

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 6th July 2015 commencing at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Chair: Cllr R Moss
- Cllrs: A Butcher, D Cooper, K Docherty, G Fuller, R Hopkins,
A Seaman-Moss, E Jackson and P Williams.
- Absent:** Cllrs B Wallbridge, P Wilkinson
- Attending:** Emily Merko (Finance Officer), Tracey Stephens (Admin
Assistant)
4 members of the public
Mr Peter Mellen from Community Payback Scheme

Comments from the Public

A resident of Briar Close complained about the noise levels from the Haydon Village Day. He had reported it to BaNES Environmental Health who advised they don't have an out of hours staff and to the police who said there was a licence for music until 10pm. The music continued until 10:15pm. Cllr Jackson also visited the day to follow up previous complaints. Particular reference was made to the fact that the stage did not face Haydon as per the licence conditions.

It was asked that a letter be sent to BaNES, and copied to Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Community Services, and to Radstock Town Council to enquire about how many complaints had been received and how these were being addressed. To keep the resident up to date with the replies.

Another resident complained about the parking on Longfellow Road and surrounding roads. On Longfellow Road the yellow lines were breaking up and not visible in places. White lines on the bend have encouraged parking on the corner which had created a dangerous, single lane, blind bend. The resident also complained that taxis taking pupils to Fosseyway School were adding to the traffic around the estate and wondered if they could be encouraged to use the main road route instead. Cllr Jackson reported that BaNES officers had been due to visit the area and would be reporting back.

There was discussion of cars parked all day in the Norton Hill Rec car park as well as in dangerous and inconsiderate places around the estate. It was noted that part of the Planning Conditions for the extension at Fosseyway School was that staff would use the school car park and not park in the residential streets.

It was asked that:

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(1) Cllrs Moss and Wallbridge would contact the Head Teacher of Fosseyway School to discuss staff and contractor parking, the issue with taxis and general parking and traffic issues;

(2) BaNES be reminded about the need to repaint the white and yellow lines at Longfellow Road;

(3) Cllr Jackson and the office staff contact Planning Enforcement to investigate whether the conditions relating to staff parking on-site are being adhered to.

There were comments regarding the state of the road through Westfield, in particular at the junction with Elm Tree Avenue and outside the Shell garage. These concerns were answered by Cllr Fuller who had put in a request to BaNES that day to look into it.

A resident of Keats Road thanked the Council for the bollards which had been installed at the end of the road. However, the resident had intercepted motorbikes using the pedestrian cut through from Keats/Chaucer Road to Old Pit Road. In addition the pedestrian gate access onto Old Pit Road had been vandalised and now won't close. Cllr Cooper advised that the Travel Plan which had formed part of the planning application had highlighted that there should be a pedestrian/cycle link on the north eastern edge of the site which had not yet been installed.

It was asked that the office staff liaise with PCSOs regarding the motorbikes trying to use pedestrian access.

A resident of St Peter's Road brought up the issue of yellow lines on St Peter's Road. The lines do not appear to take in the standard distance from a junction.

It was asked that BANES Traffic Officer be invited to an E&D meeting to discuss the issue of parking in the Longfellow Road, St Peter's Road area.

The meeting opened at 7.40pm

41. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Wallbridge who was on holiday.

42. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

43. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1st June 2015

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st June 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

44. Committee Reports

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(a) Environment and Development Committee – 8th June 2015

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 8th June 2015, be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 17th June 2015

A query was raised about management of Big Local funds. A second request was made to move Big Local funds to a separate bank account. This would be investigated and reported to F&P.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 17th June 2015 be noted.

Cllr Seaman-Moss asked to join both Committees for the time being before deciding to which she was better suited. Cllr Hopkins asked to join the Finance & Personnel Committee as well as the E&D Committee.

Resolved: that Cllrs Seaman-Moss and Hopkins be welcomed onto Committees as detailed above.

45. Community Payback Scheme

Cllr Moss welcomed Peter Mellen, supervisor of Community Payback scheme to the meeting. He outlined the possible activities the offenders on the scheme could do and made clear what welfare arrangements would be necessary. Questions were invited from Councillors.

