

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 20 February 2020 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Rose
AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)
plus 3 members of the public

19.76 Apologies

Cllr Toler, BCC Cllr Netta Glover

19.77 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – none

19.78 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

The preventing fraud session had been very helpful but poorly attended. 6 new PCSO's were being recruited for Aylesbury North.

19.79 Open Forum for Parishioners at 7.40pm – 8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting

Cllr Glover had given her apologies but had emailed her report. Cllr Bond reported that the Vale of Aylesbury Plan would be considered by the new unitary council. The election would be called on 31 March for 7 May 2020.

Cllr Severn read out correspondence received from a Lakeside flat resident regarding the possibility of the PC making a contribution to the replacement of the lighting to LED in the car park and the piazza.

"I have been forwarded the emails below that were sent to you via Compton firstly on the 15th January, which was not replied to, and a follow up email yesterday.

It could not have escaped your attention that the area is run down and in desperate need of refurbishment and had been for some time. This is indeed being planned for 2020 and will have a major impact on the aesthetics and appeal of the Piazza.

The car park will, in the main, not be part of the refurbishment due to the lack of funds and this will continue to degrade. Once this refurbishment project is completed, the cost of maintaining to such a high standard will require a larger budget. At some point this will become non sustainable for only a handful of leaseholders and businesses.

We are fully aware the Piazza and car park is designated as private land and that the Parish Council, on paper, do not have to contribute anything to the upkeep. However, as we all know this "private" land is effectively a public attraction and a focal point for the local community and the public. It is used extensively by visitors who come to visit Watermead to take advantage of the unique environment and businesses- including paying customers of the Community Centre.

This Community Hall was gifted to the Parish Council for free and is used extensively as a commercial enterprise which benefits both yourselves and the wider Watermead Community.

Given these factors, as per the email from Compton, we are asking for assistance from the Parish Council to help with a small contribution towards an upgrade of the car park lighting to LED to reduce energy costs and to bring us in line with today's focus on environmental friendly solutions.

In addition, I believe you have been approached with a proposition to help

sponsor the upkeep of the fountain - a very popular attraction within the Piazza, that comes with a relatively high operating cost to maintain and meet compliance requirements.

Unfortunately I cannot attend the upcoming Parish Council meeting personally but request that these points be placed on the agenda and read out as a point of discussion during the public session.

Please can you confirm receipt of this email and that you will add the topic to the agenda. On behalf of the leaseholders I await your formal response on the proposed funding assistance”.

A letter of request had also been received from Comptons. Two residents were in attendance to address this issue and advised the PC that they had obtained one quote and were waiting a second. Cllr Severn advised that she had spoken to the lighting consultant used at her other parishes. It was agreed that the residents would put a formal proposal to the PC. Cllr Severn would get a further quote from Forde and McHugh and speak to EON regarding a non-metred supply.

Cllr Severn

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

19.80 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 January 2020

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

19.81 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted
19/02988/APP 26 Curlew, Watermead – single storey side/rear extension and integral garage conversion – planning had been approved by AVDC.
2. 19/00155/COUJA Watermead 35 Lakeside, Watermead - Change of Use Application (Shop to Office) - Determination under Class C of Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as to whether prior approval is required in respect of noise impacts, odour impacts, impacts of storage and handling of waste, impacts of hours of opening, transport and highways impacts, impact of the change of use, and the siting, design or external appearance of the facilities to be provided, for the change of use of the premises from shops (A1) Professional and Financial Services (A2), Takeaways (A5), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops or Laundrettes to Offices (B1A) – no objections.
3. 20/00257/APP 12 Swan Close, Watermead – Rear Conservatory – no objections.
4. 20/00488/APP 4 Owl Close, Watermead – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension – no objections.
5. 17/00071/APP – Watermead Village Car Park Erection of 21 flats with associated parking - At time of report we are awaiting a committee date.

19.82 Finance & Administration

1. To agree the payment schedule for February 2020 - The Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedules, which were approved. One further payment of £855 to Rachel Seago for production of the Village View was approved.

Re: **Response Required - Falling Tree and Damaged Footpath**

I can now confirm that I have met with our contractor Darren Adamson and also Lakeside Care Home Tree Surgeon, Patrick Kernan.

Both contractors advised that two trees on our lake edge need removing and both have quoted as per below.

Darren Adamson (outside R&M works) tree surgeon quoted £700 per tree
P. Kernan Tree Surgery Ltd £1000 & VAT to remove both the trees.

Unfortunately both recommended/advised that these trees cannot be removed until the ground conditions improve (estimated mid February). The grounds conditions are too dangerous for any tree climber and vehicular access will be required to John Denis's land and current weather/grounds conditions are preventing this.

Patrick Kernan Ltd is a current approved contractor of the Lakeside Care Home and advised he would be able to obtain required permission to use their land for access etc. Both contractors advised that there was no telling of when the trees could fall. As the safety of the public is paramount to the PC Patrick who is currently working at the Care Home will be taping off the area for us, I will collect some bollards/cones from the container and prepare some signs. This will make this area inaccessible (prevent the circular lake walk).

The only way to prevent the lake path partial closure would be to chainsaw through both trees and let them fall into the lake.

