

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 18 April 2019 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr Rose, Cllr Gent, Cllr Toler
AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond, BCC Cllr Netta Glover
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk),
plus 4 members of the public

19.1 Apologies
Cllr I Schwab

19.2 Declarations of Interest
To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda
Cllr A. Schwab – All items relating to Crematorium and Legal.

19.3 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property
No report received.

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

An expression of interest was received in taking over Watermead Cygnets Preschool with an earlier start time but keeping the same finish time on a term time only basis. Cllr Severn advised that there had been a substantial level of interest and the PC would need to seek Bucks Children's Services to assist with the tender process. The PC may also be able to acquire grant funding.

A parishioner reported on a Facebook comment regarding quadbikes and motorbikes being ridden up and down the alleyway in a dangerous manner. This had been reported to the police but no feedback received. Cllr Schwab had also been made aware by residents of Lark Vale and had invited residents to attend to make representation. There had been an increase in drug dealing activity in Elmhurst and Watermead and it was noted that TVP were undertaking a major push on drugs in the town centre and working through a list of people with good results being reported in the press. Any incidents witnessed by residents should be reported to 101.

Since the good weather has arrived, there have been cyclists around the lake at speed with no consideration for pedestrians.

A number of balloons (used with canisters) had been found around the lake which was a danger to the wildlife. There had been incidents of drug use around the small lakes. The Clerk to write to the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Cllr Severn to report at the next IAG and ask the Area Commander to allocate some PCSOs around the lake during the day.

The Clerk/
Cllr Severn

Cllr Glover gave her report. Cllr Bond reported that the Local Plan will remain until the unitary council is in place. There will be the issue of 3 other local councils having their own Local Plans and the unitary council will have to make a new plan to cover all areas.

Cllr Severn reported that when she had pressed the call button on the bollards, it just rang and couldn't connect her call. Cllr Glover advised that the button didn't work and that the Bucks Emergency number should be used. Cllr Glover to speak to Mark Shaw. Cllr Glover was thanked for assisting with the parishioner who was in correspondence with her regarding the bollards.

Cllr Glover

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

19.5 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 March 2019
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

19.6 Planning Matters

- (1) To update on any Planning Applications submitted – no updates.
- (2) **19/01281/APP – 5 Curlew** – Proposed two-storey side/rear extension – It was agreed that there was not sufficient information regarding ownership of the garage and whether a significant loss of parking would result. It was also agreed that the boundary lines were unclear and it was therefore proposed and agreed to ask planning to investigate and advise the PC.
- (3) **7/00771/APP - Watermead Village Car Park, Lakeside – Erection of 21 Flats** – As circulated via email Buckinghamshire County Council has withdrawn their previous objections to this planning application. At time of report we are awaiting a committee date.
- (4) Peter Dean and Cllr Severn had met earlier this week regarding planting of trees around the crematorium to hide it from view. Cllr Severn had made contact with Natural England to ask them to visit to see if they would support putting in big trees all the way round the crematorium. Cllrs were of the opinion that Westerleigh should be paying for any such trees and it was agreed that the Clerk should chase after the Easter break.

It was noted that Bierton Crematorium would be opening 24 April and had already taken bookings.

19.7 Finance & Administration

1. To agree the payment schedule for April 2019 - The Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule for April 2019, which was approved.

