

## WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

**Present:** Chair: Cllr P Wilkinson  
Cllrs: D Cooper, J Cradock, G Fuller, E Jackson, R Hopkins,  
R Moss and P Williams

**Attending:** Lesley Close, Parish Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk

**Absent:** Cllr J Honess, P Millard and P Williams

**83. Co-option**

There had been no applications for co-option.

**84. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Honess and Millard.

**85. Declarations of interest and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest.

**86. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**Resolved:** the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**87. Committee and Working Group reports**

**(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were noted.

It was reported that an application has been made to the Road Safety Fund for two speed signs on the A367. B&NES have sent an Agreement outlining the responsibilities for the signs. This was agreed.

The Clerk is procuring scrub clearance for areas within the Somer Valey including Waterside Valley, all of which is being funded by Somer Valley Rediscovered. A plan was circulated to show the areas of scrub

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed ..... Dated .....

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clearance. Quotes are to be opened at the Parish Council meeting in December.

**(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were noted.

**88. Approval of any items over £5000 and consideration of any virement**

There were no items over £5,000 to consider

**89. Grants**

**Resolved:** to accept the recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the recipients of grants.

**90. Cyber Security Policy**

**Resolved:** to agree the Cyber Security Policy.

**91. Outside Bodies reports**

**Mardons** – Cllr Cooper reported on communication between the solicitors of Linden Homes and Mardons advising that Linden Homes are considering taking over the management of the estate and appointing a management company of their choice.

**Radstock Museum** – Cllr Jackson reported that the Friends of Radstock Museum AGM is on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**92. Creating Community Identity**

Cllrs Hopkins and Fuller gave a report on a meeting with officers at B&NES re: directional signs to Westfield.

**Resolved:** to follow up a request to Ordnance Survey to mark Westfield on maps of the area.

**93. Chairman's report**

Cllr Wilkinson reported on a meeting with George Blanchard and two other officers regarding the housing needs for Westfield people in the Neighbourhood Plan update. Another meeting is to be set up within the next few weeks with the Home Search Manager.

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Signed ..... Dated .....

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**94. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' reports**

Cllr Moss reported on the budget of B&NES, which is currently £6.5m overspent, predominantly in adult and children's social care. He reported a big rise in homelessness and number of children at risk or in care. The Somer Valley Enterprise Zone is to be put on hold until early next year. Case work – he has been getting a lot of people contact him to say they are paying the clean air zone charges for Bath but still getting penalty notices. He apologised for not being at the Westfield Christmas lights evening, but there is to be a B&NES Council meeting on the same night. A question was asked whether the parking charges in Bath are to differentiate older vehicles. He advised he knows of no plans to go ahead with this just yet.

Cllr Jackson reported on communication with residents of St Peters Road that want more double yellow lines. She has asked for the planning application for the Oval Office to go to Committee. She has spent quite a lot of time on various training modules this month. She also apologised for not being at the Christmas lights switch on. Together with Cllr Sean Hughes of Midsomer Norton she has been to meetings with Somerset CC regarding planning applications on the edge of Westfield. She asked that she be permitted to make the following statement:

Westfield Parish Council's response to Application 2022/1427/FUL Somerset Council Planning Committee. Shepton Mallet, 7 November

At a meeting of the Full Council of Westfield Parish Council held on 6 November the Council passed the following resolution *nem.com* While deploring building on a green field, instead of on a derelict industrial site such as Stones Cross, MSN, or RADCO, in our parish, and deploring the demolition of two perfectly good houses in a time of climate change and imperilled ecology, we urge Somerset Council to consider the 'backwash' effect on Westfield. The roads are almost at saturation point, not being built for modern lorries. We also lack adequate medical and social facilities and do not have enough local employment opportunities for the new residents. We ask that if this application is to be approved, there be substantial contributions made for public transport, play areas and green spaces. ' To explain, WPC feel strongly that there is little gain from such a development because the new residents will pay their council tax to Somerset, we presume, but use facilities in MSN and Westfield. Westfield Parish Council has recently bought six fields for a nature reserve and recreational facility along the Waterside, behind Bath College, which the owner had thought could have consent for housing. It will act as a 'green lung' for future generations. The Council does not want to pass judgement on Somerset's Local Plan status and the consequences of not having a five-year housing supply in Somerset, or consider whether it is policy compliant for Somerset, when it would not be compliant with the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair of Westfield Parish Council would simply like a direct response

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Signed ..... Dated .....

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to know you have considered mitigation, and measures to ease the burden for existing residents.

Eleanor Jackson (Cllr), WPC and Bath & North East Somerset Council

Councillors agreed unanimously to this comment.

**Polling Stations** – The B&NES Consultation on Polling Stations was received and it was noted that there are no changes suggested in Westfield. There were no objections to this.

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.

**95. Revised spec and costings for the new office**

The updated costing had not been available at the meeting.

**Resolved:** to delegate authority to E&D or F&P, according to when the quote came back, to make a decision.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm

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Signed ..... Dated .....