

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Boardroom, The Oval Office,
Cobblers Way, Westfield on
Monday 4th February 2019 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller

Cllrs: A Butcher, D Cooper, J Honess, R Hopkins (Vice Chair), E Jackson, L Mansell, B Wallbridge, P Williams and P Wilkinson

Attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk;

Also attending: Neil Rogers, Truespeed

Absent: Cllr: K Docherty

Comments from the public

Neil Rogers Community Engagement Manager of Truespeed outlined the possibility of bringing upload and download speeds of 200mbs to Westfield and circulated information.

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- Cllr Jackson declared an interest in Comments from the public as a BT Shareholder.
- Cllrs Fuller, Jackson and Mansell declared interests in item 19 Feasibility Study for a stand alone pavilion at Westhill, as they knew one of the people tendering.
- Cllr Jackson raised the fact that with the exception of herself and Cllr Mansell the precept was being set by Councillors who live in the Parish. The Clerk confirmed that it was generally accepted that liability to pay council tax did not constitute a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

148. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7th January 2019

Resolved: the minutes of 7th January 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

149. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 14th January 2019

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

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

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 23rd January 2019

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 23rd January be noted.

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

There were no items over £5,000.

Resolved: that the outstanding EMR for Neighbourhood Plan in the amount of £2,626 be transferred to a new EMR for 'Street Scene Maintenance'.

151. BUDGET 2019/20

Resolved: (1) that any budget and general reserve surplus at year end be paid into the Rolling Capital reserve
(2) that £5,000 budgeted for Rolling Capital Reserve (4990/199) be removed from the draft budget
(3) that the budget for Westfield Fun Day (Community Projects 4243/202) be increased to £5,000
(4) To agree the budget as recommended by Finance and Personnel Committee and as circulated with the agenda.

152. PRECEPT 2019/20

Resolved: To agree the precept as recommended by Finance and Personnel Committee in the amount of £198,650 for 2019/20 which represents a 3.51% increase (£3.47 per annum) increase on a Band D council tax property.

153. PRECEPT LEAFLET 2019/20

Resolved: To amend the precept leaflet at page 2 bullet point 7 to add 'and campaigns to keep footpaths clear' and at page 2, 3rd paragraph to amend Westfield Methodist Hall to Trinity Methodist Hall Westfield. Also to remove the italics from the headings. With these amendments the precept leaflet was agreed.

154. WESTFIELD'S GREEN AND OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had met that evening. Cllr Hopkins as Chair of the Working Group reported on a helpful contribution to the discussion from the local Police,

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that enhancement of local green spaces was being explored and bids for s.106 funding were being prepared.

155. GRASS CUTTING WORKING GROUP: LAND AT MAY TREE ROAD, HOLLY WALK, CHESTNUT CLOSE AND CHERRY TREE CLOSE

Correspondence was noted from BANES outlining the fact that for the next year, whilst they would undertake grass cutting for a fee, they will not take responsibility or indemnify the above pieces of amenity land.

All Councillors were given an opportunity to express their views, which ranged from the responsibility to residents, being cautious about exactly what might be taken on, the legal advice from NALC, the suggestion of setting up a Trust or Service Level Agreement with the Crown.

The Chair proposed that the Parish Council pays BANES to cut the grass and pays public liability for the land. This was seconded by Cllr Cooper and **not carried** (1 for, 6 against, 3 abstentions).

The Chair proposed that legal advice be sought from Thatcher and Hallam to enforce BANE's responsibility to continue to take responsibility for the land. This was **carried** (7 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions).

156. AMENITY LAND AT RUSKIN ROAD

Correspondence from BANES was considered outlining the fact that legal action could not be taken to stop cars travelling across green amenity land.

Resolved: that Cllr Jackson be asked to see this matter debated at a BANES' meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair would wish to attend/speak.

157. FUN FAIR 2019

Resolved: (1) that the Fun Fair should come on site 12th May, operating 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th May and leaving 20th May (8 days on site in total).

(2) that insurance and safety documentation should be sent two weeks in advance, with one week's grace to pick up any anomalies. If the anomalies were not resolved in that week the Fun Fair would not be allowed on site.

158. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The offer from BANES of voluntary work via the Bath Ramblers Volunteer Group was considered.

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Resolved: That BANES be asked that the cutting back of the vegetation along the heritage walks in Waterside Valley and its waymarking be considered for the volunteer group.

159. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The Expo 2019 on 21st June in Worcester was considered.

Resolved: To purchase tickets for three delegates. The names to be agreed after the May elections.

160. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

There were no outside bodies reports.

161. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillors were asked to give thought to the nominations for the Inspirational Citizen Award and application forms were circulated.

162. B&NES COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Jackson reported on

- The Vision for Public Health
- BANES has still not signed off the future provision of youth services
- Cuts to music in schools
- The Health and Well-being board and Select Committee
- The ending of renal service delivery at the RUH
- The clean air zone proposals on hold for now
- A public consultation on transport to hospitals

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.

163. INSTALLATION OF HANGING BASKETS AT ELM TREE AVENUE SHOPS

To summarise, the quotes so far for four free standing hanging basket trees at the Elm Tree Avenue shops were Trenching by Oakus - **£2,715** plus VAT , purchase of the hanging basket trees - **£2,450**. Quotes for project managing and installing the automatic watering systems had not come in.

Resolved: that the final quotes continue to be chased.

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164. FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A STAND ALONE PAVILION AT WESTHILL RECREATION GROUND

Three quotes were received by the Committee as follows:

Western Building Consultants	Robert Taylor Architect	Andrew Barnes Architectural Design Technician
£8,450	£9,500	£2,500

Resolved: that it be delegated to Cllrs James Honess, Diana Cooper and Phil Wilkinson to look in detail at the quotes, the experience, remit and indemnity of those quoting and make a decision to enable the Clerk to apply for funding for this work from the s.106 funds for Green Spaces in Westfield.

165. NORWEST BOWLS CLUB RENT REVIEW

The correspondence from Norwest Bowls Club was considered.

Resolved: Not to hold a meeting with the Club about the rent review, but to direct all negotiation through the Solicitor.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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