Payment Schedule		Apr-19				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	7001185802	R&M Land	£48.00	£9.60	£57.60	BACS
BALC Bucks Association of Local Councils	WPC 2019/2020	GDPR Training	£400.18	£0.00	£400.18	BACS
Castle Water	TW0052007468	Allotments Water	£6.94	£1.39	£8.33	BACS
North Bucks Planning Consortiu	WPC 2019/2020	NBPPC Subscription	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£147.10	£7.35	£154.45	BACS
Ian Whittome	Apr-19	R&M Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Apr-19	Assistant Clerk	£230.52	£0.00	£230.52	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Apr-19	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,594.07	£0.00	£1,594.07	BACS
HMRC	Apr-19	PAYE & NI	£510.91	£0.00	£510.91	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Apr-19	PAYE	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	BACS
Celebration Management Servic	Apr-19	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2228-2231	Litter, R&M, Allot & Grass	£1,580.00	£0.00	£1,580.00	BACS
E.ON Electricity (Bandstand)	0114 6959 5940	Electricity - Land	£26.21	£1.31	£27.52	BACS
Herts Supplies	H031906268	Village Hall Supplies	£98.68	£19.74	£118.42	BACS
National Allotment Society	S3651A	Allotment Subscription	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00	BACS
Aylesbury Vale District Council	1704421	The Gatehouse	£601.48	£0.00	£601.48	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Routine Payments Total			£5,994.09	£50.39	£6,044.48	
Non Routine Payment						
Total			£5,994.09	£50.39	£6,044.48	
Approval for Electronic Payments - To be signed by two Cllr. Signatories at meeting of the Parish Council	Cllr Signature: _____		Date Approved: _____			
	Cllr Signature: _____		Date Approved: _____			

2. To agree the accounts to end March 2019 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end March 2019, which were approved.
3. Process to renew the following Parish Council Policies:
 - Standing Orders (including Risk Assessment)
 - Financial & Procurement Regulations
 - Communications Policy
 - Asset Register

There had been no amendments made to the policies and Cllrs unanimously approved them all.

19.8 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 Update on Routine Land Work Post-box

Royal Mail had dealt with the issue of the fallen postbox immediately.

Tree on Small Lake

The contractor had been down to see and in his opinion the tree was not going to fall but he would put his proposed actions in writing.

It was reported that a composting bin had been placed on a strip of land owned by the PC by the alleyway in Kestrel Way. It was proposed and agreed that a letter should be written to neighbouring residents and ask that it be removed.

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.

Lake Clearance/Islands

To be rescheduled. D. Lucas & CLC Grounds Maintenance.

Quotation from Dave Lucas for Walkway

A quote of £935 had been received for a quantity of 50 that included installation. It was agreed to ask him to quote for a reduced quantity.

KM Fitness Land Request

Karl Morgan previously approved fitness camp would like to return to Watermead and are seeking council's permission. They are looking to start the first boot camp on Monday 29th April 2019. The sessions will be held at 6am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a period of 6 weeks. Karl Morgan's boot camp last summer proved very popular with the residents of Watermead who made the request of his behalf. No causes for concern arose from their land use. Cllrs had no objections. Cllr Toler to make contact about placing an advertisement in the Village View.

Replacement Dog Waste Bin

Marcus Young Landscapes are awaiting arrival of new bin from manufacturer. The Clerk to chase.

Ducks Signs

Once locations have been determined, installation will be imminent.

Marcus Militello, Hedgerow Havens Project Officer of Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Cllr Toler

Wildlife Trust

Update: Proposed grass cutting works will be carried out by Dave Lucas due to the type of cut required (grass being collected) and CLC Grounds current commitments.

The Clerk

2 **To update on Florence Nightingale Run 80's Charity Run**

Around 120 runners brightened up Watermead Lake with their 80s-themed outfits to raise money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at the family fun run on Saturday April 6. No issues arose from the event and the day was a great success.

The fun run to date has raised more than £1,200 to support hospice care in the county, and money is still coming in.

3 **Updates received from the Events Committee** – Larks by the Lake to be held on Sunday 26 May 2019.

4 **Allotments**

Nothing to report.

5 **To report on Village View**

Cllr Singleton reported that the editorial meeting had been held last Sunday. Deadline for submissions was that day. It was hoped to get the Summer issue out early in time for Larks. Cllr Rose confirmed that everything was on track for the photographic competition. It was hoped that Richard Landy would be able to judge. The categories would be the same as last year: "landscape", "wildlife" and "open". People would be encouraged to write articles for inclusion in the Village View and Carolyn McKee would be happy to assist with putting articles together if people were unsure of where to start. Information on the new post office at the newsagents to also be included.

