

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Management Group Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 26th September 2016 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr R Hopkins (Chair), Mr R Bevan (Vice Chair), Cllr E Jackson, Mrs J Pack, Mr R Wallace.

Also attending: Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr A Butcher, Ms C Carter, Ms J O'Rourke, Cllr L Mansell and Mr M Woodhouse.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

All present who live in the Parish of Westfield, R Hopkins, J Pack, R Wallace, M Woodhouse declared an interest. Parish Council agreed a dispensation at its meeting on 5th October 2015.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2016 were amended with the addition at minute 20A, third paragraph to add the following sentence "And in Radstock £11,000 was available at Knobsbury Lane for Radstock residents." With this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record.

25. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE JULY AGENDA

A Request for Traffic Data in Westfield – The Group received notes on how to read the traffic data which had been circulated electronically on 24th May 2016.

Action: The Clerk to re-send to Cllr Hopkins for further consideration. The Clerk to request from Peter Dawson the data shown in the map used at a recent presentation in Midsomer Norton which shows traffic densities at peak times.

B Developing the themes that a priority for the Plan using evidence from the Housing Needs Survey and SW Foundation Consultation – Richard Wallace was thanked for circulating an analysis of the themes emerging from the recent consultations. These were discussed in detail by the Working Group and some points were raised.

Dog mess - It was suggested that the Parish Council might take responsibility for providing and emptying litter/dog bins in the parish.

Issues arising from a new primary school on the border – Cllr Hopkins is to meet Jacob Rees-Mogg MP to discuss.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

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Heritage Walks – already being progressed by the Parish Council, these might include the Pit Pony sheds by Chish and Fips and the old Roman Road, Westfield’s two listed buildings – Westfield House and the Railway Inn.

Green Space - The desire in the consultation of making Westfield a place to be proud of, encompassing a village feel – the fact that it is an entity surrounded by green space, not part of the urban sprawl.

Action: The Green Space Designations at Land north of Highfields and along the Waterside Valley to be pursued as far as possible through the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk to contact Land Registry to ascertain ownership at a cost of £7 per landowner and to contact Julie O’Rourke for a template on the procedure for consulting them.

Action: All Working Group members to read the Summary of Richard Wallace’s analysis and be prepared at the next meeting to commit to progressing the various sections.

26. ALLOTMENTS AT LINDEN CLOSE

The Working Group noted that Andrew Pearce of BANES had received the site selection form and was visiting the site shortly. The Group was satisfied with progress so far.

27. FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A COMMUNITY FACILITY IN WESTFIELD

Action: Cllrs Hopkins and Jackson to discuss the tenders and agree the way forward. The costing for this study to be included in the next funding bid.

28. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Ron Bevan was thanked for raising this item and researching the feasibility. The Working Group considered the evidence from the consultations and the vulnerable properties in Westfield.

Action: All Working Group members to give consideration to making the following properties Assets of Community Value and to bring back thoughts to the next meeting. Railway Inn (as the only pub in Westfield), Police Station building, St Hughs, Westfield Methodist Chapel, Westfield Club.

29. EMPTY PROPERTIES

Ron Bevan outlined research on the Empty Property Policy by BANES and there was a discussion on how Westfield can work to reduce its empty properties. Three such properties were identified – The Shambles, a terraced property on Wells Road close to the Rookery and a property in Hazel Terrace.

Action: Cllr Jackson to draft a policy and the item to be brought back to the next meeting.

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- 30. BANES DASHBOARD INFORMATION ON THE SOMER VALLEY**
The information circulated was held to be a useful context for the profile of Westfield and would be put back on the agenda next month.
- 31. FUNDING BID AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**
The Income and Expenditure statement was noted.
- 32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday 24th October at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Signed **Dated**