

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 15 July 2021 at 7.30pm
Held at the Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr S Mackay
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, BC Cllr Peter Cooper
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)
plus members of the public (via video link) – Graham Severn, Debbie Clarke, Donna Aldridge, Mark Aldridge,
Susan Browning, Jacqui Palfry.

21.24 Apologies

Cllr E Rose, Cllr M Morgan, Cllr Diana Blamires

21.25 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interest regarding the agenda – Cllr I Schwab – item 21.32.1 **Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM92423 and BM92422)**

21.26 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

No Police report has been received.

21.27 Open Forum for Parishioner at 7.40pm-8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting

Debbie Clarke commented that at the April meeting, The Chair had given a very good explanation of the point of the Neighbourhood Plan which was very enlightening and helped in understanding the purpose of the questionnaire and some of the questions contained within it. She was surprised and disappointed that, although there is information available on the PC website, the information had not been shared on the All About Watermead Facebook page nor the group Watermead Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page which had been set up to move the conversation about the questionnaire. At the April meeting she was under the impression that the results would be shared in new group from May. She questioned why this had not yet been done and also why the new group had been changed to only allow admin to post information rather than anyone being able to post. Her understanding was that the purpose of the new group was to move the discussion from All About Watermead to Watermead Neighbourhood Plan. Neither of PC Cllrs within that group had answered any of the questions which had been raised. She was under the impression that the discussion had been moved to the new group on the basis that it would continue in the new group. She expressed disappointment that the discussion had been shut down and further now that people cannot post in the new group. There was no reference to the information being on the website.

Cllr Severn replied that there was no intention to shut anything down. The questionnaire had been left open for a while longer to allow more time for more replies. Due to pressures of work, there had not been the opportunity to analyse the data sooner but this has now been downloaded and would be analysed over the next week or two. The business questionnaire is ready to go out to key stakeholders. Regarding the residential questionnaire, a series of FAQs and responses to all questions that appeared on the All About Watermead and Watermead Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page will be answered and uploaded on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the PC website. The Facebook page will be directed to the website. Residents will also be able to ask questions on that site and will receive personal replies and those questions will then also be added to the FAQs. **Debbie** questioned why the Facebook page had been set up. **Cllr Severn** advised that the PC had realised it was inappropriate and attracted much comment which was irrelevant and not helpful.

Cllr Singleton added that All About Watermead is a public Facebook page and it was inappropriate to have that discussion as there are people who do not live on Watermead making inappropriate comments. This was the reason for moving it to a specific Facebook page.

Cllr Severn reported that should more information be required from residents it

would be in the second questionnaire which will be produced as a result of responses to the first questionnaire and analysis of them. Whole questionnaire responses (not including names and addresses) would be available to download as a pdf on the PC website. Watermead Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page will direct people's questions to the FAQs on the Neighbourhood Plan on the PC website in order that it is totally transparent. All questions will be addressed and comments can be made to which the PC will formally respond.

Debbie commented that it was not democratic to say that the Chair does not like the thoughts left on Facebook page.

Cllr Severn replied that this is not what she had said and that she was happy to have a further discussion with Debbie regarding this outside of the meeting.

Debbie felt that the PC were not being open and honest with parishioners. The Chair requested that the Vice Chairman take over the meeting.

Cllr A Schwab took the Chair

Cllr A Schwab advised that if Debbie had a complaint against the PC she would have to follow the correct procedure. The Clerk to email details to Debbie. He added that the PC was not trying to hide anything. Meetings are held every third Thursday to which all are welcome and formal Minutes are published.

The Clerk

It was agreed to move the meeting on to allow other parishioners to ask questions.

Cllr Severn returned to the Chair

Susan Browning queried who the key stakeholders are.

Cllr Severn replied that it included all parishioners who live here, all people who have businesses here (shop, pub, crematorium and the hotel etc). **Cllr Mackay** confirmed that approximately 150 businesses had been identified on Watermead. All would receive an individual letter in the next week requesting they take part in the survey and providing an opportunity to meet with the PC. It would also include adjacent businesses and landowners. This included all areas within the Parish Plan which had been included in the Village View.

Donna Aldridge commented that a communication plan was needed for this project and suggested using the Village Hall as a walk-in display for residents to access the information. **Cllr Severn** replied that this would have been a good idea had the PC been permitted to do so during Covid. The PC were preparing a series of boards which could be put up at events and in the Village Hall once it was safe to do so. It may also be possible to have a stall on the Balloon Meadow over the summer.

