

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 11th September 2023 commencing at 7pm.

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Phil Wilkinson

51. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilkinson and accepted.

52. Declarations of interest and dispensation

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 7 – Mendip Local Plan Part II as a member of the Local Development Forum and Planning Policy committee.

Cllr Hopkins declared an interest in item 5 – Planning applications for consideration - 23/03346/FUL - as he lives next door to 30 Wells Road.

53. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 10th July 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

54. Neighbourhood Plan working group

Cllr Hopkins gave a report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan review. It was noted that B&NES have been asking the Parish Council to delay it's review of the plan. Work will continue to go on to highlight the areas that require amendments while further meetings will be put on hold until a future date.

55. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following:

23/02874/FUL	Unit 1, First Avenue	Change of use of existing classes E(g)/B2/B8, the erection of a rear canopy and secure fence with new access gates to create a secure service year. Insertion of 1 loading bay door and 2x dock levellers, upgrade of the external wall cladding and roof cladding with the inclusion of solar
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Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

		panels and rooflights. Provision of new cycle stores and new hard surfacing.
23/03346/FUL	Summerfield, 30 Wells Road	Erection of first floor side extension

23/03260/FUL – 1 Orchard Close, Erection of a detached triple garage with annex over

The Committee objected to this application on the grounds that, due to the materials proposed on the construction and the size, it was not in character with the rest of the development.

56. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

57. Mendip Local Plan Part II

The Mendip Local Plan Part II was noted

58. Speeding data collected on A367

A verbal report was given that the office had approached David Boardman of B&NES to enquire how to go about getting more speed signs for the A367. There had not yet been a response.

59. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

New office – An email from solicitors Wellers Hedley was circulated further to an enquiry made as the Parish Council is building on Trust land. It was noted that there is no requirement for a special concession from the Charities Commission as there is no request for a lease, but instead a licence to use the land.

Dogs on leads and in the play area – it was noted that a resident had asked for clearer signs for the play area stating that dogs are not permitted within the fenced area.

Resolved: to get signs for both gates to the play area

Vandalism over the summer – the spate of vandalism over the summer, and actions taken to rectify any damage, was noted.

60. Recreation Ground - Westhill

Changing Rooms – a letter from the solicitor was circulated. It was noted that the solicitor had suggested a meeting on site with representatives from the Club, the Parish Council and the solicitors.

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Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

Resolved: to arrange a meeting a Westhill with trustees from the Club, Councillors and solicitors.

Park Assistant Trial – Feedback from the security company that monitored the number of dogs on the recreation ground without leads was noted.

Resolved: to not continue with the Park Assistant at Westhill. However to continue to use social media and the Warbler to promote dogs on leads.

Vandalism over the summer – the spate of vandalism at the playground and the actions taken to rectify any damage were noted.

61. Waterside Valley

Grass Cutting – an update was given to note that Somer Valley Rediscovered had recommended that grass cutting was not done now as it was too late in the season and would be detrimental to the ground.

Resolved: to schedule a grass cut for early spring.

62. Events

Grant presentation event – It was noted that a grant presentation event had been organised for Tuesday 12th December from 6:30pm at Westhill Club. Cllr Jackson suggested that we could include the presentation of any Westfield in Bloom awards at the event, which all Councillors agreed as a good idea.

80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6th June 2024

Resolved: to not purchase a beacon for celebrating the D Day event but to mark it in a quiet and respectful way.

Christmas lights switch on – this event has been arranged for Thursday 30th November, starting at 6:30pm.

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

a. Inner Elm Terrace/Wesley Avenue and Woodpecker Avenue/Lynton Road

It was noted that a chicane was not feasible at Woodpecker Avenue/Lynton Road after an email from Alison Sherwin of B&NES explained that they would not concur with cycle guidance LTN 1/20. Bollards were suggested in its place, but it was felt that they would not have the desired effect.

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Resolved: to reply to the police that a chicane barrier would not be installed at Woodpecker Avenue/Lynton Road and that the response to the consultation at Inner Elm Terrace showed that residents were against barriers of any kind.

b. End of Chaucer Road

The request for a barrier to prevent pit bikes from coming from the Old Pit Road through the housing estate was noted. It was felt that there is no suitable spot for this barrier to work.

Resolved: to respond to the resident advising that it is not feasible to put a barrier at this location.

c. Linden Close

There were no locations at the entrance to the Waterside Valley from Linden Close which would be possible to install barriers to prevent pit bikes.

64. Love Parks Week and survey

A summary of activities undertaken during Love Parks week was noted. It was noted that this engendered good relations with the public and thanks were offered to Caitlin for the work.

65. Defibrillators update – Westhill Club and Elm Tree Avenue

An update was given on the two new defibrillators. The one at Westhill Club is due to go live on Friday 15th September and the one for the Co-op at Elm Tree Avenue was on order.

66. Communications – Facebook increase

The increase in traffic on Facebook and Instagram was noted and it was felt that it was good that there was more communication with the residents of Westfield, increasing the Community Identity of the Parish Council.

67. Meeting with Victor da Cunha

Cllr Jackson reported on a meeting with Victor da Cunha. She thanked Cllr Millard for his help with the visit to Westfield.

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.

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Signed Dated

68. Quotes

Bridges at Waterside Valley – The quotes had been opened under delegated authority during the summer and the Clerk had applied to the Sperring Charity (£5,000), the Quartet Express Fund (£5,000) and the B&NES Strategic CIL fund (£23,335). The outcome of the applications should be known in October.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm

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Signed **Dated**