

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 21 May 2015 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead

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

15.11 Election of Chairman

Cllr Severn was nominated Chairman. The nomination was seconded. There were no further nominations. Cllr Severn was duly elected Chairman.

15.12. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr A Schwab was nominated Vice-Chairman. The nomination was seconded. There were no further nominations. Cllr A Schwab was duly elected Vice Chairman

15.13. Acceptance of Office

The relevant Acceptance of Office documents were signed.

15.14. Apologies

Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)

15.15. Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda
None.

15.16 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

To discuss any Neighbourhood Watch matters – TVP
No report received.

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

A parishioner reported that the grass within the Memorial Garden needed cutting. The Clerk advised that there is a problem with the lock and will be fixed in due course and then the contractor can gain access. The tree within the tree cage on the small lake needs to be replaced. Cllr Severn to make contact with Stewkley Parish Council who is to provide a sapling.

Cllr Severn

Cllr Netta Glover provided report, available on line and via request to the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

15.18. To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 April 2015

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

15.19. Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted

The Clerk reported that following consulted planning application had been approved by AVDC.

15/00319/APP 1 Waxwing Close

15/00527/APP 6 The Falcon

15/00562/APP 30 Avocet Way

15/00527/APP 6 The Falcon - Cllr Toler reported that the grounds for refusal by the Parish Council and the neighbouring properties was very strong and was surprised to learn that this application was approved by AVDC. The owner of the property had amended the plans and the Parish Council had not been notified or consulted with. Cllr Ashley Bond advised that this is normal practice if plans are amended.

2. 13/03534/AOP – Land East of Watermead Update

The Clerk reported that the Hallam Land appeal would recommence 7th July 2015. Barwood Land Associates have now withdrawn from the appeal, however all their submission and evidence will still be considered by the Planning Inspectorate prior to his report being sent to the Secretary of State for decision.

3. 14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, Riviera Site

Since the last Parish Council meeting a media/press release and petition campaign has been carried out, starting with the BBC News South interview with Cllr Rose & Cllr Toler. Since this interview the Bucks Herald, Mix 96 and BBC Three Counties have also covered. The press release has also been sent to various other outlets including towns and areas affected by Westerleigh Developments. Advice has been sought by Cllr Severn via Alan Barnard from "Campaign It" and the Chairman and the Clerk will be meeting again with David Lidington the following day. Parish Council in touch with Westerleigh & AVDC.

A parishioner asked as some of the names and addresses on the petition are from outside Watermead does this carry less weight? The Parish Council felt not. They also asked could we help the owner of the Riviera with an alternative use of the site. The PC advised that Mr Pardis had entered into an option with the developers. Concerns were also given over the technical data and emissions.

A parishioner reported that not everyone has access to the Internet and volunteered to help with the delivery of any future leaflets/campaigns.

4. AVDC – Area Development S106 Contributions & Planning Changes

A briefing document explaining the Community Infrastructure had been circulated to all Cllrs via the Clerk and it was agreed to initially set up a meeting with Bierton with Broughton Parish Council as these contributions would be split between the two parishes should the Hallam Land application be given permission. These funds are to help to deliver infrastructure by means of sports and leisure activities to the area. Cllrs agreed this could be a method for the Cricket Pitch. Cllr Singleton to seek original documents, Cllr Toler to make contact with Len Staines a former member and Cllr Severn to seek a response from Trustee of the Cricket Pitch to set up an initial meeting. Update to be provided at next meeting.

Cllr Singleton
Cllr Toler
Cllr Severn

Cllr Rose asked could we possibly revive the Bridleway project in the event the monies come through as the current situation as he had been advised is that there are plans from the crossing of the main road to form a bridleway and without using our land, possible horses should this be created will be using the Spine Road. It was agreed this would need to be discussed further. Cllr Severn advised the PC stopped the application due to concerns over the time frame to complete the project, planning permission time-scale, there would have been no time to consult with the public and the costs of opening up further land.

Cllr Severn

15.20. Finance

1. To agree the cheque run for May 2015 - The Clerk had previously circulated the cheque run for May 2014 which was approved. Cllr Singleton questioned two cheques for BT. The Clerk explained the divert of the phone line from one exchange to another.

