

## WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the SWALLOW Meeting Room,  
Old Pit Road, Westfield on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 commencing at 7.00pm

**Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller

Cllrs: A Butcher, K Docherty, J Honess, R Hopkins, E Jackson,  
L Mansell, B Wallbridge, P Wilkinson and P Williams

**Attending:** Mr John Wilkinson, BaNES Divisional Director for Regeneration,  
Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Asst

**Apologies:** Cllr D Cooper

### 143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr D Cooper who was unwell

Cllr Fuller welcomed John Wilkinson, B&NES Divisional Director for regeneration. He talked predominantly about the economic services part of his role, which included regenerating the physical environment in Bath and the Somer Valley. He advised that Old Mills trading estate in Paulton had been granted Enterprise Zone status, which draws in Government money for development and regeneration. His office is working on trying to get funding for expansion of other sites in the Somer Valley. Enterprise Zone status offers businesses financial assistance in a Business Rates relief scheme – 5 years discount of up to a total of £270k and Government commits to superfast broadband at the sites.

He pointed out that there are frequently grants available at short notice and therefore if Council had a project that they wanted funding for, then they should have a business plan ready to submit when one of these grants became available.

Cllr Hopkins offered to put together a plan for a community centre and Mr Wilkinson agreed to give it some attention when it came into his office.

He said that B&NES had a contract with an organisation called Cool Ventures, which offers one to one business support for new businesses free of charge. He asked that Council publicise that service. It was agreed that the service will be publicised on the website and in the next edition of the Warbler.

Mr Wilkinson left at 7:45pm

### 144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed ..... Dated .....

**Westfield Parish Council**

**145. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

Cllr Jackson pointed out that the 82 bus service in the Bath and North East Somerset Councillor's report, item 142, was now renumbered the 424 service.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**146. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be noted.

**(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be noted.

**147. APPROVAL OF ANY ITEMS OF £5,000 AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY VIREMENT**

There were no items of £5,000 or over

**148. BUDGET**

**Resolved:** To agree the budget in total.

**149. PRECEPT**

**Resolved:** To accept the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel committee to set a precept of £181,953, which equates to £98.72 Band D equivalent. Agreed 9 for, 1 against.

**150. PRECEPT LEAFLET**

**Resolved:** To agree the precept leaflet with a few minor changes.

**151. WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the NPWG meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January were noted. Cllr Hopkins advised that there is a new member of the working group and any other Councillors that may be interested were welcome to attend. Cllr Honess offered to join the working group.

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Signed ..... Dated .....

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**152. PLANNING AND TRANSPORT WORKSHOP**

The Planning and Transport workshop with Mr Simon de Beer on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 7pm was noted. All Councillors are invited to attend.

**153. MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN PARK**

A verbal update was given on a meeting with Midsomer Norton Town Council representatives. There are to be further meetings held.

**154. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY**

This is a rolling item on the agenda and there were no issues to report.

**155. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Hopkins as the second representative on the Somer Valley Partnership.

The response to Cllr Mansell's letter asking about RAWDAG was noted.

**Resolved:** To respond formally saying that Westfield Parish Council would like an input into discussions about how the money is used.

**Resolved:** Cllr Butcher noted the change in meeting times which make it very difficult for him to attend meetings. Cllr Honess to become the alternative Council representative.

**156. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that all the fencing work at Norton Hill was now completed.

**157. BANES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr Jackson reported on the budget meetings at BaNES. The youth service is being reduced and responsibility for this service is being pushed down to towns and parishes where possible.

There is a deficit of £2.1m in BaNES for adult social care.

Transport services are threatened. BaNES are planning to give money to agencies for their transport needs, rather than running the service themselves.

It was asked that the ward councillors gave more guidance on how to approach BaNES for assistance with applications for finance.

**Resolved:** To invite Mr Dave Dixon to a Parish Council meeting to discuss

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Signed ..... Dated .....

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Cllr Jackson advised that she frequently gets officers from BaNES to come out to Westfield to show them the area that Council may be discussing at any moment in time.

Cllr Jackson talked about the History of Westfield exhibition that is to take place in Radstock Museum from September to November this year.

**Resolved:** to prepare a press release for the Somerset Guardian and the Journal advising residents of the exhibition and asking for any artefacts/stories/pictures that people may have and may be prepared to display in the exhibition.

**158. BENCHMARKING**

**Resolved:** To widen the payscales for the Finance Officer to scale 22-25 and Admin Assistant to scale 17-20 further to recommendation from the Finance and Personnel committee. Cllr Jackson proposed acceptance of the amendment and Cllr Wallbridge seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Signed ..... Dated .....