

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 12th June 2023 commencing at 7pm.

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

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk, Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk,

Absent: Cllrs Geoff Fuller and Paul Millard

Phoebe Webster of Somer Valley Rediscovered and Emily Malik of EcoWild attended to present the work they were undertaking on Social Prescribing. Attendees would be given activities outside all year around – six times six week sessions - and they were requesting permission to use a fire bowl on the land at Waterside Valley. A full draft risk assessment had been sent and it was proposed that the fire bowl would be used to keep people warm in the colder weather as this prescription was to get people moving around outside in all weathers.

19. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Fuller and Millard.

20. Declarations of interest and dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

21. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

22. Neighbourhood Plan working group

Cllr Hopkins reported on the resolution to form a working group and put forward a proposed amended Neighbourhood Plan.

23. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following:

23/01956/FUL	1 Shelley Road	Erection of a single storey side extension, erection of wall to south-west boundary and increase height of south-east boundary
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**30.05.2023 22/02932/FUL CURO Orchard Vale, Midsomer Norton
Isabel Daone Demolition of Nos.26 and 28 Orchard Vale and
development of 60 new homes with open space, landscaping and all
associated infrastructure (Cross boundary application with Mendip).**

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

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Committee reiterated previous comments. “ Whilst this is a cross border planning application, it is recognised that the highways implications will be most severe within B&NES. This is true not just in the immediate vicinity of the application, but also within the wider highways infrastructure. In particular, Westfield Parish Council is concerned about the impact of this application on traffic on the A367. The Parish Council asks that this is examined in detail. The additional 60 houses will place an undue burden on this road which already suffers severe congestion and high levels of air pollution through the Westfield community.”

Committee also commented that there would be considerable extra pressure on local services

24. Planning Decisions

There were no planning decisions to note

25. Local Green Space review

Resolved: There were no spaces in Westfield to put forward under this review.

Parking Restrictions Consultation – there were two proposed parking restriction notices applying to Westfield. The restriction on Wells Road was not clear. There were no comments relating to proposed restrictions at St Peters Road.

Resolved: Clerk to clarify the length of the restriction proposed on Wells Road.

WESTlocal – A fund was available from WECA with the view to help communities design and run their own version of new public transport in their area. How to access this fund was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact a coach company in the area to discuss further.

26. Meeting with the Police

An update was given on the meeting with the Police, Sam Plummer of Youth Connect and a local parent.

Resolved: (1) to obtain a quote for a barrier at Inner Elm Terrace and Lynton Road to Woodpecker Avenue to prevent bikes from travelling at speed in the area.

(2) to consult with residents near these pathways.

(3) to then seek funding from the PCC Road Safety Fund and the High Sheriff’s Neighbourhood and PCSP Policing Fund.

(4) to try to arrange the next meeting at 6pm on 10/7/23

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Signed **Dated**

27. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

New Office – It was noted that the closing date for tenders had been extended to the end of June.

Damage to coping stones by tennis court

Resolved: to accept the quote from Foundations Up for £660 to repair and replace the coping stones by the steps to the tennis court.

Football at Norton Hill and Westhill –

A report was given on a meeting with representatives from Westfield A and Somer Valley Reserves, who both use Norton Hill currently and would like to use Westhill when facilities are available. The meeting was to discuss obtaining funding to repair the football pitches.

Resolved: Office to submit a grant application to the Football Foundation with the assistance of Simon Cox of Westfield Football Club and Tim Wells of Somer Valley Football Club.

28. Recreation Ground - Westhill

Dogs on leads – Comments from concerned residents were received.

Resolved: The Clerk to discuss with the Dog Warden at B&NES to investigate a way of encouraging dog walkers to abide by the rule to keep dogs on leads.

29. Waterside Valley

Hedgerow improvements – communication had been received from Sonia Parsons of CPRE regarding the possibility of training volunteers to manage the hedgerows at Waterside Valley.

Resolved: to set up a meeting with Sonia Parsons and any volunteers that may be interested.

Motorbikes – an email had been received from a resident about motorbikes between Westfield and Haydon Batch. This had been discussed with the police and the resident encouraged to discuss further with the police.

Resolved: to respond to the resident advising action is being taken.

Fire bowl used by EcoWild – Committee discussed the proposition given by Phoebe Webster and Emily Malik at the start of the meeting.

Resolved: to allow the use of a fire bowl by EcoWild with the proviso that it was used in one designated area and the risk assessment

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ensured proper disposal after sessions had completed, by a vote of 6 for and 1 against.

30. Events

Possible Fun Day at Norton Hill – No further communication had been received from Dan Moyse so no further action to be taken.

Remembrance –

Resolved: (1) to thank Chris Maddox of Bridges for the invitation to join them at their Remembrance service on Friday 10th November.
(2) Cllr Jackson reported that the Methodist Church would include the laying of wreaths at the Memorial Stone on Remembrance Sunday. No event for Remembrance is to be organised by the Parish Council.

Grant presentation event – Cllr Cooper was to discuss this further with Mardons.

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.

31. Quotes

Fencing at Ash Tree Court –

Resolved: to accept the quote from C&R Fencing for £583 to repair the fencing at Ash Tree Court/Westhill Recreation Ground with chain link fencing, asking if a different colour would make the fence more visible. Should this be the case and more expensive, to delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Council to decide whether to go ahead.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

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Signed **Dated**