that it brought together such a number of local organisations, it was tremendous.

Cllr Butcher arrived at 7.25pm.

39. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Newman who was unwell, Cllrs Hamilton, Russell and Wallbridge who had other personal engagements.

40. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper declared an interest in item 7, Outside Bodies Reports, Chamber of Commerce, due to the fact that she owns a property on the Westfield Trading estate.

41. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2nd June 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd June 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

42. Committee Reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9th June 2014

Cllr Cooper enquired about progress resolving the parking problems at Cobblers Way. The Police had acknowledged the difficulties and further feedback was awaited.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 9th June 2014 be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 11th June 2014

Resolved That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 11th June 2014 be noted.

43. Financial Regulations

Resolved That the Financial Regulations, as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee, be agreed.

44. Approval of items over £5,000 and consideration of any virement

This is a new standing item on the Parish Council agenda arising from the new Financial Regulations (items 4.1 and 4.2). For July there were no items over £5,000.

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Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

45. Outside Bodies Reports

There was a discussion on the possibility of having a Parish Council representative on the Chamber of Commerce.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Chamber of Commerce about the possibility of a representative from Westfield Parish Council on the Chamber of Commerce, due to the fact that there are many businesses in Westfield.

46. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Wilkinson and Cooper for all their work for the Fun Day. It was a brilliant day with positive feedback. Big thanks for the marquee and to the many people who put in so much time and hard work.

The flowers are looking better this year in Westfield, due to the new flowers contractor, who is working hard for Westfield.

47. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

Cllr Moss reported that the BANES Local Plan was going to Committee that week. He felt it was primarily a housing plan, with not enough links to facilities and jobs. He commented that he had put in objections to the Street Trading application on the Westfield Trading Estate for a late night burger van. Finally, he was writing regarding the CURO van parked almost constantly on Fosseyway outside the new housing development and causing serious traffic problems.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm