

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office
Tuesday 3rd January 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller
Cllrs: D Cooper, R Hopkins, E Jackson, L Mansell, P Millard,
R Moss, B Wallbridge, P Wilkinson and P Williams

Attending: Lesley Close, Clerk; Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Cllr J Honess

113. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Honess

114. Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

115. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 5th December 2022

Two amendments were made to the minutes – one grammatical error and under Outside Bodies Cllr Jackson had commented on the History of Methodism in the Radstock area, not Westfield as reported.

Resolved: the minutes of 5th December 2022 were agreed with these amendments and signed as a correct record.

116. Committee and Working Group reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 12th December 2022

The minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting of 12th December 2022 were noted.

New office at Norton Hill Recreation Ground - It was **agreed** that the confirmation from the Charity Commission of 23/12/22, circulated clarified the fact that an annual Licence from Norton Hill Recreation Ground Trust to the Parish Council for the hire of the office was sufficient and required no further permission.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 14th December 2022

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

The minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of 14th December were noted.

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

There were no items over £5000

118. Internal Audit Report

Thanks were given to the Clerk for her work on the report.

Resolved: to agree the Internal Audit Report as recommended by Finance and Personnel.

119. Somer Valley Working Group

Resolved: Cllr Paul Millard to represent Westfield Parish Council on the Somer Valley Working Group

120. Representation and support at B&NES

Cllr Hopkins was writing a letter to other town and parish councils in B&NES and would bring it to Parish Council for discussion.

Resolved: to add to the next agenda

121. Possible Community Speedwatch Scheme

A vote was taken on whether a speedwatch scheme should be set up in Westfield. It was felt that it would mean personal safety was at risk. 1 for, 9 against.

Resolved: not to start a speedwatch scheme in Westfield

122. Assets of Community Value

The advantage of registering the Mardons building as an asset of community value was discussed. Cllr Cooper advised that there is to be a meeting at Mardons and that she would discuss this with them to explain how it works.

Resolved: to make an application for Mardons Club to be registered as an asset of community value.

123. Outside Bodies reports

Independent Police Authority – Cllr Cooper is the Westfield Parish Council representative on this body, but explained that the meetings clash with Parish Council meetings, so she hasn't been able to go to any of their meetings.

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Radstock Museum – Cllr Jackson advised that the museum had held a successful Victorian weekend, but hadn't had their usual Christmas Fair. They are reopening for some clubs that used to meet there, including the dementia café

124. Creating Community Identity

It was noted that there had been articles in the Journal which were round-ups of Midsomer Norton and Radstock Town Council stories over the year. There was no round up of Westfield stories.

Resolved: to send an article to the Journal and, where possible, to send articles on a regular basis.

125. Chairman's report

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Councillors and staff for their support over the past year.

He reported that he had judged the Outside Decorations competition before Christmas with Cllr Cooper and Mr Cooper and thanked Mr Cooper for helping out with the competition.

The letter from Buckingham Palace thanking the Parish Council for the books of condolence on the death of Queen Elizabeth was noted as was the letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion

126. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' reports

Cllr Moss reported:

- The budget in B&NES was completed and showed a 4.99% rise
- There had been emergency meetings between the NHS and B&NES. There were a large number of people in the RUH with Covid and Flu and there were problems with releasing people from hospital to be cared for in the community.
- There had been an appeal to B&NES from the Ukrainian city of Oleksandria for generators. Around a dozen had been sent out and an appeal was being formed for fundraising for more.

Cllr Jackson reported:

- She had been working with a number of homeless families in Westfield.
- It was noted that the Mendip Local Plan had been challenged by Norton

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St Philip Parish Council, who had won their case against development on the border of their village.

- There was a new strategy on enforcement going through cabinet. She had been invited to meet with the new Head of Enforcement and would set up a meeting date and invite the officer to Westfield.

The B&NES Councillors were asked to invite Kevin Guy of B&NES to meet the Parish Council for the purpose of a discussion on community identity.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

Next agenda to include Emergency Procedures

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Signed Dated