

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held remotely on Zoom on
Monday 2nd November 2020 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller;
Cllrs J Honess, R Hopkins, E Jackson, L Mansell, B Wallbridge
and P Williams

Absent: Cllrs D Cooper, V Cox, R Moss and P Wilkinson

Attending: Lesley Close, Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cooper, Cox, Moss and Wilkinson.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

86. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd November 2020

Resolved: The minutes of 2nd November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

87. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9th November 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting held on 9th November be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 18th November 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 18th November be noted.

(c) Grants Sub Committee – It was noted that the Sub Committee met on 1st December.

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

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

There were no items over £5,000 for consideration.

89. REPORT OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The working group had recommended that Westfield Parish Council declares a Climate Emergency.

Resolved: to invite Cllr Sarah Warren, B&NES Cabinet member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services, to the next Parish Council meeting in January in order to discuss the merit of declaring an emergency and ways forward.

90. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Radstock Museum – Cllr Jackson reported that the museum was now open on Saturdays from 11am to 4pm.

91. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

There were no items raised.

92. PROPOSED GAS FUELLED POWER STATION IN MIDSOMER NORTON

It was noted that plans for the gas fuelled power station in Midsomer Norton were now deferred until the spring.

Resolved: to write to B&NES welcoming the deferment and declaring Westfield Parish Council's opposition to the plans, copying in Abi Nimmo, organiser of the opposition.

93. JUBILEE GREEN

There had been ongoing disagreement regarding who held responsibility for this piece of land. As part of the adopted Highway B&NES are responsible for the upkeep of the ground and the trees, while the land is owned by CURO. Paul Pearce, Team Leader Parks and Trees, B&NES, had written suggesting that the land be transferred to Westfield Parish Council, meaning that the council had total responsibility for it.

Resolved: (1) to write to Paul Pearce advising that Westfield Parish Council may be interested in discussing this further, but that it would take time to come to fruition and that, in the meantime, the council would appreciate it if B&NES were to continue with the upkeep.

(2) to write a similar letter to Curo.

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(3) to put this matter on the January Environment and Development Committee agenda.

(4) All Councillors asked to give thought as to how this space might be managed.

(5) To write to the College asking if they are still interested in undertaking the War Memorial project.

94. TO RATIFY THE SPENDING ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Resolved: to ratify the spending of £622 plus VAT on the lights purchased to replace the damaged ones.

95. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the replacement lights will be going up this week to finish off the Westfield display. Councillors commented on favourable responses to the display in Westfield. He will be offering Westfield Parish Council's Christmas wishes to all residents in Westfield via a video to be published on Facebook.

He also reported that the new swings were to be installed at Westhill this week.

96. B&NES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Jackson reported:

- She attended the Somer Valley Forum meeting which focussed mainly on climate and environmental issues.
- She reported on the hearing regarding the Mendip Local Plan, Part 2. The Inspector heard from representatives of both sides of the discussion and intended to visit the area before making a decision.
- Cllr Jackson had met with The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP to discuss the new Planning Policy White Paper, Planning for the Future and to present the views of Westfield Parish Council.

It was agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The meeting closed at 8:04pm

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Signed Dated