Resolved: (1) to commit to up to 15 sessions at £30 per session. E&D to discuss what work can be done. Then to report back to Council on effectiveness of scheme;

(2) to contact organisations, for example WAGS and churches, in Westfield to see if they could benefit from the scheme.

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

There were no items over £5000 for approval.

Resolved: to agree a budget virement of £3000 of funds carried over from the grant allocated to MSN&D Carnival in 2014-15 to the new Community Fund as proposed at E&D on 8th June (Minute 9e).

47. Youth and Community Centre

A resident had been invited to give the Council ideas on this subject but had not been able to attend. The Council was reminded that the subject had been

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investigated a few years ago and while potential funds for a centre had been identified there had not been any available or suitable land for such a project.

Resolved: to revisit this item at a future meeting.

48. Local Council Award Scheme - Quality Status

Resolved: (1) that the Parish Council had met all the requirements of the Foundation Award and that it had also published all relevant information on its website;

(2) to confirm that the Parish Council had met the further nine requirements for Quality Status as detailed in agenda item 8;

(3) to apply for Quality Status.

49. Roads

Cllrs all agreed that for the short period that all roads in Radstock had been open the traffic had flowed freely alleviating the traffic through Westfield.

It was reported that Frome Road was currently closed for installation of a traffic platform.

Cllr Jackson asked the Council to support Radstock traders in their quest to reverse the traffic along Fortescue Road, which it was argued would alleviate the flow of traffic up to Westfield. However, it was agreed that while there was sympathy with the traders the issue should be raised with Radstock Town Council. The issue would be revisited if the Parish Council was to be consulted in an official consultation.

Cllr Hopkins reported that there would be a Finished Scheme traffic survey once all roads were open and signage was finalised. BaNES would be happy for a representative from the Parish Council to be at the survey.

There would be further road closures in Radstock for the Water Board to install a system to the new buildings in Radstock.

50. Outside Bodies Reports

a) **Chamber of Commerce**

Cllr Cooper reported that the change of name to Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce was now complete and they were in the process of setting up hubs in the towns and parishes such as Westfield, Peasedown St John and Paulton.

b) **Mardon's Community Interest Group**

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Cllr Cooper reported that the playgroup would not be able to move to the new building until OFSTED had approved it. A communal rubbish area having been sited within easy reach of children at the playgroup was likely to be a problem.

In addition the club was concerned that the promised access gates with pedestrian and cycle links had not all been installed.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Secretary of the Club was concerned that restrictions placed upon it meant that it wouldn't be financially viable. Cllr Cooper advised that it had since been stated that the club had taken legal advice and had now signed the lease.

Resolved: Cllr Jackson was already investigating issues raised about the site and would investigate and write back on a solution to the bins and gates.

c) Radstock Museum

Cllr Jackson reported that the Beau Street Hoard would be exhibited at Radstock Museum from Friday 10th July.

51. Chairman's Report

Cllr Moss reported concern about issues with the Alcan site development and promises that had not been honoured as well as practical issues such as the pathway around the new Mardon's club which sloped towards the building.

52. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

Cllr Jackson reported that the Council was settling into new roles. Cllr Jackson was on the Development Management and Health & Wellbeing Committees. It was reported that the Labour group was working to champion inclusivity with regard to the timing of meetings not being not fully inclusive as there are not many in the evenings and most fall during a working day for most people.

Cllr Moss reported that the first Cabinet meeting had set out two broad principles, one of which was the creation of more employment and high end office space needed in the Somer Valley. Cllr Moss had spoken out and advised that there was a lot of office space in the Somer Valley standing empty.

53. Additional grass cutting in the Parish

At the request of E&D committee quotes had been obtained for grass cutting to supplement the service provided by BANES. The potential additional cost to the Parish of supplementing the grass cutting was noted.

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- Resolved:** (1) to write to BaNES highlighting the additional cost to the Parish of bringing the grass cutting up to the standard of that observed in Victoria Park. Requesting consideration that a grant be made towards this cost to compensate for Council Tax which is paid at the same rate as residents of Bath;
- (2) to ask E&D to clarify its intentions in carrying out the costing exercise.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

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