

## WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Boardroom, The Oval Office,  
Cobblers Way, Westfield on  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 commencing at 7.00pm

**Present:** Chair: Cllr G Fuller;  
  
Cllrs D Cooper, V Cox, R Hopkins, E Jackson, L Mansell,  
B Wallbridge (Vice Chair), and P Williams.

**Attending:** Lesley Close, Clerk

**157. TO WELCOME CLLR LESLEY MANSELL AND RECEIVE HER DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS**

Cllr Mansell was welcomed back to the Parish Council and her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and Register of Interest form were received.

**158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Honess, Moss and Wilkinson.

**159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Hopkins declared a personal interest in item 10 Youth Connect South West as a Trustee.

**160. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

**Resolved:** The minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**161. COMMITTEE CHOICE(S) OF CLLR LESLEY MANSELL**

**Resolved:** that Cllr Mansell is on the Finance and Personnel Committee.

**162. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Environment and Development Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February be noted.

**(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February be noted.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed ..... Dated .....

**Westfield Parish Council**

**163. GREEN AND OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP**

An overview of the Working Group meeting held at 6pm that day highlighted input in projects which are on the brink of completion, such as Shakespeare Road Play Area. Designation of footpaths is also under consideration.

**164. APPROVAL OF ANY ITEMS OF £5,000 AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY VIREMENT**

The landscape tender in the amount of £25,468 was approved.

**165. INSPIRATIONAL CITIZEN AWARD 2020**

**Resolved:** unanimously that the Inspirational Citizen Award 2020 goes to Catherine Cooper at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**166. YOUTH CONNECT SOUTH WEST CONTRACT**

**Resolved:** that the Youth Connect South West Contract 2020/21 be agreed with the following amendments – 4.3 ‘responsibility’ to be changed to ‘liability’; 6.3 Additional duties, to add, ‘The Parish Council takes no financial responsibility for the mobile bus’.

**167. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**Resolved:** to agree the amendments to the Financial Regulations as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee.

**168. FIXED ASSETS**

**Resolved:** to agree the Fixed Assets Register as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee.

**169. CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

The Parish Council discussed its role in the Climate Emergency and received a report on a climate change talk at the Somer Valley Forum from Cllr Hopkins, who is now Vice Chair of the Forum.

**Resolved:** (1) That the Parish Council declares a Climate Emergency and forms a Working Group to investigate effective responses, such as putting electric charging points in the car parks under the control of the Parish Council.

(2) That the Working Group consists of Cllrs Cox, Mansell and Wallbridge and members of the public and reports back to the Parish Council.

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Signed ..... Dated .....

**Westfield Parish Council**

**170. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY**

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting is at 7pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Westfield.

**171. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

(1) Cllr Cooper reported that Mardon's Club was flooded in the recent rain, with events cancelled. It was queried why B&NES does not enforce the requirements of the planning decision.

(2) Backed by SSAFA, Radstock Museum is holding a Veterans Drop In on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

(3) Cllr Jackson suggested we ask the Church Tuesday afternoon Knit and Natter group if they would knit poppies for the railings.

**172. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

(1) The Chairman outlined a recent conversation with a Highways Officer of B&NES and the Parish Council confirmed that (1) a mini roundabout would be supported in principle at Charlton Road/ Fosse Way South junction; and (2) more information about the implications of removing the grass verge outside the schools on Longfellow Road to create parking spaces would be appreciated.

(2) Shakespeare Road Play Area is opening at 3.45pm on 3/3/20, all were welcome and there had been good local feedback on the new play equipment.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, it was confirmed that this Parish Council is not a party-political Council.

(4) It would be nice to give out VE Day 75 commemorative coins as prizes on VE Day. These are available, one per household, for £5 + p+p. If any Councillors might help by purchasing one, they would be refunded by the Parish Council.

**173. B&NES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr Jackson reported the following

(1) The progress of several problematic planning applications, which had received consent but were proving difficult to deliver because of the apparent necessity for a lane closure on the Wellsway.

(2) B&NES has confirmed CIL funding is imminent for the Cobblers Way development.

(3) A Stop Order had been placed on the caravan on land next to the Railway.

(4) B&NES has agreed a 3.99% Council Tax increase, half of which is for adult social care, some of which is being brought back in-house.

(5) There is dissemination of information from B&NES on Covid 19.

(6) Fruit trees, which had been presented to B&NES by Extinction Rebellion, were given to Westfield Primary School for their arboretum.

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Signed ..... Dated .....

**Westfield Parish Council**

- (7) Cllr Hopkins asked for transparency on where the £186,000 reported in the press as being awarded to Peasedown St John Council from B&NES for community projects, had come from.
- (8) Poppy seeds had been obtained for planting on VE Day 75.

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.

**174. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes were noted.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

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Signed ..... Dated .....