

**Westfield Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 9th September 2024 commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Diana Cooper (Chair), Kit Biggs, Geoff Fuller, Ron Hopkins, Paul Millard, Phil Wilkinson and Pat Willilams.

**Also attending:** Lesley Close, Parish Clerk

**Absent:** Cllr Eleanor Jackson

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Jackson.

**44. Declarations of interest and dispensation**

Cllr Hopkins declared an interest as the applicant of application no 24/02688/TCA.

**45. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**46. Neighbourhood Plan Review working group**

Cllr Hopkins reported on a series of meetings over the summer with three Housing Associations, highlighting possible areas of land for rural exception sites and the development of the derelict garages for affordable rented homes, the need for which is evidenced in the Housing Needs Survey.

**47. Planning applications for consideration**

There were no objections to the following application:

24/02856/FUL	21 Nightingale Way	Erection of first floor side extension and single storey rear extension
24/03101/TCA	9 Westhill Gardens	T1. Bay. Fell large bay tree at rear of property
24/03183/FUL	Unit 3a St Peter's Park, Cobblers Way	Change of use of Unit 3A from a use within Use class E (g) to use as a tattoo and cosmetic beauty treatment studio

**48. Planning Decisions**

The planning decisions were noted.

**Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.**

**Signed .....** **Dated .....**

**49. Strategic Transport Consultation**

Two items were raised to be highlighted in response to the consultation: (1) The need for measures to relieve the congestion and gridlock on the A367 through Westfield between 7.30am and 10am and 2.30pm and 6pm: (2) the urgent need for a multi-agency approach to address the riding of pit bikes on roads, footpaths and alleys.

**50. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill**

**Removal of the Silver Birch Trees** – to be arranged.

**Youth Shelter** – The Committee received the request from Norwest Bowling Club that the Youth Shelter be moved. The shelter was positioned there under advice from the Police and having reviewed the location it was confirmed as the best location for this facility for young people.

**Vandalism to the play surface in the play area** – It was noted that the vandalism had been reported to the police, the repairs have been completed and claimed on the insurance.

**51. Recreation Ground – Westhill**

**Changing Rooms** – The Condition Report had been circulated and also sent to the Architect to consider the best way forward. To be brought back to Committee. The Clerk to contact B&NES Planning for written confirmation regarding the need for a planning application.

Vandalism to the Basket Swing – this has been reported to the police and the insurance and a quote is awaited for repair / replacement.

**Resolved:** To send a photo of the damaged swing to The Journal as an example of repeated vandalism at the play areas and an appropriate press release highlighting the cost to local people.

**52. Waterside Valley**

**Footbridge** – Cllr Millard reported on good feedback from the public on the new bridge. A quote is awaited for a step on the Radstock side. In due course the accessible path will meet the bridge on the Westfield side.

**Footpaths** – Quotes are being analysed by New Leaf Studio for the footpaths, phase 1 on which is to be funded by Somer Valley Rediscovered. The Clerk to seek funding for Phase 2 once the wetlands work has been completed next year.

**Grass cutting** – Arrangements are being put in place for a grass cut in the autumn, weather permitting, to be funded by Somer Valley Rediscovered.

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**53. Highways**

**Bleed kits** – A request was received from the police for the funding of bleed kits in Westfield.

**Resolved:** (1) to ask the Police the cost of the bleed kits; (2) to ask Cllr Moss if these are progressing / being funded by B&NES.

**Railings** – requests for barriers/ railings to prevent pit paths on the footpaths and alleys were received.

**Resolved:** (1) that research last year revealed that there is no physical barrier which will both accommodate mobility scooter and stop pit bikes. So reluctantly a physical barrier is not feasible. Enforcement via the Police / CCTV seems to be the only option. (2) to ask Cllr Moss to request in B&NES a conference for the parishes to share experience of pit bikes and put pressure on the police to address this highly dangerous and growing trend.

**Ruskin Road – driving across the verge**

**Resolved:** To respond to the email from Paul Garrod re-iterating concern at lack of action thus far, requesting the legal advice is shared with the Parish Council in order that we may understand the situation in its entirety and to re-confirm its objections due to damage to the tree and safety of pedestrians.

**54. Events**

**Love Parks Week July/Aug** – The Committee expressed it huge thanks to Caitlin for arranging this successful series of event.

**55. Green Spaces Survey**

The survey results were received with thanks.

**56. Facebook Statistics**

The growing Facebook engagement was noted with thanks.

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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.

**57. Quotes**

***Noticeboard at Nightingale Way***

**Resolved:** (1) to accept the quote from The Noticeboard Company in the amount of £1,116.70+VAT for an 18 x A4 size aluminium noticeboard.  
(2) to pursue the installation costs and bring back to Committee. The Clerk to check budgetary provision.

***Chain link fencing at Norton Hill Recreation Ground***

**Resolved:** to ask whether it is possible to re-use the concrete posts and if so to requote on this basis.

***PA Systems for the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event***

**Resolved:** to seek clarification on the time restriction on the least expensive quote.

**The meeting closed at 8.10pm**

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**Signed ..... Dated .....**