

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held remotely on Zoom on
Tuesday 6th April 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

- Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller;
Cllrs D Cooper, R Hopkins, E Jackson, L Mansell, R Moss,
B Wallbridge and P Williams
- Absent:** Cllrs J Honess and P Wilkinson
- Attending:** Lesley Close, Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant;

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Honess.

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 10: Trinity Methodist Church consultation as Secretary of the Trinity Methodist Church Council

147. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 1st March 2021

Resolved: The minutes of 1st March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed.

148. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 8th March 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting held on 8th March be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 17th March 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 17th March be noted.

(c) Climate Change Emergency Working Group

It was noted that a meeting was to be held on 7th April

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

(d) Jubilee Green

There was nothing to report.

149. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

A verbal update was given that the period offering an election had passed and that the vacancy had been advertised on all media with a closing date of 19th April.

150. TO PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBLE (TEMPORARY) END OF REMOTE MEETINGS ON 7TH MAY

It was noted that the current legislation on holding remote meetings expires on 7th May and that it hadn't been extended beyond that.

Cllr Moss proposed the continuation of Zoom meetings, with, from 7th May onwards, a quorum of Councillors meeting outside the following day to formally agree the consensus views expressed. This was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: (1) Council and Committee members will continue to meet on Zoom after 7th May to discuss the agenda and any decisions will be made by a quorum of Councillors in an outside location the following day.
(2) to review the procedure at the Parish Council meeting in July.

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

Resolved: (1) To approve expenditure of £5,731 for the repair to fencing at Norton Hill Recreation Ground, to be recovered from insurance
(2) To approve spending of £90,000 on purchase of land at Waterside Valley from s106 money that had been received.

152. INSPIRATIONAL CITIZEN AWARD

The three nominations were discussed and it was felt that the nominees were so close it was impossible to separate them. They had all undertaken outstanding work.

Resolved: to present the award to all three nominees.

153. REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

Resolved: to accept the report with the written comments of the Responsible Financial Officer, as agreed at the F&P Committee.

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Signed Dated

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154. TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH CONSULTATION

The consultation was discussed.

Resolved: (1) to respond with comments about how the facility is a community asset and to advise that we would like to continue to hold our Annual Parish Meeting at the venue.
(2) to investigate the possibility of registering the building as an asset of community value with B&NES.

155. WATERSIDE VALLEY

Resolved: (1) In view of the very positive public consultation feedback, the Valuation report/survey by Cooper and Tanner and the Risk Assessment of the Clerk, to proceed with the purchase of the land.
(2) To note items of concern such as the safety of the swing over the river, the encroachment of land, bonfires, BBQs and noise nuisance and put these to the Working Group for the formulation of a plan and risk assessment once the purchase is complete.

156. AIR QUALITY REPORTING

A verbal report was given on the meeting with B&NES Air Quality Monitoring Officers.

Resolved: to have the monitors placed at four locations on the A367:

- a. Outside Bath College on Frome Road
- b. Outside Westfield Primary School
- c. At the junction with Charlton Road
- d. At the petrol station

157. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Cllr Cooper reported that Mardons will open on 17th May should Government guidance allow.

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158. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Cllr Cooper requested that Westfield shows its support for NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day on 5th July by raising a flag and putting a banner at Jubilee Green. All Councillors agreed.

Resolved: to purchase a flag @ £34.98 and banner @ £49.02 and to raise them on 5th July in support of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline workers.

159. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Fuller reported that the situation at Ruskin Road had worsened, with construction work and building materials being left on the green area. He had asked B&NES Councillor Moss to escalate the issue at B&NES.

He also reported that a visitor to Westfield, a previous resident, had brought the issue of some CURO properties being in a state of uncleanliness with the residents having an apparent disregard for the neighbourhood. It was suggested that the CEO of CURO, Mr Victor da Cunho is invited to see the properties in person.

Resolved: to invite the Chief Executive of CURO to visit the Westfield CURO properties.

160. B&NES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Moss reported:

- Covid figures in B&NES had levelled off.
- Leader of B&NES, Dine Romero, had resigned.
- There were several items of casework that he was working on.

Cllr Jackson reported:

- A working party of officers and Councillors addressing how to make life safer for women in the context of the Sarah Everard murder.
- B&NES had passed a resolution to write to the government asking them to reconsider the decision not to allow continued hybrid meetings

The meeting closed at 8:43pm

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Signed Dated