

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office,
St Peters Business Park, Westfield on
Monday 3rd February 2014 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller
Councillors: A Butcher, A Clarke, D Cooper, S Hamilton,
R Moss, B Wallbridge and P Wilkinson

Also Present: Six members of the press and public

Attending: Mrs L Welch, Parish Clerk

115. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Newman who was unwell and Cllr Russell who had work commitments.

116. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

117. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6th January 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

118. Committee Reports

Environment and Development Committee – Monday 13th January 2014

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 13th January 2014 be noted.

Finance and Personnel Committee – Monday 16th January 2014

Resolved That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 16th January 2014 be noted.

119. 2014/15 Precept Report

Resolved that the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee for a precept of £158,850, equating to a Band D equivalent of £96.79 which is the same as last year, be agreed.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

120. Precept Leaflet

The Council considered the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee that the leaflet be agreed and that a press release highlighting the freeze in the Band D equivalent be put in the Westfield Warbler and sent to the local press.

Resolved: That the above recommendation be agreed.

121. Bank Signatories

The Council considered appointing additional signatories for the new Nationwide account as agreed at the Finance and Personnel Committee on 16th January 2014.

Resolved: That Cllrs A Clarke, G Fuller and P Wilkinson be the authorised signatories on the new Nationwide account,

122. Planning Applications

The Council considered three planning applications which had deadlines which could not be extended and therefore needed to be discussed before the next Environment and Development Committee meeting.

There were no objections to the applications below.

13/05387/FUL	Erection of two storey side extension to provide annexe ancillary to main dwelling	18 Nightingale Way
13/05514/FUL	Erection of single storey front extension	15 Wells Square

14/00037/TCA 1 x willow (*salix x chrysocoma babylonica*) fell, Co-op Store, Wells Rd – There were no objections to this application, however the Council encouraged the replanting of a tree at this location.

123. Christmas Fair

The Council discussed the possibility of expanding the Christmas Lights Switch on event to include stalls.

Resolved: that this is an excellent idea and that a working group be set up by the Environment and Development Committee to progress this work, possibly in the form of a Christmas Farmers Market.

124. Grant Funding – Midsomer Norton and Radstosck Silver Band

The Council discussed the grant application from the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band.

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Resolved: that funding from the grant programme is not awarded, but that the band is supported by requesting, on a fee paying basis, for the band to play at public events such as the Christmas Lights Switch on and the Fun Day.

125. Outside Bodies Reports

Cllr Moss reported that the Dragon Den grant funding from the Big Local had been very popular and a date would be set in March for the presentation to local residents. Representatives from Quartet, Radstock Town Council and Westfield Parish Council might be invited to talk at the meeting about their own grant funds.

126. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Finance Officer for her work in reclaiming the Trust monies from the dormant Trust bank accounts and the £400 compensation paid by Nat West.

He was also pleased to highlight the £10,000 received from the Awards for All Programme of the Big Lottery for new play equipment at Norton Hill Play Area. This would be installed in April.

Halsall had approached the Parish Council for use of a 15 m width of the Westhill Recreation Ground car park during neighbouring construction work. They would like to put something back to the Recreation Ground in recognition, and confirmation was awaited.

127. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' report

Cllr Moss reported that the Childrens Centres were unlikely to be cut this year and options for the future were being addressed.

A request had been made by both BANES Councillors for Fosse Way School's planning application for a post 16 teaching block to be decided by Committee.

A budget meeting at BANES would be held on 18th February and a 0% increase in the Council tax was recommended.

The Strategic Land Assessment Report of November 2013 had been published showing availability of land. Cllr Moss confirmed that the Planning Inspector was requesting approximately 200 houses in the Somer Valley area.

It was agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

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128. 2014/15 Flowers in Public Places Contract

The Council discussed the content of the specification for the flowers in public places contract.

- Resolved:**
- (1) that the specification be agreed with the inclusion of the production and watering of a six arm hanging basket tree to be located on the Nightingale estate and a planter and six arm hanging basket tree to be located on the green land adjacent to the Methodist Church car park.
 - (2) that the specification does not include new flowerbeds at Wells Road/ Wesley Avenue.
 - (3) that an advert be placed in the Journal as outlined on the agenda to publicise the contract.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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Signed Dated