

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the car park of the Oval Office,
Cobblers Way, Westfield on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 11am

Present: Cllrs D Cooper, R Hopkins, E Jackson and B Wallbridge.

Apologies: Cllrs G Fuller, J Honess, L Mansell, R Moss, S Pritchard, P Wilkinson and P Williams

Attending: Lesley Close, Clerk.

Cllr Jackson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Hopkins that all the decisions recorded below at the consultation meeting on Zoom the previous evening be agreed and that the apologies listed above be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Decisions made at the Zoom meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 4th January 2022

Present: Cllrs Geoff Fuller (Chair), Diana Cooper, James Honess, Ron Hopkins, Eleanor Jackson, Lesley Mansell, Robin Moss, Steve Pritchard, Bryan Wallbridge, Phil Wilkinson and Pat Williams.

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

110. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

111. Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Hopkins declared an interest in item 113 (e) as he lives across the road from the college.

112. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting – 9th December 2021

It was noted that the Christmas lights referred to in item 109 – B&NES Councillors' reports should have been referred to as Westfield Christmas lights.

With this amendment the minutes of the meeting on 9th December were agreed as a true record and would be signed by the Chair.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

113. Committee and working group reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 14th December 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting held on 14th December be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 16th December 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 16th December be noted.

(c) Queen’s Platinum Anniversary Working Group – the checklist of actions was noted. Cllr Fuller reported that Westhill Club will be pleased to join in with the event.

(d) Waterside Valley Working Group – it was noted that RoSPA have confirmed they will undertake the risk assessment and officers are awaiting a date from them.

(e) Climate Emergency Working Group – Councillors were concerned that the report from B&NES on the air pollution along the A367, specifically past Westfield Primary school and Bath College, did not reflect the extent of the problem.

Resolved: Cllr Hopkins to investigate the possibility of undertaking a survey independently.

114. Approval of any items over £5000 and consideration of any virement

There were no items over £5000.

115. To determine whether to hold meetings in February in person or on Zoom

Resolved: to hold meetings in February on Zoom and revisit on a monthly basis.

116. Feedback on the meeting with Will Godfrey of B&NES on 16th December

The discussion with Mr Godfrey was reported. It was noted that Mr Godfrey had offered to visit Westfield. The date was being organised by the Clerk and Mr Godfrey’s PA.

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117. Outside Bodies reports

Westfield in Bloom – Cllr Jackson reported that there is to be a formal meeting of Westfield in Bloom on Tuesday 18th January at 7:30pm at the Trinity Methodist Church. The speaker will be Mr Steve Clampin, judge in South West in Bloom.

118. Creating Community Identity

Resolved: to enquire with B&NES if there are any plans to formally roadsign Westfield.

119. Chairman's report

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cooper and her husband for judging the Christmas lights decorations competition in Westfield with him. The winner was in Ruskin Road and press release had been sent to the Journal.

Resolved: to also send the press release to the Mendip Times

120. B&NES Councillors' reports

Cllr Moss reported:

- The headline is still about Covid, but with a different emphasis – the Omicron variant, which seems to be more virulent but less severe.
- The takeover of Virgin Care by HCRG Care Group.
- He has been in discussion with B&NES about the trees at St Peter's Road that are concerning a resident as they are very close to her house. B&NES have done an assessment and claim that there is no subsidence.

Cllr Jackson reported:

- Her surgeries will be starting on 8th January at Westfield Trinity Methodist Church and continuing each Saturday from Westfield or Radstock.
- She continues to represent Westfield residents' views on planning matters and to champion Westfield within B&NES. The immediate housing crisis is the lack of availability of 1 – 2 bedroom properties. The question was asked about whether that is due to influx of people from Bristol. She offered to investigate.
- The B&NES enforcement team have been very depleted in numbers for some time, but there has been some recruitment so hopefully they'll be able to catch up with several enforcement issues in Westfield.

The meeting closed at 7:49pm.

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Signed Dated