

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Boardroom, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on Monday 4th December 2017 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller

Cllrs D Cooper, J Honess, R Hopkins, E Jackson, B Wallbridge,
P Wilkinson and P Williams

Absent: Cllrs A Butcher, K Docherty and L Mansell

Attending: L Welch, Parish Clerk

The Parish Council presented local resident, Joan Pack with flowers and a card in recognition of all her work in putting together the Westfield Exhibition at Radstock Museum. Her work on the Westfield heritage in the Neighbourhood Plan had been equally vital.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Butcher and Mansell.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- Cllr Jackson declared a personal interest in items 11 Fredericks Foundation and 18 Funding for the Trinity Westfield Methodist Church, as a member of Council of Westfield Trinity Methodist Church.
- Cllr Hopkins declared a personal interest in item 7 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group as he personally knows some of the Downtons family, in relation to the Downtons lorry which had difficulty leaving the estate due to parking congestion.

123. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 6th Nov 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of 6th November 2017 be amended in the Public Comments, second paragraph, penultimate line, with the amendment of 'committee' to 'council'. With this amendment the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman..

124. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 14th November 2017

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 14th November 2017 be noted.

Cllr Jackson informed Councillors of a site meeting relating to 3 Ruskin Road.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 22nd November 2017

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 22nd November 2017 be noted.

Cllr Jackson requested an item on the next Committee agenda to query whether the Parish Council should change bank.

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

There were no items of £5000 or over to consider.

126. DRAFT BUDGET 2018 19

The Committee considered the draft budget in detail.

Resolved: to agree the budget in principle, pending the tax base and precept calculation.

127. WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

It was noted that the Reg 14 consultation ends on 11th December. The Pre-submission draft is on the website along with details of how to make comments.

Cllr Hopkins reported on a meeting with an Agent to discuss the possible expansion of the Trading Estate in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. Parking provision for the whole estate had been discussed and the difficulties of large vehicle trying to manoeuvre in and out due to parked cars.

128. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

It was noted that the BANES Housing Officers had combined Westfield with Clandown, Writhlington and Haydon in gathering data for housing need. Westfield has its own housing needs assessment via the Neighbourhood Plan and it is important that an understanding of

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Westfield's housing needs, as a different community from Radstock, is established.

The recent Westfield exhibition at Radstock Library was an impressive step forward in clarifying the unique history and community of Westfield.

129. GRASS CUTTING IN WESTFIELD

The Council discussed the grass cutting report and the complex issues surrounding the poor grass cutting service in Westfield.

Resolved: (1) to set up a Working Group consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, the Chair of E&D and the Chair of F&P, with the remit of exploring options for an improved grass cutting service in Westfield;
(2) the Clerk to seek formal advice through ALCA regarding the legal aspect of BANES not giving full consideration to the Parish Council's request for the devolution of the failing grass cutting service in Westfield.

130. SHAKESPEARE ROAD PLAY AREA AND A LINK TO THE NEW PARK AT MIDSOMER NORTON

The Parish Council received a report outlining £60,000 in s.106 funding at BANES for the improvement to Shakespeare Road Play area and £35,000 for improvements to green space, which it was suggested was put towards creating a wildlife trail linking Westfield to the new park at Midsomer Norton.

Resolved To support both projects, and, in relation to the play park, to widen the consultation on the new play equipment to include local nurseries and residents who looked out on to that area.

131. FREDERICKS FOUNDATION AND FUNDING FOR THE TRINITY WESTFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

With the agreement of the Council, item 18 Funding for the Trinity Westfield Methodist Church, was moved up the agenda and included with this item.

The Committee received an update from BANES on the position in relation to the Fredericks Foundation funding in the amount of £130,000 for Westfield and Radstock. This funding had not yet been returned by the Fredericks Foundation to BANES and was awaiting an audit because it had been used as match funding for a Rural Growth Fund bid.

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It was noted that BANES would like details of projects in Westfield which could be put forward for funding, given that they receive the funds back after the audit.

- Resolved:**(1) that Cllr Jackson talks to BANES about the progress of the return of the funds and the procedure for accessing those funds in Westfield.
- (2) Cllrs Hopkins and Honess to take to RAWDAG the projects and costings which Westfield Parish Council would like to put forward for funding from the Fredericks Foundation, should it become available.
- (3) that the Parish Council supports two projects for Fredericks Foundation funding, should it be available: (1) changing Rooms at Westhill Recreation Ground and (2) renovation of the Trinity Methodist Church hall, the costings for which were circulated and it was noted that £10-£15,000 would enable the project to go ahead in Westfield.
- (4) the Clerk to contact Trinity Methodist Church to let them know that their project was one of two projects which are supported by the Parish Council for Fredericks Foundation funding, should those funds be available. But that it was by no means clear that such funding was available, given that it had not been returned to BANES and it was undergoing audit.
- (5) Initial costings be sought for stand alone changing rooms at Westhill Recreation Ground.

132. LIBRARIES

Cllr Jackson gave an update on the closure of branch libraries and the nearest mobile library, which is Writhlington.

133. SUGAR SMART

The Parish Council considered a request to make a pledge to the Sugar Smart campaign.

Resolved: not to complete a pledge, given that there are a number of health campaigns and a reluctance to sign up to one above another.

134. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Radstock Museum: Cllr Jackson reported on a successful Christmas Fayre.

Youth Provision in Westfield: The Parish Council considered a request for a Trustee for a new staff co-operative to deliver youth provision in this area.

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Resolved: not to appoint a Trustee until more information is received about the new arrangements.

135. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hopkins for his role at the Christmas Lights Switch on and all involved in the event. He also thanked him for attending the Remembrance events on his behalf.

The Chairs Allowance this year is going back into the community again with donations to organisations such as SWALLOW, Teddy Bears Nursery, St Peters Church and Trinity Methodist Church, Westfield.

136. B&NES COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Parish Council received an email from Cllr Moss requesting £1,500 towards the £5000 needed for a traffic survey in Welton Road. It was felt that this is not an appropriate use of Parish Council funds.

Resolved: (1) to seek a meeting with Kelvin Packer and/or Kris Gardom in relation to the safety audit of the A367 and the roads off it. This had been discussed in a meeting in February and the timescale was requested;
(2) Cllr Wallbridge to research wording to outline BANE's legal responsibility to respond to improvements at Welton Road.

Cllr Jackson circulated a questionnaire on restricted access to fertility treatments. She outlined bed blocking at Paulton Hospital due to BANEs being unable to get assessments undertaken. She raised concerns about the move to stop meals on wheels and concern about the outsourcing of health services.

137. WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL AWARD

The Chairman referred to the flowers and card which had been presented to Joan Pack in recognition of her work for the Westfield Exhibition. He outlined the importance of encouraging the local community by awarding residents for doing exceptional things in the community and building community spirit.

Resolved: that a Westfield Award be developed possibly with a medal and certificate and a roll of honour. This to be developed further next year.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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