2. To agree the accounts to end April 2015 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end April 2014 which were approved. Cllr Toler requested could the outstanding PWLB figures be incorporated with the Bank Reconciliation as well as the Annual Year End. This was agreed.

3. To report Annual Internal Auditor Report - The council's internal auditor had been received and confirmed accounts have been carried out in accordance with compliance and relevant procedures expected.

4. To confirm the Council have agreed the Accounting Statements - It was confirmed that the Council have agreed the Accounting Statements.

5. To confirm the Council have agreed the Annual Governance Statement - It was confirmed that the Council have agreed the Annual Governance Statement.

6. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Forms/Code of Conduct - The relevant Disclosable Pecuniary Interest documents were signed.

7. Preparation & Circulation of PC Minutes - Cllr Rose requested could the draft minutes be published within a week of the meeting date. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Rose requested could names of parishioners speaking during the Public Forum if they agree to have their names published in the minutes. This was agreed unanimously if the speaker consents.

8. Co-option Vacancy - The Council has a vacancy and may co-opt to fill this vacancy automatically following the Parish Council Elections.

15.21 General Power of Competence

To consider whether the Council should adopt the General Power of Competence.

All Cllrs resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence as Watermead Parish Council met the criteria set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. Localism Act 2011 s 1-8.

15.22. Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1. Land/Legal/Devolution

Legal - It was proposed and agreed to spend up to £2000 in order for the council to seek Counsel opinion into a group litigation should the Crematorium be given approval. Cllr Irina Schwab to devise a brief on behalf of the council and report back with costings. To take AVDC to Juridical Review would be too costly to the PC and residents. Cllrs agreed unanimously to seek opinion.

Cllr I Schwab

Land – Cllr Rise circulated an email prior to the meeting to Volunteer as lead Cllr for Land. The Chairman advised how the PC had been operating since Cllr Rose was with the Council, that the land was being managed collectively. It was agreed that any findings on a day to day basis Cllr Rose can report to the Clerk and any ideas/proposals to be made an agenda item via the Clerk.

Bandstand – It was agreed for Cllr Rose & Cllr Toler to look into the techniques of the two quotes received and report back to Clerk with what they feel is the suitable option. The Clerk will then arrange works.

Cllrs Rose/Toler

Guillemot – A further tree at Guillemot Court has been tampered with, bleach poured into the roots. The tree belongs to Integrity Property Management and this has been reported to them and they have contacted the local Police.

Hanging Baskets – To be installed end of May/beginning of June.

Devolution – All running to plan.

2. Allotments - Plant sale in the Village Hall Saturday 6th June 10-1pm.

Cllr Rose reported that as he assisted with the tenancy agreement, he felt there is already a clause/power to remove holders from the plots for non works. Application to AVDC Community Chest for a new notice board had been submitted.

3. Village View - The Village View had now gone to print. Vacancy existed for an Advertising Manager. Thanks given to Paul Wilson and for the interim period the Assistant Clerk and Clerk would be managing the Advertising side of things. Thanks to Carolynne McKee for all her input. Cllrs asked to spread the word for advertising in the Village View. Issue being distributed 30th May 2015.

4. Village Halls – Wall repairs by Goldstar Maintenance commence Monday 25th May 2015.

Quotes received for Acoustic Tiling, it was proposed and agreed to proceed with Paul Green, sq edge tiles, £2800.00. The Clerk will arrange during Summer Holidays as the hall will have the availability.

A provisional date Friday 3rd July for Defibrillator training at the hall, tbc.

5. **Transport/Highways Issues** - Our Local Area Technician for Transport for Bucks has advised that he has requested new traffic fixed bollards for our parish.
6. **Website** - It was agreed to put a forum on the website, Cllr Severn to moderate, put Cllr Netta Glover report onto the website and put the Casual Vacancy on the home page. With the departure of Cllr Helen Cook, Cllr Severn shall maintain the home page and the office will continue to manage the other pages of the site. Cllr Rose advised that he did not find the website user friendly and it was agreed by all that the website does need to be looked at and currently the site is work in progress.

Cllr Severn

15.23. Date of meetings

18th June 2015, 16th July 2015, 13th August 2015 (Finance), 17th September 2015, 15th October 2015, 19th November 2015, 17th December 2015 (Budget)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.07 pm and thanked people for their attendance.