

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 14th March 2022 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Bryan Wallbridge (Chair), Diana Cooper, Geoff Fuller, James Honess, Ron Hopkins, Eleanor Jackson, Steve Pritchard and Pat Williams

Also attending: Sam Plummer Youth Connect South West; Lesley Close, Parish Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant

127. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

There were no apologies for absence.

128. Declarations of interest and dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

129. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14th February 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

130. To welcome Sam Plummer, Youth Connect South West

Sam gave an overview of the work of Youth Connect in the whole area. In Westfield the group is now meeting again, since the covid lockdown, in the Trinity Methodist church hall. There was a drive to engage young people in the age group 11-13 which has been successful. Sessions usually see between 20 -25 people attending.

131. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following applications:

22/00408/FUL	22 Highfields	Ground floor infill, front elevation dormer extension and internal alterations
22/00807/FUL	1 The Dring	Erection of side extension, replacement porch and replacement garage
22/003832/FUL	95 Waterford Park	Single storey front extension
22/00890/FUL	66 Waterford Park	Erection of rear conservatory
22/01035/FUL	15 St Peter's Road	Erection of single story rear extension

22/01029/CONSLT – Consultation request for Mendip Council application 2021/1480/OTS. The following response was agreed:

Westfield Parish Council raises the following strong objections to the proposed 270 dwellings which are within half a mile of its boundary.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

1. Lack of highways infrastructure to support this level of housing. The A367 is already at capacity, as evidenced in the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan. On a good day when there are no rubbish collections or works on the highway, traffic on the A367 crawls in a stop / start fashion for at least three hours a day. Once a week when the rubbish collection lorries are out, this narrow stretch of the A367 is gridlocked for any length of time. And when there is a traffic jam in Radstock, or works to the highway in the vicinity, then the entire length of the A367 from Radstock to the White Post roundabout is at a stand still.
2. A major result of the stop / start traffic is the high level of pollution through Westfield. Westfield Primary School has a playground directly adjacent to the A367. The impact on children's health is a deep concern, which gets ignored when planning applications of this type are submitted.
3. Lack of wider infrastructure to support this level of housing. Doctors / Dentists / Hospitals are all at capacity.
4. This is not a sustainable location for housing. The work opportunities are not local and residents of these houses would be commuting to Bristol.
5. In terms of education, there is not capacity in the special needs schools to accommodate this level of housing.

Finally, please would you consider these strong objections not only in relation to the proposed 270 dwellings, but also in the context of the proposed housing developments alongside this one which will result in over 345 homes in total – nearly an extra one thousand cars travelling through Westfield daily.

22/01075/FUL – 3 Ruskin Road

Committee objected to the application on the grounds of safety – the vehicle access crosses a public footpath, potential damage to the nearby tree and loss of grass amenity.

132. Planning Decisions

The Planning decisions were noted.

133. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

- **Quotes for swings**

Resolved: to wait for a third quote and consider at the next meeting.

- **Replacement of 2 swing joints**

Resolved: to accept the quote from GB Sports and Leisure for £391.90

- **Update on Silver Birch tree planting**

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

Resolved: to bring this year's tree reports forward and ask B&NES for a long-term view on the health of the Ash trees and then make a decision to remove them or move the Silver Birch trees.

134. Recreation Ground - Westhill

- **Proposed dog enclosure**

Discussion was held around if there was to be a dog enclosure, what size the enclosure would be and where it would be situated.

Resolved: To take a presentation board to the Annual Parish meeting to get the views of residents that attend.

- **Mobile CCTV at Ash Tree Court update**

It was reported that B&NES hadn't yet answered the questions around putting the mobile CCTV on a lamppost at Ash Tree Court.

135. Waterside Valley update

It was reported that the trampoline and goal posts that were left on the land had now been removed by residents.

Andy King had asked committee to consider a couple of questions for the draft Management Plan:

Grazing v grass cutting

It was felt that grazing is really not an option on the site. Therefore, the only option is grass cutting and the Committee was aware that with dogs running through the valley it would not be possible to sell the grass for hay – so there would therefore be a cost implication on the Parish Council. The Committee started thinking about cost effective means of cutting the grass twice a year and the possibility of working with a farmer, producing haylage / silage. The opportunity to purchase a cutting machine with neighbouring towns/parishes was thought to be a good idea and thoughts were raised at the uneven state of the ground and the type of machine which would be required to handle it.

Pathways and cyclists

The Committee was strongly in favour of an accessible route through the valley. There was concern that sharing a cycle and pedestrian footpath could lead to accidents and a suggestion that cycles are not allowed through the valley.

136. Request for a planter at Shakespeare Road

Cllr Jackson advised that this was in hand with permission from B&NES and two planters had been provided.

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Signed **Dated**

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Part 2 To resolve 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.

137. Swing quotes at Norton Hill Recreation Ground

Resolved: to wait for a third quote and consider at the next meeting

138. Quote for replacement of two swing joints on the basket swing

Resolved: to accept the quote from GB Sports and Leisure for £391.90

139. Rope swing quotes for Waterside Valley

It had been proving difficult to find a company that would quote for the items and the work.

Resolved: to investigate further and consider at the next meeting

140. Tree work quotes at Waterside Valley

There had not yet been any interest in the work there.

Resolved: to investigate further and consider at the next meeting

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**