

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 22nd May 2023 commencing at 7pm.

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

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk

Absent: Cllr James Honess

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Fuller nominated Cllr Cooper, Cllr Williams seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Resolved: Cllr Cooper to be elected Chair of the Environment and Development Committee.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Cooper nominated Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Williams seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Resolved: Cllr Hopkins to be elected Vice Chair of the Environment and Development Committee.

3. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Honess.

4. Declarations of interest and dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th May 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. To Create the Neighbourhood Plan working group

Resolved: Cllrs Hopkins, Fuller, Millard and Jackson to be part of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

7. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following:

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

23/01551/FUL	43 Westhill Gardens	Erection of 2 storey rear extension
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8. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

9. Pathway from Wesley Avenue to Inner Elm Terrace

A photo of a gate used on a footpath in Paulton was shared and it was noted that B&NES had offered to install 'No Motorbikes' signage on the footpath. B&NES also advised that there was no funding available for a gate on the pathway.

Resolved: (1) to accept the 'No Motorbikes' signage from B&NES
(2) the Clerk to write to the police inviting them to a meeting to discuss the feasibility of the gate and to discuss shared funding.

It was also noted here that there had been contact made from a parent whose children had been playing at Shakespeare Road and reprimanded by police. She felt that children should be made welcome at open spaces.

Resolved: to open a meeting between the police and parents/carers and invite Youth Connect to discuss young people and open spaces.

10. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

New Office, Verbal update – There have been no applications from builders to undertake the work yet. The deadline is the end of the month. Councillors were asked to consider any building firm they may know that may be interested.

New trees – it was noted that the 'new' Silver Birch trees had yet to show any life. It was agreed that they should be given one more year as it can take that long for trees to establish.

11. Recreation Ground - Westhill

Westhill Club update – the Cub were preparing a Statement of Truth to be sent to Land Registry. Once that is complete and the land registered with Land Registry, the Parish Council will be in a position to set up the lease

Request for a fund-raising day from Jesters Carnival Club - Jesters Carnival Club had requested use of the field to set up a fund-raising event, including a car boot sale on the field around the end of July.

Resolved: to consent to an event on the field with the proviso that a car boot sale would be allowed subject to weather conditions and ground conditions.

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Signed **Dated**

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Dogs off leads – an email had been received from a user of the track at Westhill complaining about dogs off leads being disruptive.

Resolved: to write back to the resident advising that it is difficult to manage this, but that we would put articles in the Journal and Warbler asking owners to be considerate.

Fencing at Ash Tree Court – a resident had contacted us to say that the fence at Ash Tree Court is constantly broken allowing vehicles onto the field. The fencing there had always been just strips of wire. It was noted that there had been instances of motorbikes on the field, but this hadn't happened for some time.

Resolved: the Clerk to get quotes for chain link fencing and bring it back to the next meeting.

12. Waterside Valley

Bridges, verbal update – we are waiting for quotes for the replacement bridge at the site.

13. Events

(1) **Coronation Big Lunch – 7th May 2023 – feedback** – the feedback on the event was very positive. A survey that had been undertaken on Survey Monkey was distributed and Councillors were pleased to see that people had responded.

(2) **Fun Day at Norton Hill – 1st September** - Dan's Ice Creams had now turned down the offer of having a Fun Day on Friday 1st September.

Resolved: To offer Dan's Ice Creams Saturday 2nd September as an alternative, advising him of a deadline for his response.

14. Mining Heritage

The new miner silhouette was noted and Councillors felt it was a pleasing addition to the area at Elm Tree Avenue. Keeping it spray painted was highlighted for next year's budget.

15. WESTLocal

Cllr Jackson did not have anything further to present at this meeting.

16. Impact of the Enterprise Zone in Westfield

Cllr Hopkins presented his thoughts on the effect that the new enterprise zone at Old Mills would have on Westfield. It was felt that it would be detrimental to Westfield and the industrial estate here.

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Signed **Dated**

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Resolved: The Clerk to compose an objection to the enterprise zone and copy it to Midsomer Norton Town Council, Radstock Town Council and MP Jacob Rees-Mogg.

17. Allotments

Cllr Millard reported that Martin Bates was now the Chairman of WAGS.

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.

18. Quotes

Bridges at Waterside Valley – Councillors were advised that one quote had been received.

Resolved: to get further quotes and return them to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm

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Signed **Dated**