

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 10th July 2023 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Diana Cooper (Chair), Geoff Fuller, James Honess, Ron Hopkins (Vice Chair), Eleanor Jackson, Paul Millard, Phil Wilkinson and Pat Williams

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk, Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk, one member of the public

32. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

There were no apologies for absence

33. Declarations of interest and dispensation

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 5 – Planning items for consideration as a member of the Church Council.
Cllr Williams declared an interest in item 16 – Grass cutting schedules as she lives at Fossey Gardens.

34. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th June 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

35. Neighbourhood Plan working group

Cllr Hopkins reported on the meeting that had taken place before this one. One resident attended and Councillors were asked if they knew anyone else that may be interested in being part of the working group. Cllr Hopkins advised he was to meet with BaNES officers and establish objectives. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th September, 7pm.

36. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following:

23/02143/TPO	39a Nightingale Way	Lime Tree, TPO 533/35, reduce main canopy by up to 2m max. Reduce to areas/limbs further than max 2m, remove identified lower limbs, remove all epicormic growth from main stem, remove deadwood
23/02244/FUL	Byfields, Wells Road	Remove of existing single storey side extensions, part of the existing swimming pool and building and all the garage outbuildings. Construction of new single storey side extensions, a new car ort and a new Gym building (Resubmission).

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Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

23/02064/OUT, 60 Wells Road, Erection of 2no.dwellings on land to west of existing dwelling (Outline application with all matters reserved)

The committee objected to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment.

37.Planning Decisions

There were no planning decisions to note. Cllr Hopkins asked if there was any further information on enforcement in the area – specifically the caravan behind the Railway Inn. There was nothing to report – Cllr Jackson to chase it up with BaNES.

38.B&NES Local Plan: The Future of the Somer Valley and Surrounding Areas Consultation

There was to be a meeting – Somer Valley Area workshop – on 26th July. Cllr Hopkins to attend and report back to Council.

39.Somer Valley Links Project – Consultation from WECA

Cllr Hopkins to attend a consultation event on 12th July and report back to Council.

40.Reporting on speed data collected on A367 w/c 7th June

The data provided by cameras along the A367 was discussed.

Resolved: (1) to include the data in the Neighbourhood Plan Review, possibly requesting more speed signs.
(2) to ask BaNES how to go about getting more speed indicator signs as this seemed to slow traffic by the primary school.

41.Enterprise Zone

The response from Sophie Broadfield was noted.

42.The Extended Bio-Diversity Duty for Public Authorities

Resolved: to recommend the draft policy for adoption by the Parish Council.

43.Meeting with the Dog Warden 22nd June

Options to encourage people to keep their dogs on leads at the recreation grounds were discussed in detail.

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Westfield Parish Council

Resolved: (1) to get a final cost for security to patrol Westhill at certain times of the day for up to 5 hours a week. This to be a trial for one month.

(2) to delegate authority to Cllrs Cooper and Wilkinson to set a budget and approve the costings.

(3) to investigate the possibility of someone going into schools to discuss with the children.

44. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

New office – It was noted that we had received two tenders.

Resolved: to extend the deadline to the end of July

Grant for pitch improvements – an update was given. The Pitchpower inspection had been received and the funding application was due to be submitted.

45. Recreation Ground - Westhill

Changing Rooms – It was noted that Westhill Club's Solicitors had submitted the paperwork to Land Registry and were waiting for a response.

46. Waterside Valley

Hedgerow improvements – A report was given on the meeting on site with Sonia Parsons of CPRE. There is to be a walk in the summer for volunteers to see what work is to be done and work to commence in October.

A summary of items discussed with Miriam Woolnough was circulated.

Grass cutting in Westfield – notes of the meeting with B&NES officers were circulated.

Resolved: to suggest to B&NES that the verges along the A367 are cut on the 4-6 week cycle and that grass spaces at Chaucer Road and Shakespeare Road (from the play area to the pit path) were put on the longer schedule.

47. Events

Grant presentation event – Cllr Cooper reported that Mardons committee meeting was on Thursday and she will report back on the possibility of holding the grant presentation there.

80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6th June 2024 – Discussion was held about holding an event for the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June 2024. It was

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agreed that it would be good to hold an event of some kind and ideas were circulated.

Resolved: to make this a rolling item on the agenda.

Jesters Carnival Club event at Westhill on 6th August – agreed that their public liability insurance should match the Parish Council's of £10million and that their current insurance fell short in that it did not cover the event as a whole and omitted items such as temporary structures (gazebos) and bouncy castles.

Remembrance - Dressing of Graves – the correspondence from the Royal British Legion was noted.

48. Barriers on the footpaths at Inner Elm Terrace / Wesley Ave and Woodpecker Ave / Lynton Road

The responses to the consultations were noted. Most residents were against the installation of barriers at Inner Elm Terrace/Wesley Ave, but there was a more positive response to a barrier at Woodpecker Avenue/Lynton Road.

Resolved: (1) not to go ahead with barriers at Inner Elm Terrace/Wesley Ave
(2) to get professional accessibility advice about the best spacing for a chicane at Woodpecker Avenue/Lynton Road footpath.

49. Facilities for Young People - Meeting with the Police

It was noted that there had been no response from the police to a request for a date for the next meeting.

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.

The member of the public left the meeting.

50. Quotes

Bridges at Waterside Valley – There had only been one quote for the bridges at Waterside Valley. More were expected.

Dogs on leads signs –

Resolved: to accept the quote from Speed Signs for £248 + VAT each. One to be placed at Norton Hill and one at Westhill.

The meeting closed at 8:47pm

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Signed **Dated**