

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held at the Oval Office, St Peters Business Park, Westfield on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 commencing at 7pm

**Present:** Chair of the Committee: Cllr E Newman  
Councillors: Cllr R Appleyard, G Fuller, and B Wallbridge

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

**43. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr S Russell who had another appointment and Cllr R Appleyard for lateness due to another engagement.

**44. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**45. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**46. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**47. Planning Applications for Consideration**

**47.1** There were no objections to the following applications:

12/03296/REN	Renewal of application: 2no detached bungalows and garages.	Disused coal tip, Old Pit Road
12/02384/AR	Display of replacement forecourt signage	Shell UK, Elm Tree Filling Station, Wells Road
12/03394/VAR	Variation of condition 32 of application 11/01772/FUL – Residential-led mixed use redevelopment comprising 169no. dwellings, community facilities, offices, town	Former Alcan Factory site, Nightingale Way

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

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	centre link, formal green space and associated works	
12/03389/FUL	Erection of self contained annexe	26 Highfields

**48. Planning Decisions**

The Committee noted the recent planning decisions in the Parish.

**49. Time Capsule and Plinth**

The Committee discussed the quotes and most logical order of arranging the burial of the time capsule.

**RESOLVED** (1) that ACS at Wellsway Works be commissioned to make the pre cast concrete housing for the time capsule at a cost of £300. This will have a recessed lid to prevent leaking. ACS to be asked to retain the cast until required;

(2) that BANES be authorised to dig the hole 2 foot square on the day to be determined and that the Clerk arranges for Cllrs Newman, Fuller and Wallbridge to meet Wayne Honey on site to determine the spec for the 6 inch concrete square around the precast housing, on which the bath stone will stand ;

(3) that the Bath Stone Group be authorised to provide a non dimensional piece of stone approximately one tonne in weight at a cost of £75 per tonne. Photos of available stone to be circulated and a choice made in liaison with the engraver who will engrave the wording on a smoothed out part of the stone.

(4) that a quote from the engraver recommended by Bath Stone Group be circulated to the Committee.

**50. Flags**

The Committee discussed the feedback on the flags above the local shops over the summer, the possibility of a Westfield flag to raise the profile of the Parish and the kind offer of a free flag pole from the Carnival.

**RESOLVED** (1) that to stop the rattling either cable ties be used instead of rings or they be bound with tape;

(2) that 10 Westfield Parish Council flags in the second design circulated be purchased at a cost of £200.

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(3) that the Union Flags go up again for Remembrance Day.

(4) that further thought be given to the Carnival flagpole being put up either on the same green as the Christmas Tree or, with BANES permission, on the piece of green land by the Centurion roundabout at the entrance to Westfield, which could also include some colourful planting and possibly a means of welcoming people to Westfield. Costs for a slightly larger flag would be brought back to the Committee.

CLlr Appleyard arrived at the meeting.

**51. Westfield Guide**

The Committee looked at examples of Town and Parish Guides and discussed the possibility of a Westfield Guide, funded entirely through advertising revenue, which could include a map, a community directory, parish diary etc. and be produced on an annual basis, preferably being circulated every January.

**RESOLVED** that the Agreement with Local Authority Publishing be accepted and work commences for a Westfield Guide preferably to be circulated in January 2013.

**52. Parish Council stand at the Carnival on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

The Committee discussed its presence at the Carnival providing, for example, hot drinks for donations to the Chair's charity.

**RESOLVED** (1) to purchase a gazebo for use at this and other events such as the Fun Day, at a cost of up to £100.

(2) that all Councillors be asked to help on the evening either serving drinks or filling up the flasks etc.

**53. Christmas Lights Switch on with the Methodist Church**

The Committee discussed a traditional Christmas switch on event, with simple lighting on the trees around the shops and on the new living Christmas Tree, Christmas Carols around the tree, the lights switched on by local children followed possibly with tea, coffee and mince pies in the church hall.

**RESOLVED** (1) that the Methodist Church be contacted to work together on this event, involving also the other three churches in the Parish and possibly the Ladies Choir to lead the Carols. That Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November at about 6.30pm be put forward as a possible time;

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(2) that Cllr Newman contacts the Salvation Army Band for their presence at this event, for which they would be welcome to take a collection.

(3) That the Police be informed and the Carnival Committee be asked if they might steward this event free of charge;

(4) That this event be given full prominence on the front page of the next Westfield Warbler.

(5) That Cllr Appleyard contacts the two local schools and invites them to put forward two children to switch on the lights.

**53. Planting in Westfield**

As a BANES Councillor for Westfield, Cllr Appleyard has investigated the poor quality of grass cutting in Westfield over the summer and recognised that some areas were particularly bad. Jane Porter, the Neighbourhood Officer was addressing the dual concerns of the quality of the cut and the extended period between cuts.

On a more positive note Cllr Appleyard reported that the two flowerbeds at the top of Ruskin Road are to be stripped out. On the left hand side the bed is to be filled in and a new one created the other side of the tree. On the right hand side the bed is to be filled in and replaced with one smaller plus two crescent shaped flower beds at the curve. The land at the end of the church car park is to be stripped out and planted up, with a locally recognised contractor being invited to work up ideas for an eye catching display and possible three year maintenance contract.

Local residents who had expressed their concern at the standard of planting and grass cutting in Westfield would be informed that the Parish Council adds its voice to their concerns and its understanding that BANES is working towards an improvement in this area.

**54. Allotments Report**

As Chair of the Westfield Allotment and Garden Society, Cllr Appleyard updated the Committee on the full quota of general purpose plots being worked and 60% of the raised beds at the front. The hedges had been trimmed and there were ongoing issues of intrusion due to the poor security at the rear of the site. WAGS might canvas local neighbours and temporarily close the footpath alongside the site until better fencing had been installed.

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**55. Gateway Signage**

The Committee discussed the Midsomer Norton Gateway signage at the junction of Fosseyway and Charlton Park which was misleading in that it was facing the wrong direction.

**RESOLVED** (1) that a collaborative approach be suggested to BANES whereby the Midsomer Norton Sign remains but is changed to Westfield (with an arrow straight ahead) and Midsomer Norton (with an arrow to the left).

(2) that a letter be sent to Midsomer Norton asking for understanding of the positioning of their sign which suggests people are entering Midsomer Norton when in fact they are about to enter Westfield and asking for a collaborative approach to address the confusion this creates;

(3) that thought be given to having a sponsored flower display on the piece of green land at the mini roundabout which is an attractive gateway to the parish.

(4) that, due to space restrictions, the Wells Way gateway sign remains as it is, but that thought be given to a sign at the new houses on the Nightingale estate.

**56. Items for the next agenda**

- Carnival on 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Christmas Lights Switch On ( possible date 29<sup>th</sup> November)
- Time Capsule – update
- Flags - update

**The meeting closed at 8.20pm.**

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