

Westfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment and Development Committee Meeting held in the boardroom at the Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield on 10th February 2025 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Diana Cooper (Chair), Kit Biggs, Ron Hopkins, Paul Millard, Phil Wilkinson and Pat Williams.

Absent: Cllrs Geoff Fuller and Eleanor Jackson

Also attending: Lesley Close, Parish Clerk and Tracey Stephens, Deputy Clerk, Revd Ian Rousell of St Nicholas Church and 3 members of the public.

The members of the public were residents of Coxwynne Close and wanted the Committee to understand their concern about large trees adjacent to their properties. They had been in touch with Cllr Jackson, who had sent apologies for this meeting. They were advised by Committee that they should approach Land Registry, possibly through Cllr Jackson and B&NES, to ascertain the owner of the land before going any further.

Revd Rousell attended the meeting to advise on the wishes of St Nicholas Church to sell the land, on which currently stands their office and a café. The funds will be used to make the church a community hub, serving the public 7 days a week. He confirmed that the pathway to Waterside Valley would not be affected by the sale.

112. Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fuller and Jackson and accepted.

113. Declarations of interest and dispensation

Cllr Millard declared an interest in item 12, Events as a committee member at WAGS.

114. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

115. Neighbourhood Plan Review working group

An update was given on the meeting with B&NES Neighbourhood Planning Officer.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**

Westfield Parish Council

116. Planning applications for consideration

There were no objections to the following applications:

25/00254/FUL	60 Wells Road	Erection of two storey, three bedroom dwelling
25/00379/TPO	Land East of Fosseway Cottages	9 x Ash – fell due to die back

117. Planning Decisions

The planning decisions were noted.

118. Mendip Local Plan Part II

Resolved: that Cllr Jackson represents the Parish Council at the consultation meeting regarding the Mendip Local Plan Part II.

B&NES Local Plan consultation had been circulated and consideration was given to the Parish Council’s response.

Resolved: to respond to the B&NES Local Plan consultation reiterating the message in the Parish Council’s draft revised Neighbourhood Plan regarding development in Westfield.

119. Recreation Grounds Norton Hill

Boules Court surround – It was noted that work was scheduled for late March, early April

Tennis Court – an update was given on quotes for resurfacing the tennis court.

120. Recreation Grounds Westhill

Changing rooms – a verbal update was given. It was noted that planning permission had been applied for.

Entrance to the field on completion of the club’s patio – the pictures of the entrance to the field were noted. It was accepted that this would change again when the building work started on the new changing rooms.

121. Waterside Valley

Step to the new footbridge – It was noted that TCV were to take on the work, with the cost of materials likely to be around £100

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Signed **Dated**

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Meeting with Somer Valley Rediscovered re: BART Feasibility and Concept Report – the plan from BART to develop ponds and wetlands in the valley was noted.

Resolved: to respond to BART offering the Parish Council’s support, with a note of concern regarding the safety and the depth of the ponds.

Art Based Entrance features – a briefing from New Leaf Studio was circulated regarding features at some of the entrances to Waterside Valley. This was noted and Cllrs looked forward to seeing the suggestions. The possibility of the Miner’s Trust offering a silhouette of a Pit Pony and lad was suggested.

Resolved: to put the suggestion to New Leaf Studio Somer Valley Rediscovered of the creation of a silhouette of a Pit Pony and lad to be positioned at one of the entrances to the Waterside Valley.

122 Highways

Somer Valley Links Project – Response to the consultation was discussed. It was agreed that a joint response was not the easiest way to approach this but that councillors should follow the electronic link or attend one of the consultation events.

123. Events

Love Parks Week – A verbal update was given on plans for Love Parks Week, 26th July to 3rd August

VE Day and VJ Day commemorations –

Resolved: to raise a flag to commemorate VE Day and VJ Day on the appropriate dates.

Allotments: an email had been received from the Chair of the Allotment Society requesting permission to have a beekeeper on site at Waterford Park, offering land for them to keep bees.

Resolved: to advise that permission had already been granted to keep bees and that WAGS could approach a beekeeper to keep bees on site, but that they were not permitted to sub let any land to do so.

The email from the Chairman also asked for some assistance with repairing the toilet on the site.

Resolved: to send an application form for a grant from the Parish Council in advance of the normal grant process.

To resolve that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public **Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.**

Signed **Dated**

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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.

124. Quotes

There were no quotes to consider.

The meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed **Dated**