

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 6th October 2014 commencing at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller (Chair)
Councillors A Butcher, D Cooper, S Russell, B Wallbridge and P Wilkinson.
- Absent:** Cllrs R Appleyard, A Clarke, S Hamilton, R Moss, E Newman .
- Attending:** Two members of the public.
Lesley Welch, Parish Clerk

Comments from the public

Public right of way: Mr Corbett referred to the recent article in the Journal where it would have been nice if the Westfield Walkers had been acknowledged for all their time, research, meetings etc to bring the footpath back to its original course. Following further meetings between the Westfield Walkers and Sheila Petherbridge, Rights of Way Officer of BANES, further work is scheduled to make the pathway safe. Mr Corbett also raised awareness of the responsibilities of the landowner in this respect.

Keats Road: Mr Corbett raised an issue on behalf of a resident of Keats Road who was unable to attend, regarding the fact that their bedroom was overlooked directly by the new houses and the request that the trees remain to lessen the impact. Photographs were circulated and this would be forwarded to the BANES Councillors for consideration.

Midsomer Norton to Radstock Cycle Path – Mr Corbett drew attention to the fact that cyclists travelled very quickly and silently and often walkers narrowly missed a collision because they did not know they were there. He asked for signs requesting cyclists to ring their bells. Mr Hambleton, as a cyclist, raised the issue of pedestrians wearing ear phones and with dogs on wander leads or off the lead altogether, who did not hear cycle bells, thus forcing cyclists to slow down or stop.

Footpath between Chaucer Road and Keats Road – The problem of cars using the footpath between Chaucer Road and Keats Road to avoid having to drive around Chaucer Road to get to Longfellow Road was discussed. Cllr Fuller had visited the resident who raised the problem. The Police had been informed and the BANES Councillors were aware of the problem. Photos were circulated.

Access from Old Pit Road to Chaucer Road – Mr Hambleton and Mr Corbett raised the fact that the old entrance had not been closed off and motor bikes etc travel through this entrance. Photos were circulated. It appeared also that young

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Signed Dated

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people from the old estate were meeting those from the new estate at Old Pit Road, a private road owned by Sun Chemical and used by heavy lorries. They were playing 'chicken' with the lorries and using radio controlled cars on the road. This would be passed to the Police. There was concern too that the roads might be connected, although this had been queried by the Parish Council in the past with the reassurance that they would not be connected.

Leafleting of Longfellow Road – Mr Hambleton queried when the whole of the estate was likely to be leafleted next by Cllr Moss as so far only Longfellow Road had been done. This query would be conveyed to Cllr Moss.

58. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Hamilton and Newman who were unwell, Cllr Moss who had a work engagement and from Cllr Clarke who was preparing to move out of the area, and her correspondence to this effect was noted.

59. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

60. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1st September 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

61. Committee Reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 8th September 2014

Resolved: (1) That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 8th September 2014, be noted.

(2) That the BANES Councillors be asked if they had made progress on extending the street lighting at Upper Court near the recreation ground so that the parked cars might be lit, as outlined in 'Comments from the Public'.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 17th September 2014

Resolved That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 17th September 2014 be noted.

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

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There were no items over £5,000 requiring the approval of the Council.

63. Appointment of Councillor to check and sign the bank reconciliation

Resolved: That, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, Cllr Cooper be appointed to check and sign the bank reconciliations.

64. Anti Social Behaviour at Norton Hill Recreation Ground Car Park

The Council discussed the ongoing problems of anti social behaviour at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. This centred around the consistent breaking of the meter cupboard doors on the outside of the Pavilion, necessitating security bars on the meter doors, congregations of young people in their cars in the car parking creating noise nuisance for neighbouring residents late at night and huge amounts of litter in the car park, total vandalism of the new benches next to the Boules Court and noise nuisance at the basket ball court with people hitting balls against garden fences late into the night. The PCSO had suggested a gate at the entrance to the car park to be closed at night. The Parish Council discussed options and felt that a gate would not stop young people congregating in the grounds. People had started congregating here as a direct result of the moving of anti social behaviour out of Midsomer Norton and Radstock. It was felt that security cameras, linked to the control room in Bath were needed. Radstock already had five such cameras and Midsomer Norton had 10 and they had proved to work in terms of moving the problem away. Westfield had become a victim of the success of these schemes.

Resolved: to seek the backing of the Police for the installation of security cameras (possibly two) at Norton Hill Recreation Ground, to be linked to the Control Room in Bath, and a quotation for this work.

65. Outside Bodies Reports

Community Interest Organisation – The Parish Council noted moves to set up a Community Interest Organisation to oversee the new club/nursery/community centre at Mardons.

Resolved: That Cllr Cooper be nominated to represent the Parish Council on this organisation.

66. Chairman's Report

Cllr Fuller commented that he would call in at Norton Radstock College for an update on the noticeboard.

67. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

There were no BANES Councillors present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

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