

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Boardroom, The Oval Office,
Cobblers Way, Westfield on
Monday 6th January 2020 commencing at 7.00pm

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

Attending: Lesley Close, Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant.

Absent: Cllrs J Honess, R Moss and P Wilkinson

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllrs J Honess, R Moss and P Wilkinson.

It was noted that Cllr Lauren Barnes has stepped down from her role as Councillor due to work commitments.

Resolved: to display the notice of vacancy.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

132. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd December 2019

Resolved: The minutes of 2nd December 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

133. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9th December 2019

Resolved: That the minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting held on 9th December be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 11th December 2019

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

Resolved: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 11th December be noted.

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

There were no items over £5,000 for consideration.

135. BUDGET 2020/21 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE F&P COMMITTEE

Item 202/4223 – Christmas lights. Council thanked the Finance Officer for the work done on an excellent lights display through Westfield.

Item 102/4210 – Website. A question was raised regarding the cost of accessibility. Cllr Cox reported that he had seen the quote from a reputable company to make the website more accessible, and recommended that to build a new website would be more cost effective.

Resolved: to accept the budget for 2020/21 as recommended by the F&P Committee.

Council thanked the Finance Officer for an excellent set of accounts.

136. GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE F&P COMMITTEE

Resolved: to accept the Grievance and Disciplinary procedures as recommended by the F&P Committee.

137. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Website accessibility was discussed with a view to going to tender for a new website, due to the recommendation from F&P that it would be more cost effective than trying to make the existing website compliant with the new accessibility regulation.

Some of the elements of a new website were considered to be:

- Tie-ins to Google Drive to make folders available to Councillors
- Tie-ins to Google Calendar
- A content management system, such as Word Press
- Analytics, so we can understand how it is being used
- Digital Noticeboard, where people can submit items
- It must be responsive, ie. able to function on a mobile or tablet.

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Resolved: to go to tender to create a new website.

138. PAVILION AT WESTHILL RECREATION GROUND

The modified design was discussed.

Resolved: (1) to accept the design with the sloping roof with the following modifications:

- Heightening the building
- Not abutting the fence to the building
- Considering an overhang on all sides
- A spiky leafguard (elevated so that a football can roll off the roof unimpeded)
- Other means of designing out any climbing potential such as anti-vandal paint, anti-climb spikes or razor channels.

(2): to ask for further information on the following:

- The possibility and cost of solar panels/ tesla roof tiles.
- A system to use harvested rainwater to flush toilets
- The durability of the skylights and whether, if they were to be taken out, to have automatic lights systems that came on and off as people entered/left the building.

139. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The Ward Councillors were asked if they could approach B&NES with regard to signposting. It was noted that there are no signs to Westfield as you approach from any direction. It was also noted that there are several redundant signs that are still in place, for example one to Norton Radstock College, which is now Bath College. Cllr Jackson said that she will pursue this with B&NES.

Cllr Jackson noted that the local Member of Parliament, the Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg does not hold any of his surgeries in Westfield and resolved to write to him to request that he does so.

Further to there being no response yet from B&NES Cabinet member Neil Butters after his visit to Westfield and Ruskin Road it was requested that the Ward Councillors arrange a meeting with a senior member of officer at B&NES to discuss. It was also suggested that it could be brought to the attention of the local MP.

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140. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Radstock Museum - Cllr Jackson advised that the museum is putting together material relating to local celebrities and asked Councillors to advise her of any Westfield candidates

141. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Fuller wished everyone a Happy New Year and said he looked forward to moving forward with the targets that have been set for this year.

142. B&NES COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Jackson reported on the following:

- The site behind the Railway Inn and advised that there is to be a notice served to the owners requesting information about their intentions with the site.
- A new monitoring officer has been appointed at B&NES.
- The Chief Executive, Will Godfrey, is to attend Westfield and Cllr Jackson asked Council for priorities to bring to his attention and to show him.
- There is to be a special meeting of full B&NES council on Thursday 16th January with regard to the failure of the Joint Spatial Plan.
- It was requested that Cllr Jackson finds out what is happening with the Shambles site, as development there seems to be delayed.

Cllr Hopkins raised concern regarding mis-information that he had received from B&NES with regard to the repair of a zebra crossing beacon in Westfield. He will write a formal letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of B&NES and keep Cllr Jackson informed.

The meeting closed at 8:14pm

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