6 **To update on Village Hall including Watermead Cygnets Closure**

With the public announcement of Watermead Cygnets closing, three interested parties have approached the Parish Council. As this has been such a well-used and much loved facility of Watermead, moving forward I believe to choose and commit a new pre-school would need to be a decision made by the Parish Council and not just a regular normal hall booking.

Village Hall redecoration has been undertaken during the Easter Holidays. A vote of thanks was given to the parishioner who had volunteered his time to decorate and clear the outside drains. The Clerk to look into the Government initiative for grants for renovating village halls with the aim of purchasing a new floor and new gents toilets.

7 **To update on Transport/Highways Issues** **Change of Bus Stop Location**

Update April 2019 – At the time of preparing my report, we are awaiting Paul Goodwin to provide a response to our questions.

**** AWAITING INSTALLATION ** Village Gates**

Update April 2019 – The installation of the Village Gates is being chased on a regular basis and I will continue to chase. The below response has recently been received:

"I'm so sorry I have not got back to you. I am struggling for time to get back to people at the moment.

The works order for the village gateways was raised and issued to the in-house signing gang some time ago, but that crew have been used to install a lot of signing for parking schemes all over the county. Their time has been limited in Aylesbury Vale. I will chase up and see what's going on"

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path

**** AWAITING UPDATE **** As reported at the January 2018 Parish Council a meeting was arranged with Paul Ahluwalia, Traffic Signal Engineer of Buckinghamshire County Council, Cllr Severn, Cllr Rose and the Clerk. The meeting was arranged for Buckinghamshire County Council to provide an outline of what the above-mentioned scheme entails.

Paul advised that at present the remit is to provide a costing to install a Toucan crossing at the point where the Pegasus (horse crossing) crossing was initially proposed on the A413. This was part of the original planning agreement for the Buckingham Park development opposite Watermead. To accompany the crossing, a formal cycle-path is proposed to provide an adequate and usable amenity for those wishing to use the crossing. This element will require extensive (7m) cutting back of the verge-line to allow construction of a cycle-path. Only when a costing has been provided and funding addressed (believe the whole project will be over budget), will a final decision be made on whether to proceed with construction.

The Parish Council provided Paul with the necessary maps and advised that they believe the Parish Council owns the land in question.

The next steps are for Paul to commission a topographical survey and make Land Registry enquiries to determine land ownership. Upon results of this Paul will make contact with us.

Bollards in Lark Vale

Update information received from Buckinghamshire County Council, following the failure of the newly installed system (previously advised via email)

I am currently speaking with our supply chain partner to reduce sensitivity and repair the current issues at Lark Vale, and why the system fails so frequently. With this in mind, the bollards will be repaired and hopefully this will reduce the number of times the bollards fail.

Furthermore, once the repair work is done, I am looking at retrieving a quote to install the reset button on the manual panel. This is a button that allows the system to reboot and start up again shall the bollards fail. With this button being placed on the exterior manual panel, it will mean you do not have to open the whole cabinet to reset the system. To my knowledge, you both showed interest in possibly having one of your members reset the bollards yourselves, I hope this is still something you are interested in? This new reset button install would make things very easy for you. Once I have a date for an install for the reset button, I will let you know.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Thank you,

With kind regards,

Iftakhar Hossain
BEng (Hons) – Mechanical

8 To update on Outdoor Gym Area

Update April 2019 –Initial applications of interest to Sport England and Wren have been sent.

19.9 Date of meetings

16 May Annual Parish Meeting 7 pm, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 7.30 pm
20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December.

19.10 Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it will be necessary for a Councillor to move a motion to close the meeting to the press and public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Planning/Legal Review – Not required

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm and thanked people for their attendance.