

## WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Homes car park,  
Cobblers Way, Westfield on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00pm

Members of the public were invited via Zoom

**Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller;

Cllrs R Hopkins, E Jackson, R Moss and P Williams.

**Absent:** Cllrs D Cooper, J Honess, S Pritchard, B Wallbridge and P  
Wilkinson.

**Attending:** Cllr L Mansell by Zoom  
Lesley Close, Clerk, Tracey Stephens, Admin Asst

### 75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cooper, Honess, Pritchard, Walbridge and  
Wilkinson.

### 76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 6 – Feedback on the request to hold  
funds for the In Bloom Group and pay invoices via the Parish Council – as the  
organiser of Westfield In Bloom.

### 77. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a true record  
and signed by the Chair.

### 78. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### (a) Environment and Development Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Environment and Development  
Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September be noted.

#### (b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel  
Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September be noted.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

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

**Westfield Parish Council**

**(c) Climate Change Emergency Working Group – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September be noted

**(d) Queen’s Platinum Anniversary Working Group – the checklist of actions was noted.**

**Resolved:** that due to the difficulty of obtaining chairs for the event coupled with their potential damage if the ground was wet, it would be a picnic event and for people to bring their own picnic rugs/chairs. Chairs and tables would therefore not be supplied.

**(e) Waterside Valley Working Group – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Resolved: (1)** That the minutes of the Waterside Valley Working Group meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September be noted. Further agreed that item 11 on the agenda be brought forward and the meeting moved into Part 2, confidential.

It was resolved that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

**79. TO AGREE THE TENDER FOR THE WATERSIDE VALLEY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE VIREMENT REQUIRED TO FUND THE PLAN**

As recommended by the Waterside Valley Working Group at its meeting on 27/9/21,

**Resolved: (1)** to accept the lowest tender in the amount of £9,502.50 from New Leaf Studio Ltd on the understanding that the information in the Bio Diversity Baseline Survey be used to inform the Management Plan and the need for any further specialist ecological advice.

**(2)** that funding of £5,000 from Somer Valley Rediscovered for this project be gratefully received.

**(3)** that the balance of funding comes as a virement from either the rolling capital fund or the community centre fund.

The meeting moved back into public session.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

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

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

**Items over £5,000**

**Resolved: (1)** To accept recommendation from E&D for £6,135.10 for the Cantilever Arm at Westhill Recreation Ground.

**(2)** To accept recommendation from E&D for £4,158 for management of the conversion of skittle alley to changing rooms at Westhill Club – not to be commissioned until the legal work in relation to ownership of the land is complete.

**Virement**

**Resolved:** that funding would be sought from either the Rolling Capital Fund or the Community Centre Fund for the work on the Waterside Valley Management Plan.

**81. FEEDBACK ON THE REQUEST TO HOLD FUNDS FOR THE IN-BLOOM GROUP AND PAY INVOICES VIA THE PARISH COUNCIL**

It was felt that the Parish Council would like to support Westfield in Bloom and discussion was held around how the In Bloom group could be set up with a separate identity to the Parish Council, as it was felt that holding the funds for a separate body was not acceptable in terms of ensuring due diligence. Cllr Moss to approach the Big Local to assist with the setting up of the new community organisation.

**Resolved:** to be deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Jackson to bring papers to the next E&D meeting to clarify some issues on costings and regulations.

**82. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

Cllr Jackson reported that the Methodist Church has agreed that the Radstock church will close and activity will be moved to Westfield.

**83. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY**

**Resolved:** The Clerk to chase up on the request to B&NES for improved road signage to Westfield.

**84. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Fuller reported on a meeting with George Saunders of Youth Connect where he gave an update on work in Westfield with young people. George is

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

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to send a fortnightly update on the work that Youth Connect have been doing and prepare a piece for the next Westfield Warbler.

The Oval Office have given notice that the Parish Council's second office lease has come to an end and may continue month by month on the understanding that two months' notice can be given to vacate. Alternative office accommodation was discussed.

Cllr Hopkins asked that as an urgent item he could report on calls he has been receiving from the public regarding a van that has been parked on Nightingale Way that is apparently being lived in and causing a nuisance for residents. Cllr Jackson to contact the police commissioner, Cllr Moss to follow up with B&NES.

### 85. B&NES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Moss reported:

- The report from the Planning Inspector on Mendip Council's intention to build 450 houses on the outskirts of Westfield was very disappointing as, despite objections from B&NES, it was upheld.
- There is currently a shortage of care workers in B&NES and recruitment is going at full strength.
- He has received an increase in requests for assistance from businesses that received grants during lockdown. B&NES are claiming they were paid in error and are now asking for retrieval of the money given.

Cllr Jackson reported:

- Demolition has not yet started on the RADCO site due to some conditions on planning and is unlikely to start before Christmas.
- She is working on some enforcement issues in Westfield that are still ongoing.
- She has been contacted by a parent with a child with special needs who has transport to school. The transport is very unreliable. B&NES has a legal responsibility to get our children to school and she is following that up.

The meeting closed at 8:17pm

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