

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 11th March 2024 commencing at 7pm.

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

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk, Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Cllrs James Cradock and James Honess

139. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllr Cradock.

140. Declarations of interest and dispensation

Cllr Fuller declared an interest in item 5, Planning Applications, as he was aware of the background of one of the applications.

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 5 Planning Applications, due to being on the B&NES Planning Committee.

141. Minutes of the last meeting

Item 129, Planning applications for consideration – 24/00294/VAR. The minutes did not show the address, 13 St Peters Road.

Resolved: With the above correction the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th February were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

142. Neighbourhood Plan Review working group

Cllr Hopkins reported that the Housing Needs Survey Report was due to be sent to us shortly and that there would be more to report after that.

143. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following applications:

24/00572/TCA	56 Welton Road	2no. Ash – reduce to the height of approx. 3m. 2no. Leylandii and Sycamore – remove
24/00728/FUL	20 Longfellow Road	Erection of a garage and utility space, to follow demolition of existing garage (Retrospective)

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

24/00845/FUL	85 Wesley Avenue	Construction of a new vehicular access and driveway with dropped kerb, following removal of grass in front garden
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24/00662/FUL – Demolition of nos26 and 28 Orchard Vale and development of 60 new homes with open space, landscaping and all associated infrastructure (Cross Boundary application with Somerset)

Resolved: to reiterate comments made for the previous applications:

“Whilst this is a cross border planning application, it is recognised that the highways implications will be most severe within B&NES. This is true not just in the immediate vicinity of the application, but also within the wider highways infrastructure. In particular, Westfield Parish Council is concerned about the impact of this application on traffic on the A367. The Parish Council asks that this is examined in detail. The additional 60 houses will place an undue burden on this road which already suffers severe congestion and high levels of air pollution through the Westfield community. Committee also commented that there would be considerable extra pressure on local services.

Mendip Local Plan – an email had been received from Somerset Council Council inviting comment on the Mendip Local Plan.

Resolved: to respond reiterating comments made in previous editions of the Mendip Local Plan after discussion with Cllr Moss.

Meeting with Paul Garrod – a verbal update was given outlining Mr Garrod’s suggestions to prevent crossing of the verge by vehicles to 3 Ruskin Road.

Resolved: to ask to see the finality of his comments before responding.

144. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

145. Local Plan Options Consultation

The Local Plan consultation from B&NES included an exploration of options for development at a later date in Westfield. The Plan was considered in the light of a suggested Rural Exemption Site, which is being explored within the Neighbourhood Plan Review. Suggestions were invited for any other plots in Westfield.

Resolved: (1) to respond with a copy of the Housing Needs Survey Report, requesting that the needs of Westfield outlined in the Report be incorporated within the Local Plan.

(2) to invite George Blanchard to an appropriate meeting to discuss this further.

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Signed **Dated**

146. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

Replanting on the bank abutting the A367 following the removal of the Ash trees in May – discussion was held around what would be planted on the bank to replace the Ash trees once they were removed.

Resolved: (1) to wait until the trees had been removed to see the what effect that has on the vista and to ask Mark Cassidy at B&NES for some suggestions.
(2) To request that the dead Silver Birches be removed in May.

Use of Norton Hill Recreation Ground by Bath College.

A lecturer from Bath College had made enquiries about using Norton Hill Recreation Ground for classes/practical tests for sports courses.

Resolved: to delegate authority to Cllrs Cooper and Wilkinson to give permission once more information had been obtained.

147. Recreation Ground – Westhill

Changing Rooms – Verbal update on the meeting with the football clubs

A verbal update was given on the meeting with the football clubs about the plans for the changing rooms.

The plans were circulated around the Committee and there were no further comments.

Asbestos removal – it was noted that Safe Environment had been contracted to remove the asbestos at the cost of £1,370+VAT. Authority had been delegated to Cllrs Hopkins and Wilkinson. Work to be undertaken 18/3/24.

148. Waterside Valley

Management of the grassland and Management of the overgrown hedge:

Resolved: (1) to meet with Miriam Woolnough of Somer Valley Rediscovered for advice.
(2) to bring these items back to Committee.

Permissive access, meeting with the church: an update was given on the meeting with Revd Ian Rousell of St Nicholas Church. The church are happy for contractors' vehicular access, where needed, to continue and ask that they are given notice in advance. It was reported that Somer Valley Rediscovered would be installing a removal bollard to prevent constant, unauthorised access.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Request for eco-friendly benches:

Resolved: to request more information about installation and whether that was part of the initiative as well as the creation of the furniture.

149. Speed indicator devices on the A367

It was reported that permission had been received from B&NES to use the lamppost on the corner of Westhill Road. This means that the Christmas Light will need to be moved to another lamppost, which will need to be adapted for that purpose.

Permission had been sought to connect to the electricity connected to the posts on the Northbound side at Highfield. Once received, the SIDS would be ordered.

150. Events

D-Day – 6th June: Silhouette of a soldier – Suggestions so far for commemorating D-Day:

- Royal British Legion have suggested a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial stone
- Revd Ian Rousell has confirmed that he would like to be involved.
- The Silhouette is to be placed by the side of the memorial stone and to be placed there each year at Remembrance
- To ask Westfield Primary School whether the children could write poems and the winners to read them at the service.

Easter Egg Hunt, March /April – Councillors were consulted on an idea to have an Easter Egg hunt at Westhill Recreation Ground where clues would be left in strategic places and people asked to collect them and send the answers to the Parish Council office, where a winner would be selected at random to receive an Easter Egg. This was agreed.

30 Days Wild – This was a national initiative from the Wildlife Trust which is a challenge to people to do one wild thing each day in June. Suggestions were invited for ideas of things to do.

Love Parks Week – it was reported that the Parish Council will be undertaking small initiatives to support the national initiative ‘Love Parks Week’ at the end of July.

Annual Licence fee – noted that this is due in the amount of £70. It can lapse for a year and then pay double, or, if left longer than two years the licence expires.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

151. Creating Town or Parish Nature Action Plan

Resolved: to reply advising that we are satisfied that we meet the criteria for this initiative with our work on the Waterside Valley, a full Management Plan for which is in place.

It was resolved 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.

152. Quotes

There was nothing further to discuss on this item.

The meeting closed at 8:22pm

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**