

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Oval Office
Monday 2nd October 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr P Wilkinson
Cllrs: D Cooper, G Fuller, J Honess, E Jackson, R Hopkins, P Millard and P Williams

Attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk and Caitlin Brown, Admin Assistant

Absent: Cllr J Cradock and R Moss

70. Co-option

There had been no applications for co-option.

71. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cradock and Moss.

72. Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

73. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 4th September 2023

Resolved: the minutes of 4th September 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

74. Committee membership

Resolved: that Cllr Cradock should be a member of the Environment and Development Committee.

75. Committee and Working Group reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 11th September 2023

The minutes of the Environment and Development Committee meeting of 11th September 2023 were noted.

Building work at a property bordering Waterside Valley was discussed -

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

Resolved: (1) The Parish Council does not object to the reinstating of a wall and understands that access may be needed from Waterside Valley in order to undertake this work;

(2) It is acceptable to have access from the garden to Waterside Valley, providing that either (1) the steps themselves are within the boundary, with the gate on the boundary line; or (2) if the steps are outside of the boundary they should be of a non-permanent, wooden variety which can be attached and detached from the boundary wall;

(3) The Parish Council thanks the resident for their offer to re-seed, but would prefer to see the area grow back naturally.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 20th September 2023

The minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of 20th September were noted.

76. Approval of any items over £5000 and consideration of any virement

Resolved: to agree payment to Lamps and Tubes – Christmas Lights £6,030.

77. External Audit Report

Resolved: to note the External Audit Report.

78. Calendar of meetings 2024

Resolved: to agree the calendar of meetings 2024.

79. Outside Bodies reports

Radstock Museum – Cllr Jackson reported on the recent meeting and encouraged Councillors to support future events. The Museum's Christmas Fair is not yet confirmed.

Westfield in Bloom – Cllr Jackson reported she would attend the South West in Bloom award ceremony on 3rd October 2023. Cllr Jackson thanked Councillors for their support.

Mardons – Cllr Cooper reported a recent visit from Jacob Rees-Mogg MP.

Cllr Hopkins was nominated to the Standards Board (B&NES) by Cllr Wilkinson with the full support of other Councillors.

80. Creating Community Identity

Cllr Jackson reported that Christians Together have made arrangements for Remembrance Day.

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Cllr Wilkinson and Cllr Hopkins will attend a meeting with Chris Major, Assistant Director for Transport and Highways and Paul Garrod, Traffic and Network Manager B&NES on 13th October to discuss directional signage.

81. Chairman's report

- Cllr Wilkinson noted that there have been issues with Councillors receiving emails purported to be from him. Advice has been given on what to do if receiving such emails and support continues from the Council's IT support service.
- Cllr Wilkinson asked for volunteers to lay wreaths for Remembrance. Cllr Wilkinson will lay at Westfield, Cllr Cooper will lay at Midsomer Norton and Cllr Jackson will lay at Radstock.
- Cllr Wilkinson reported on the increasing cost of postage and discussed options for reducing this. A new system of distributing meeting agendas was agreed.

82. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' reports

Cllr Jackson gave her report:

- It was noted that there are new clergy in Westfield.
- Cllr Jackson reported on the B&NES Local Plan.
- Things continue to move forward with the development of the Radco site.
- Discussions and campaigning to reinstate local buses continues.
- Cllr Jackson reported on the Annual Youth Justice Report

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

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Signed Dated