

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Boardroom, The Oval Office,
Cobblers Way, Westfield on
Monday 6th November 2017 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr G Fuller

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

Apologies: Cllrs A Butcher, E Jackson and L Mansell

Attending: Tracey Stephens, Admin Assistant, Duncan Kerr, Business
Growth Team Manager, BaNES and 6 members of the public

Mr Mike Martin and Revd Jan Tate of Trinity Methodist Church, Westfield, attended the meeting to explain their case for the grant towards improvements needed in the church hall. This is minuted in item 112 – Support for a request for funds from the Fredericks Foundation from Trinity Methodist Church, Westfield

Mr John Hamer stood, representing the Neighbourhood Watch scheme on Welton Road. He reported concern from residents regarding the traffic on Welton Road. Vehicles are using the road as a rat run and take no notice of the speed limit of 20mph. The addition of a construction centre at the Bath College has increased by 500 the number of students attending the college, which has increased the traffic and pedestrians on the road considerably. He has had discussions with Stefan Chiffers of BaNES, who has recommended a feasibility study, but has said that it will cost around £5,000 and BaNES don't have the budget for it. Mr Hamer is attending a committee meeting at BaNES on Thursday to highlight the concerns.

A resident of Longfellow Road stood to explain to Council his concerns regarding inconsiderate parking on the road, into Wesley Avenue, by people who are using the school. He pointed out that minibuses and taxis are using Wesley Avenue and Longfellow Road as a route to the school and not using the main road, which is causing extra strain on the area.

Another resident of Longfellow Road said that the 20mph limit is regularly ignored and that people are parking on the bus stop there and on Wesley Avenue. He wondered why staff from the café at Fosse Way school have been asking for sponsorship, raising concerns that they are looking to increase business, leading to more problems with parking. He also pointed out that there is to be a large development of houses in Westfield, which will impact on the school.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Butcher and Jackson

105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest

106. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd October 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of 2nd October 2017 be signed as a correct record.

107. BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT WORK IN WESTFIELD

The Council welcomed Duncan Kerr, Business Growth Team Leader in BANES. Mr Kerr said that he was attending the meeting as information sharing and a call to action for the Council to alert his team to any requests for assistance from local businesses in Westfield. He advised that Sara Dixon has alerted him to the traffic conditions on Westfield Industrial Estate and that Biggs has been approached with regard to extending the car parking facilities on site. He explained that his team are starting to get the resources needed to, hopefully, be able to help businesses on the estate.

He reported that in his discussions with business owners it became apparent that broadband connectivity was an issue that needs to be addressed and advised that there is a voucher scheme that can be accessed with a pot of £2m available to bid for a share of.

It was pointed out that infrastructure is an issue in Westfield and that fast broadband schemes were vital to enable access for businesses.

108. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 9th October 2017

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 9th October 2017 be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 18th October 2017

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 18th October 2017 be noted.

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Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

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

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

110. WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

It was noted that the Reg 14 consultation started on 30th October and concludes 11th December. The Pre submission draft is on the website for comments. Thanks were given to those that had done all the hard work that has gone into preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

111. GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

An additional award was noted for £37 for poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday ceremonies in Midsomer Norton and Radstock

Resolved: To accept the recommendations from the Grants Sub Committee for the awarding of grants.

112. SUPPORT FOR A REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM THE FREDERICKS FOUNDATION FROM TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, WESTFIELD

The suitability of the Fredericks Foundation to fund this project was questioned, and it was not clear how much funding was needed.

Resolved: (1) to add the request for funding to the next agenda as a confidential item.

(2) to add an item to the next agenda concerning clarification of the current position of the Fredericks Foundation money.

113. CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

It was reported that a BaNES official had commented in a social situation that Westfield Parish Council is a very efficiently run council.

114. ST HUGH'S

The developer interested in St Hugh's did not attend the meeting, so no discussion took place.

115. COUNCILLORS' DISQUALIFICATIONS

The consultation from ALCA regarding Councillors' disqualifications was noted

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116. LIBRARIES

This was deferred to the next meeting

117. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT

Cllr Wallbridge had attended a meeting of councils in the Somer Valley with regard to broadband in the region. It was felt that the Somer Valley councils should get together to ask a provider for a commercial deal, with the support of the populous. Further meetings are to be held to establish how to progress this further.

Mardons – Cllr Cooper reported that there is a problem with the number of young people that are gathering outside Mardon’s club, who are not there because of the club, but that it is a convenient place to congregate. There has been some anti-social behaviour at the gatherings, with car windscreens being smashed. PC Mark Graham has been called out and has spoken to the youths. Bill Stevenson of the club has also spoken to them and the situation seems to have abated slightly. The club said that if they report to the police they always get a good response. However, on this occasion it has not alleviated the problem

Resolved: to send an email to the police asking for further involvement from them to disperse the youths concerned

118. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman thanked all those involved in the Westfield exhibition at Radstock Museum, with special thanks to Emily for her work on the publicity, Cllrs Jackson and Hopkins and again special thanks to Mrs Joan Pack who had put a lot of information together and had a lot of local knowledge.

Resolved: to invite Joan to the next Council meeting to convey Council’s thanks

119. B&NES COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

There was no BaNES councillor at the meeting.

120. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Westfield Parish Council award – do we want to create an award for Person of the Year?

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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Signed Dated