Following this visit Darren called me to confirm that he is more than happy for Patrick Kernan to carry out these works as he is currently working at the Care Home and has the relevant permission/ access to their land.

Please do let me know how you would like to proceed with this work.

Request received from Mr. D. Forder – Conduct Wildlife Surveys –

Waiting a mutually convenient date.

Crematorium Screening

Cllr Severn and the Clerk met with Alan Jöse, Westerleigh Ambassador and Marian Webb, recently appointed Regional Manager of Westerleigh on Thursday 23rd January 2020. The agreed proposed planting plans were provided to Westerleigh who have agreed to pass these onto their landscape/grounds team for possible inclusion. We are awaiting a response from Alan Jöse to advise and for a further meeting to take place.

At the November 2019 Parish Council meeting a draft proposed planting plan was circulated and agreed. A meeting between the Parish Council and Alan Jose of Westerleigh has been arranged for later in the month.

Cllr Severn and The Clerk carried out a land walk together to determine locations for potential planting. Plan to be sent via email.

September 2019: It was agreed that Cllrs should undertake a site visit and mark out the areas for screening.

Copy of email sent 25th July 2019 - *At the March 2019 Parish Council Meeting Mr Morgan of Kingfisher requested would the Parish Council if possible meet with Westerleigh Crematoria to discuss appropriate planting in both the short and long term. It was agreed that we would pursue this enquiry.*

Our two main objectives are to shield the view of the Crematorium site from any

public/residential views and furthermore the bridge and the car park remain a concern as the hearses and mourners are clearly visible to all residential properties as well as all users of the public walks and meadows.

Alan Josè, Ambassador for Westerleigh & Robin Gurton-Vernieux made a visit to Watermead and would like the Parish Council to identify the areas they would like to see screened. Alan Josè has suggested a meeting for September / October time with the Parish Council to discuss further.

Large scales plans have been circulated ready for discussion at the September 2019 meeting.

Walkway Brackets Installation

Waiting confirmed installation date.

River Thame Trust Update

Update report received February 2019: Before moving forward with suggestions for improvement works on the river at Watermead I think it is key that we first establish the water depth at low flows. If the water is shallow we could think about running a work party to add in some woody material to the channel to increase the habitat and flow diversity. However if water is going to be above thigh high we wouldn't be able to do this safely with volunteers. I'll plan to visit later in the year to establish the depth and then we can move forward from there.

2 Large Lake Footways Report

Cllr Rose had reported his concerns regarding the first two sections of the large lake coming from the Kestrel Way being very muddy and slippery after rain. As people have tried to avoid the mud the path has got wider and wider so it is now impossible to avoid an area of very sticky mud. This is a very popular walk especially for those with dogs but many others also enjoy the chance to get out and enjoy nature. Originally this was a proper path and jogging track edged with boards and with a rolled down shingle surface and he would really like to see this path restored to its original condition. It was agreed to ask Environments 4 People for advice and a quote. Grant applications to then be considered.

The Clerk

3 Small Lake Walk/Erosion Update

Donation of Basket Swing

Cllr Severn advised that a basket swing had been donated to Watermead for installation by the outdoor gym. The Events Committee had offered to cover the installation costs.

3 VE Day

Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher to attend and present Watermead veteran Mr Stevens Freedom of Watermead. The event on 8 May would involve a village picnic and a brass band had been booked.

4 Events Update Committee

Full Management Plan, Risk Assessment and site plans will be submitted for approval to the Parish Council at the March 2020 meeting.

Cllr Severn advised she was in the process of setting up a new Watermead Events website which would be live next week. There would be links to the Watermead Parish Council website as well as local businesses. Pets at Home would be sponsoring the Dog Show at Larks by the Lake.

Cllr Rose confirmed that Ron Adams would be delighted to judge the Photographic Competition in October.

5 To update on Allotments

Nothing to report.

6 To report on Village View

The Spring 2020 issue had been finalised and gone to print for delivery weekend

after next.

7 To update on Village Hall

Correspondence had been received from Comptons regarding the possibility of the PC making a contribution to the cost of replacing the piazza and car park lighting. Actions already agreed under the open forum.

A complaint had been received regarding the noise levels when the village hall had been hired out for a 10 year old's birthday party. The Clerk had apologised to the resident in writing and would monitor all future bookings.

The Clerk

It was agreed to proceed with the quote received from Dave Lucas of £250 to have the rear wall of the Village Hall stripped back and repainted.

8 Provision of new Pre-School

Footsteps Day Nursery & Pre-School – has now been signed off.

9 To update on Transport & MVAS

MVAS had been serviced and would be back up shortly.

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path - Awaiting update.

**10 To update on Highways
Devolved Services Agreement**

The current devolution agreement period comes to an end on 31 March 2020 (as per the one year extension agreed last year). The Shadow Executive for Buckinghamshire Council recently agreed to an extension of funding for all existing highways devolution agreements for up to a maximum of two years to 31 March 2022. At the September 2019 the PC resolved to enter into this agreement. Agreement now received and ready to be signed. The Agreement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

19.84 Date of meetings

19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.44pm and thanked people for their attendance.