

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 8th July 2024 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Diana Cooper (Chair), Kit Biggs, Geoff Fuller, Ron Hopkins, Paul Millard, Phil Wilkinson and Eleanor Jackson.

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk, Caitlin Brown, Admin Assistant

Absent: Cllrs Pat Williams

29. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllr Williams.

30. Declarations of interest and dispensation

Cllr Jackson declared she is on the Planning Policy Committee.

31. Minutes of the last meeting

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

32. Neighbourhood Plan Review working group

Cllr Hopkins reported work is ongoing in relation to a rural exception site to develop property for people with a link to Westfield. Meetings with housing associations are planned.

It is expected that the Neighbourhood Plan Review first draft will be completed during August.

33. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following application:

24/02279/FUL	The Hewletts, Wells Road	Creation of wider access following demolition of existing wall and creation of new wall set back from road
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34. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

35. Planning Policy Updates

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

It was queried as to whether the Planning Policy Update is still relevant following the election results.

Mendip Local Plan – It was queried as to whether consideration for infrastructure such as medical provisions, roads and traffic has been made.

B&NES Local Plan, Parish Sites Assessment Toolkit Introduction and Training Workshop – taking place on Wednesday 24th July, 2.30pm – 5pm at Conygre Hall, Timsbury.

Resolved:

- (1) The Clerk will investigate the above queries.
- (2) The Clerk and Cllr Millard will attend the Training Workshop on 24th July.

36. Recreation Ground – Norton Hill

Removal of Ash Trees – The work has now been completed and trees affected by Ash Dieback have been felled. The verge now needs to be cleared and the fencing along the A367 replaced.

Resolved: The Clerk to get quotes for replacement chain link on the existing fencing poles.

37. Recreation Ground – Westhill

Changing Rooms – a Condition Survey is to be carried out following which advice will be sought from the Architect on how to proceed. Grant funding continues to be investigated.

38. Waterside Valley

Countryside Stewardship Scheme – It was agreed to become part of the scheme and to take Somer Valley Rediscovered up on their offer to fund the application. Applications must be submitted by February 2025.

Footbridge – Andy King will project manage the installation of the footbridge with work expected to start at the end of August. Once a start date has been confirmed the Clerk will write to notify homes adjacent to Waterside Valley, St Nicholas Church and Radstock Town Council.

Footpaths – the tender is live on Contracts Finder with a deadline of 2nd August. Somer Valley Rediscovered are funding the works.

Dog bin emptying – it has been reported that the dog waste bins are frequently becoming full.

Filming in the Valley – Somer Valley Rediscovered would like to undertake filming in the valley to share information about the 5 Somer Valley

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Rediscovered green spaces and to highlight volunteering opportunities. This will include drone filming and filming on the ground. Cllrs are in favour of this but would like clarification on the area to be covered with drone filming. Delegated authority has been given to Cllrs Wilkinson and Hopkins to make a decision once the filming area has been identified.

Resolved:

- (1) to increase dog waste collection from monthly to fortnightly
- (2) to liaise with Somer Valley Rediscovered in relation to drone filming

39. Noticeboard at Nightingale Way

Resolved: to get quotes to replace the noticeboard.

40. Highways

The Clerk reported we are still awaiting an installation date from Westcotec for the speed indicator devices.

It was queried who owns the speed device next to the police station.

On-road parking review at the Industrial Estate – the proposed double yellow lines were agreed.

Resolved: The Clerk to investigate who owns the speed device.

41. Events

30 Days Wild - June – The Admin Assistant gave a verbal review. In-person events were well received and feedback was good. Engagement on social media was increased throughout June with visits to the Facebook page up by 245.3%.

Love Parks Week July/Aug – Events have been planned:

Thu 25/7	Somer Valley Rediscovered – Family Nature Walk and Music Workshop – Westhill Recreation Ground – 10:30-13:00 Dr Bike – Westhill Recreation Ground – 10:00-16:00
Sun 28/7	Tai Chi taster session – Westhill Recreation Ground – 11:00-12:00
Tue 30/7	Litter pick with MSN Wombles – Shakespeare Road – 10:30
Sat 3/8	Family pollinator and insect walk with Steve England – Waterside Valley – 10:30-12:30
Tue 13/8	Bath Area Play Project Play Day – Norton Hill Recreation Ground – 12:00-15:00

Thanks to the Admin Assistant for all her work in arranging these events.

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Signed **Dated**

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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.

42. Quotes

Resolved: to delegate authority to Cllrs Wilkinson and Hopkins in relation to the quote of £915 from M2 Civil and Structural Consulting and Engineering once the Condition Report has been completed.

The meeting closed at 20:15

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Signed Dated