

## WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,  
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller

Councillors: R Appleyard, A Butcher, A Clarke, R Moss  
(who joined the meeting at item 4), E  
Newman, S Russell, B Wallbridge and P  
Wilkinson.

**In Attendance:** 6 members of the public  
Mrs L Welch, Parish Clerk

### Comments from the public

Before the start of the meeting a resident stated that there had not been much improvement to a general rubbish problem and weeds around Westfield, which gave a bad impression of the area. It was suggested that the Council invests in someone to clear the litter regularly. As the Bath and North East Somerset Councillor for Westfield, Cllr Appleyard asked if there was a particular area where the rubbish was bad so that it might be dealt with. It was disappointing that, despite extensive advertising, only one resident responded to Cllr Hamilton's litter pick and joined Councillors in this work. The timing of grass cutting and weeding was under review, Westfield had suffered from the same financial cuts in these areas as the rest of Bath and North East Somerset.

After the end of the meeting, members of the public from Longfellow Road/ Keats Road/ St Peters Road raised the problems of cars relating to Fosseyway School parking on the highway – sometimes 18 to 25 cars of teachers and helpers at the school are parked in this area. There was double parking, blocked drives and bad language when the drivers were asked to move. Residents completed a petition last April and asked whether (1) the land behind the school, currently fenced off, might be used for parking; (2) the roads become 'residents parking only'. As the BANES Councillor for Westfield, Cllr Appleyard suggested that they take registration numbers of those cars causing blockages and report them to the Head Teacher. In the meantime he would ask the Traffic Safety people at BANES to re-look at the situation. Whilst people are entitled to park on the public highway, they should not cause obstructions. The parking was causing the road to become single track and this meant that when an ambulance was called in recent months, the entire road was blocked for a length of time. Given that this is a bus route, this is unacceptable. Cllr Appleyard stated that this issue was taken seriously and they would do what they could to improve the situation.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

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

**Westfield Parish Council**

**68. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted with the reasons given from:

- Councillor S Hamilton who had a family engagement;
- Councillor T Pack who was unwell.

**69. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**70. Co-option to the Parish Council**

It was confirmed that there was no legal impediment to the co-option.

**Resolved:** Unanimously that Andrew Butcher be co-opted to the Parish Council.

**71. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr Butcher.

**72. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 be signed as a correct record.

**73. Matters arising from the minutes for reporting only**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**74. Committee Reports**

**74.1 Finance and Personnel**

Cllr Moss reported that as budgetting starts for the next financial year the Committee will make this an open process and it is assumed the Council would like them to aim for a 0% increase on the precept. The outcome on the consultation on exempting Parish and Town Councils from the impact of changing the tax base to take into account council tax benefits was still awaited. In the worse case scenario this might result in a 15-20% increase in precept in some areas.

As far as this year is concerned there is upwards pressure on the budget in terms of inflation which is running at 2-5% and in relation to the first year of the landscape contract which will require fine tuning next year so that it covers all that is required at the sites. There is downward movement in terms of a reduction in staff working hours and the sale of assets, which will allow the capital reserves to be built up. A continued delegation of budget items to the

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Environment and Development Committee will be beneficial. For the future, investment in the public realm such as benches at Shakespeare Road play area and negotiation with BANES on the maintenance of land belonging to them would help improve the area.

**Resolved:** (1) That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be noted.

(2) That 'Being a Good Councillor' training be arranged in Westfield on two evenings.

### 74.2 Environment and Development

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be noted.

### 75 Chairman's Report

There were no items to report on this occasion.

### 76 Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

Cllr Moss updated the Council on progress at BANES on their budgeting for next year.

He also reported that as Chair of the Steering Group for the Big Lottery they had interviewed three organisations and appointed a 'Responsible Body' for the spending of the £1 million over 10 years. After 9 months they would expect to see monies being drawn down and used in the community. Local people were appointed to the steering group. The group was short of representatives from Westfield and also short of young people on the group.

A single grant application form for Westfield PC, Radstock TC and the Big Lottery would be good and this could be copied to all three bodies, thus encouraging joint funding.

Cllr Appleyard reported the launch of the Special Olympics to be held in August next year in Bath. This would see 12 events, 10 of which would be hosted at Bath University, for people with intellectual difficulties.

### 77 Code of Conduct and Register of interests

The Council discussed the proposed Code of Conduct circulated by Bath and North East Somerset Council and based on the NALC template. It was noted that the regulations require the Parish Council to advertise the Register of Interests on their websites. For this reason it was proposed that items 6,7 and 8 of the proposed Code be amended with the addition of 'and the Proper Officer' after 'Monitoring Officer' in each of the three clauses.

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

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**Resolved:** (1) That with the above amendment the Code of Conduct be adopted by the Parish Council.

(2) That Register of Interest forms, circulated, be completed and returned within 28 days.

**The Meeting finished at 7.45 pm**

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