

**Westfield Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 commencing at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Diana Cooper (Chair), Kit Biggs, Geoff Fuller, Ron Hopkins (Vice Chair) and Eleanor Jackson.

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

**Absent:** Cllrs James Cradock, Paul Millard, Pat Williams and Phil Wilkinson

**1. Election of Chair**

Cllr Jackson nominated Cllr Cooper, Cllr Hopkins seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**Resolved:** Cllr Cooper be elected Chair of the Environment and Development Committee 2024-25.

**2. Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Fuller nominated Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Jackson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**Resolved:** Cllr Hopkins be elected Vice Chair of the Environment and Development Committee 2024-25.

**3. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cradock, Millard, Williams and Wilkinson.

**4. Declarations of interest and dispensation**

- Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 6 – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group as a Director of RADCO.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**6. Neighbourhood Plan Review working group**

Cllr Hopkins and the Clerk reported on a meeting with B&NES Planning Officers that day. It was confirmed that the Housing Needs Survey carried out was suitable evidence to unlock the Local Plan Rural Exception Site Policy RA4 in Westfield.

**Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.**

**Signed .....** **Dated .....**

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**Resolved:** to approach a variety of Housing Associations to advise that B&NES Planners had confirmed that Housing Need in Westfield was such that it unlocked their Rural Exception Site Policy RA4 and suggesting that they consider submitting a planning application on land east of the industrial estate accordingly.

**7. Planning applications for consideration**

There were no objections to the following applications:

24/01263/FUL	11A, Glebelands	Erection of garage to side elevation
24/01402/FUL	12 Longfellow Road	Erection of a single storey rear extension and pitched roof single garage following demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory

**8. Planning Decisions**

The planning decisions were noted.

**9. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill**

**Tree roots at the football field** – A quote was brought to committee for removal of tree roots from the football field as they were considered a hazard, making the pitch unplayable. It was pointed out that this would be a one off cost as the Ash trees are being cut down.

**Resolved:** to accept the quote from Greensward for £850 + VAT to remove the tree roots from the football ground.

**10. Recreation Ground – Westhill**

**Changing Rooms** – the question was raised about whether planning permission would be needed to convert the old skittle alley to changing rooms. Cllr Jackson to investigate.

The plans were circulated.

**Resolved:** (1) to include in the spec the making good of the pothole at the entrance to the car park; (2) to go out to tender with the final plans; (3) to talk with Radstock TC about their experience of obtaining a Levelling Up grant.

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### 11. Waterside Valley

A verbal update was given on a recent meeting with Miriam Woolnough of Somer Valley Rediscovered.

A letter from a resident of Waterford Park showing concern over the state of the overgrown hedge/trees in the Valley had been received. The resident had already been advised that the Parish Council is working with Somer Valley Rediscovered and getting professional advice on how best to proceed.

### 12. Highways

#### ***Speed indicator devices – verbal update.***

Committee were advised that the signs had been ordered and things are moving along.

A letter had been received from a resident regarding motorbikes using the pathway between Lynton Road and Woodpecker Avenue, asking for some restrictions on the pathway. The resident had been advised that the Parish Council had done a survey last year. The majority response had meant that no further action was to be taken due to concern about accessibility. Cllr Hopkins advised that he thought he knew of a method that would mean motorbikes could not get through, but that accessibility for buggies and wheelchairs would be possible. Cllr Hopkins to investigate further.

### 13. Hanging basket and flag/Christmas tree poles weight testing -

Committee were advised that the work had been done on the brackets and flagpoles and all had now passed the weight test.

Concern was raised about a letter in the Journal from a resident who had complained to B&NES about the grass cutting in Westfield not being done and making Westfield very untidy. It was noted that some of the area around the shops/Wesley Road on the Wells Road was B&NES responsibility and some was CURO responsibility. Cllr Jackson had already contacted CURO to ask that the cut was done before the D-Day commemoration on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**Resolved:** (1) to make a request to B&NES to see the cutting schedule.  
(2) to send a letter to the Journal showing the Parish Council's concern about the same issue.

### 14. Events

***D-Day – 6<sup>th</sup> June:*** an update was given – all plans are in place for this event.

***30 Days Wild - June*** – an update was given of events and social media posts during this month.

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**Love Parks Week July/Aug** – an update was given of activities in the parks that week.

**Resolved:** to accept the quote of £50 an hour for Tai Chi during Love Parks Week.

To resolve that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

**15. Quotes**

***Plates to commemorate the 1908 pit explosion on the Norton Hill Coal Truck planter***

**Resolved:** to accept the quote of £672 plus VAT from Signefex for a plaque to commemorate the 1908 pit explosion on the Norton Hill Coal Truck planter.

***Repair to water leak at the allotments at Waterford Park.***

**Resolved:** to accept the quote of £750 plus VAT from Preston underground water services Ltd for excavation, repair of the leak and make good the area on completion.

The Social Media Policy for the Allotment Society was circulated and noted with no comments. Councillors thanked WAGS for advising Parish Council of the policy.

***Footbridge at Waterside Valley.***

A quote had been received to replace a footbridge at Waterside Valley.

**Resolved:** to bring back to the next meeting after investigating further options.

The meeting closed at 8:22pm

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**Signed .....** **Dated .....**