

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Oval Office
Monday 2nd September 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Chair: Cllr P Wilkinson

Cllrs: K Biggs, D Cooper, G Fuller, R Hopkins, L Lambell,
P Millard, R Moss and P Williams

Attending: Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk

Also attending: Michael Auton of Community Catalysts, 2 members of the public

Absent: Cllrs M Curtis and E Jackson

Two members of the public attended in order to raise concerns about their understanding that a cycle path is planned from the end of Keats Road, across Old Pit Road to Eagle Drive. They pointed out that this is an exceptionally busy route for pedestrians, especially during the school term. Cllr Moss advised that he will investigate with B&NES whether there is a plan for this route.

54. To welcome Michael Auton, Community Catalysts

Michael Auton gave a presentation of his work with Community Catalysts – a CIC company that encourages sole traders to work in the care of vulnerable people in the community. This includes personal care, running an accessible class, DIY and gardening, housework, cooking and more.

55. To consider co-opting to the vacancy on the Parish Council and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office

Laura Lambell attended the meeting and applied for co-option to the Parish Council. Cllr Fuller proposed and Cllr Moss seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Resolved: (1) to co-opt Laura Lambell to the Parish Council
(2) to receive the declaration of acceptance of office from Cllr Laura Lambell.

56. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jackson on medical grounds and accepted.

Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting.

Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

57. Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest

58. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 1st July 2024

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

59. To confirm the committee(s) on which Cllr Curtis would like to serve

Cllr Curtis was absent so no decision was made.

60. Committee and Working Group reports

(a) Environment and Development Committee – 8th July 2024

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Environment and Development meeting held on 8th July 2024 be noted.

(b) Finance and Personnel Committee – 17th July 2024

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on 17th July 2024 be noted.

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

There were no items to consider

62. To confirm there are no professional, personal or financial interests with the current auditors

Internal - Auditing Solutions Ltd. Clackerbrook Farm, 46 The Common, Bromham, WILTSHIRE SN15 2JJ

External - BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk - Ocean Village, Southampton SO14 3TL

There were no professional, personal or financial interests with the current auditors

63. Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody on 7th November at 6pm – all welcome. Clare has asked for questions in advance.

Cllrs were advised to consider what questions they would like to ask the Police and Crime Commissioner at the meeting on 7th November.

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Signed Dated

Westfield Parish Council

64. Outside Bodies reports

There were no outside bodies reports

65. Creating Community Identity

Cllr Hopkins advised that he intends to do a survey of signs to smaller towns and parishes and ask B&NES why none of them include Westfield.

66. Chairman's report

Cllr Wilkinson gave an update on the work that had been going on over the August break with regard to the purchase of the office.

The valuation report had been received and it was agreed to keep to the offer that had been made. The condition survey had not yet been received but verbal confirmation was given that there were no major defects, apart from the drains outside being blocked.

He reported that a meeting had been held with residents of Upper Court in relation to their concern over dangerous dogs. At the meeting was the police, dog warden and a representative from Live West.

There had also been meetings with CURO and People and Places with regard to building social and affordable housing on suggested rural exception sites.

67. Bath and North East Somerset Councillors' reports

Cllr Moss reported that with the new Government's announcement about housing, B&NES would need to build more houses. The B&NES Local Plan would have to go back out to consultation.

He also reported that there was an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area in August. He had asked the police if patrols could be increased.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm

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Signed Dated