

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Monday 12th November 2012 commencing at 7pm

Present: Chair of the Committee: Cllr E Newman
Councillors: Cllrs R Appleyard, A Butcher, G Fuller, S Russell, and P Wilkinson

In Attendance: Mrs L J Welch (Parish Clerk).

69. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr B Wallbridge who had a work engagement.

70. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rob Appleyard declared a personal interest in item 8 Flagpole, as a Director of Curo.

71. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

72. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

73. Planning Applications for Consideration

73.1 There were no objections to the following applications:

12/04223/FUL	Erection of front porch	58 Longfellow Rd
12/04433/FUL	New windows to east elevation	Unit 35B, First Avenue
TPO	Conifer – fell, cherry tree - prune	18 Welton Rd

73.2 The Committee objected to the following application on the grounds that (1) it was not visually in keeping with the street scene; and (2) there were concerns about access and egress to this part of the A367 which already suffered from bottlenecks.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

Although highlighting the fact that it was not a planning consideration, the Committee discussed concerns that originally the 'Reading Room' was for the public benefit and that when it became a Snooker Room that public asset was lost. The Committee discussed whether there was merit of spending public money to ascertain how that ownership had changed across the years.

12/03902/FUL	2 no 3-bed semi detached buildings and 1 no 2-bed coach house with carports following demolition of existing building.	Hall, Wells Road
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73.3 There were no comments on the following application:

TPO	Sycamore in front garden	35 West Hill Gardens
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74. Planning Decisions

The Committee noted the recent planning decisions in the Parish.

75. Time Capsule and Plinth

75.1 To confirm any final items for the time capsule

There was a discussion on the final items for the time capsule and it was agreed to include items making a social statement about today, such as a mobile phone (with comments about the number of networks and average contract costs), a pair of glasses, postage stamps, a copy of the Journal and Somerset Guardian, a map and photos of the area, an Argos catalogue. It was agreed that Councillors should bring in items for the time capsule and it would be filled at forthcoming meeting. Cllr Fuller would contact Joan Pack for a photo of Ted Pack to go in the time capsule with some words from the Council.

75.2 Progress of the plinth and decorative stone

The plinth was to be built by Lazy Days Landscape Maintenance at a cost of £460. Councillors would pick the commemorative stone, bearing in mind the size of the plaque which is 28" x 14", kindly donated by Radstock Funeralcare.

76. Flagpole

Cllr Fuller reported that the flagpole, donated by the Carnival Association was to be prepared and installed by G M Engineering, who would alter it to make it as vandal proof as possible and to allow provision for flags at half mast. The Committee noted with thanks the permission from Curo to install the flag pole and Union flag and Westfield flags.

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RESOLVED that two Union Flags and two Westfield flags 5' x 3' be purchased and that the quality of the flags be monitored.

77. Events

77.1 Carnival – Thursday 15th November at 7.30pm

Cllr Fuller gave an update of preparations for the Parish Council's presence at the Carnival, the refreshments and opportunity for the public to meet their Councillors.

RESOLVED (1) that, although Councillors present were unable to help set up the Parish Council's stand at 6pm, all Councillors be asked to attend the stand as soon as they were able.

(2) that a donation bucket for the Carnival be available on the stand.

77.2 Christmas Lights Switch On – Thursday 29th November at 6.30pm

The Committee discussed arrangements so far for the Christmas Lights Switch on event and the fact that BANES Chief Executive Jo Farrar was being shown around Westfield that evening by Cllr Appleyard.

RESOLVED (1) that a presentation of grants be made at 5.45pm that evening to community groups.

(2) that before the presentation of grants, Jo Farrar meets local people at the Methodist Church Hall – Cllr Appleyard and the Clerk to make appropriate arrangements.

78. Snow Warden Scheme

The Committee discussed the Snow Warden Scheme and agreed that in Westfield, in order to get the best coverage of pavement clearance, there needed to be good communication between the Snow Wardens. The Finance and Personnel Committee had authorised the purchase of a second gritter and consulted this Committee about the need for a third gritter.

RESOLVED (1) To arrange another meeting of the Snow Wardens, publicised in the Journal and Somerset Guardian to encourage more people to come forward for this role, on Tuesday 27th November at the Methodist Church Hall if it is available.

(2) to highlight the need for a third gritter in due course, but to hold off purchasing this until the scheme is up and running.

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Signed **Dated**

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79. Litter picking

The Committee discussed the need for additional litter picking in Westfield, over and above the BANES routine cleansing work.

- RESOLVED** (1) that the cost of £6,240 for BANES to give an extra day a week to litter picking in Westfield be not accepted.
- (2) that thought be given to a casual person for litter picking and odd jobs and draft costings be put together.

80. Neighbourhood Speedwatch

The Committee noted the article in the Westfield Warbler inviting volunteers for a neighbourhood speedwatch scheme in Westfield. Speeding in general was discussed and Cllr Appleyard confirmed he had requested lit poles on the zebra crossing outside Costcutter.

- RESOLVED** to obtain costs and ongoing costs for speed impact devices (possibly photo voltaic to cut the ongoing costs).

81. BANES Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report

The plan was noted.

82. Houses in Multiple Occupation – consultation from BANES

The consultation was noted.

83. 2013/14 Budget

- RESOLVED** that a request be made for litter picking costs to be built into the budget.

84. Signage

It was noted that costs to remove all old signs on Trust Grounds and replace with new, standard signs would be brought to the next meeting.

85. Items for the next agenda

- Consultation with local residents on the piece of redundant land next to the tennis court at Norton Hill. In the meantime Councillors be invited to a site meeting to generate ideas on how this land might be used.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Signed Dated