

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 13th March 2023 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs, Diana Cooper (Vice Chair, in the Chair), Geoff Fuller James Honess, Ron Hopkins, Eleanor Jackson, Paul Millard and Pat Williams

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk

Absent: Cllr Walbridge

123. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wallbridge.

124. Declarations of interest and dispensation
There were no declarations of interest

125. Minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th February 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Following the Parish Council meeting the previous week, under delegated authority the Committee discussed the Inspirational Citizen award and made the following resolution:

Resolved: that the 2023 Inspirational Citizen Award should go to Mrs Harrington for her campaign to save the 82 bus, which is a life line for Westfield residents.

126. Planning applications for consideration

23/00751/OUT	10 Waterside Way	Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of a dormer bungalow following the demolition of the existing garage
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The Committee objected to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment and that it is out of character with the neighbouring properties. For these reasons it contravenes policies 1 and 3 of the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan.

23/00871/FUL	2 Pine Walk	Construction of a garage in rear garden and relocation of existing garden shed
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The Committee had no objections in principle but raised concern about the adequacy of the access.

2021/1480/OTS Outline planning permission (Mendip DC) for the erection of up to 270 dwellings, formation of vehicular accesses, open space,

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landscaping and associated works with all matters reserved except for access- The Committee raised serious concerns about the infrastructure in Westfield to support such a development.

Resolved: (1) that Cllr Jackson would circulate the comments that B&NES is making on this application. (2) authority delegated to Cllr Jackson and the Clerk to send a response.

127. Planning Decisions

There were no planning decisions to note.

128. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

(1) New Office – A further specialist report on sustainability was needed to be sent to Building Regulations at B&NES before any further work could be done.

Resolved: to accept the quote for £950.00+VAT obtained by MJW Architects

Plans to go out to tender on the new office were projected on the screen.

Resolved: (1) to query the Air Source Heat Pump with regard to running costs, insulation and its location just outside the fence line. (2) Pending the response to the above query, to accept the plans and go out to tender.

(2) Fun Day at Norton Hill – the meeting with Daniel Moyles is being re-arranged.

(3) Vandalism, Graffiti and litter – the spate of vandalism, graffiti and litter at both recreations grounds was noted. Correspondence from the Police outlining how they are addressing this was circulated and had been discussed with the Police at a meeting immediately prior to this Committee meeting.

Resolved: To pay for extra litter picks at both recreation sites for April and May at a cost of £300 pcm.

129. Recreation Ground - Westhill

Westhill Club update – there was no further update this month.

130. Waterside Valley

(1) Dog Bins – Noted that the dog bins had been ordered.

Resolved: To change the bin emptying to once per week in the first instance.

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(2) Bridges

Cllrs Cooper and Millard had assessed the site and the information on the bridges had been sent to the insurance company. Quotes were received for the replacement of the bridges.

Resolved: To agree the following phased plan for the bridges:

- (1) To make the renovation of Bridge 1 (the brick bridge) the priority and to seek quotes from builders accordingly.
- (2) To remove Bridges 2 and 3.
- (3) To renovate/replace bridge 4, ensuring there is a generous step at both ends to address the mud and flood water which tends to accumulate.

(3) Consultation on bike hangars in Westfield

B&NES had consulted the Parish Council about the possible location of bike hangars. The Committee did not identify any suitable sites.

131. Events

(1) Coronation Celebration update – 7th May

The Committee noted the advice from the insurance company in respect of the public liability level of the company providing the bouncy castle.

Resolved: to accept the fact that the company has £5 million public liability and note that risk is mitigated by two stewards on duty at the bouncy castles whilst it is in operation.

(2) Christmas Lights Display

The Committee received the quote for next year's Christmas Lights Display.

Resolved: to accept the quote providing it is within budget. To ask Lamps & Tubes to ensure the lights are tested, including the timers, when they are put up.

(3) Fun Fair at Norton Hill

The Committee reviewed the paperwork in relation to the Fun Fair.

Resolved: to stand by the decision to not allow the Fun Fair back on site.

(4) Charity Soap Box Race

A request to run a charity soap box race was received. Whilst the idea of getting involved and running this for the community was welcomed, the Committee stated that it has to be guided by B&NES.

132. Bleed Control Kits

The information about Bleed Control Kits was received. It was noted that this has not been taken on board by the South West Ambulance Service.

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Resolved: to ask the South West Ambulance Service where they stand on bleed control kits. Is support for these kits something they might include in the future?

It was agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

133. Quotes

(1) Wesley Avenue Planter

A quote was received for two final courses of stone on the small planter.

Resolved: To ask the building company to meet councillors on site.

(2) Extension to the Fitness Track

Quotes from three companies were received for the extension of the fitness track.

Resolved: Since the costs were beyond the Parish Council's budget, not to go ahead with these works.

(3) To stabilise the hanging basket trees

Resolved: To contact a further contractor for the stabilisation of the hanging basket tree.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

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