Donna also queried the Transfer of Land. **Cllr Severn** advised that Cllr I Schwab was in touch with the Crown Estate solicitors (Burgess Salmon) and she would report on this under item 21.32.1. Cllr I Schwab advised that the first step had been taken and that the PC were now awaiting consultation information. The next stage would be to hold a meeting to negotiate. All the pieces of land are under 2 titles. An application had been made to the Land Registry to receive plans for the pieces of land but the plans received were not in a suitable state and more detailed plans had been requested. Once received they would be made available to parishioners and if possible scanned. **Donna** queried whether the land was currently owned by the Crown Estate. **Cllr I Schwab** confirmed they were and could only be disposed of as a whole.

Donna queried whether the land would be maintained if the PC purchased the land as there may be residents who would be interested in purchasing. **Cllr Severn** advised that if the PC purchases the land, it would be contingent on our owning it for life which prevents it from being developed.

Cllr Severn commented that if the PC was to own the pieces of land and a parishioner wished to take a licence or use an area as part of their garden, an

arrangement could potentially be made.

Mark Aldridge asked to have a line around the area the PC has written to the Land Registry about. **Cllr Severn** advised this was not yet known, only the title numbers.

He also queried whether there was a milestone date for the Communications Plan to be finalised. **Cllr Severn** hoped this would be completed by the September meeting.

Graham Severn reported the graffiti around the lake.

BC Peter Cooper reported that the first Community Board Meeting this year would be held on Tuesday next week at 7pm to discuss programme and budget. WPC confirmed they would be attending.

Paul Foot is the new Local area Technician for Watermead.

Peter was looking at better ways of keeping track of the projects and bits of work that are outstanding and organising a pilot spreadsheet with Wing and Wingrave to ensure projects do not get forgotten or missed. The Clerk advised she would welcome this.

A full council meeting would be next week.

BC Ashley Bond

Hazrat Husain Member & Parish Support Officer of Buckinghamshire Council had left and as yet his replacement was unknown.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

21.28 To agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 17 June 2021

Two amendments were agreed – item 21.22.1 – wording changed from “buy” to “hire” of 3 x 360 litre bins from Bucks Council. Also, the payment schedule included had been for May and not June.

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

21.29 Planning Matters

(1) Planning Matters - To update on any Planning Applications submitted
2 Shelduck Close – Provision of new garage – The Clerk reported that a Permitted Development Certificate was needed but had been refused. The owner of the property was challenging the refusal and had requested if needed would the PC be willing to write to confirm it has never undertaken any maintenance on the land. This was agreed.

(2) 17/00771/APP Piazza Car Park – Proposed Development. Revised plans sent via email. The PC had not been made aware of the new plans directly; a parishioner had noticed and informed Cllr Singleton & the Clerk. The PC queried with Cllr Bond whether it would be consulted on the new plans. Cllr Bond to pursue this with the Planning Department.

Cllr Bond

(3) 21/02441/APP 10 Mallard Close – Single storey rear extension and garage conversion. The Town Council had been consulted on the planning application rather than WPC, building works were near completion and as yet planning permission had not been granted. WPC expressed its concerns to Cllr Bond regarding the process of this application. The PC agreed that it had no objections to the planning application but wished it to be noted that the planning department must consult the PC on planning matters within its Parish.

Cllr Bond

PC Cllr Cooper suggested a separate discussion regarding Planning with the Chair as permitted development rights had changed and were constantly changing.

21.30 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Chair wished to reiterate that there was no intention to be anything other than fully transparent and truthful with parishioners. FAQ list to be added to the Neighbourhood Plan page on the PC website the following day. Facebook is not the forum for such discussions and a formal channel was needed. Links would be included on the Watermead Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page to direct people to the PC website page.

21.31 Finance & Administration

1. The payment schedule for July 2021 was agreed.
One further payment was approved for CLC Grounds Maintenance for Litter, R&M, Grass and Allotment of £1,818.

Payment Schedule		Jul-21				Payment Method (if Ch
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount	provide Numbe
Mobile Mini	7002084504	R&M Land	£53.00	£10.60	£63.60	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	517693	Village Hall	£48.10	£0.00	£48.10	DD
Ian Whittome	8th July 2021	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS
British Gas	953833491	Village Hall Supply	£44.27	£2.21	£46.48	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	WAITING INVOICES	Litter, R&M, Grass & Allotment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Jul-21	Assistant Clerk	£246.28	£0.00	£246.28	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Jul-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,646.31	£0.00	£1,646.31	BACS
HMRC	Jul-21	PAYE & NI	£520.61	£0.00	£520.61	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Jul-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Jul-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
E.ON Electricity	11469595940	Land - Electricity	£12.04	£0.60	£12.64	DD
Steve Pitcher Plumbing & Heating	16280	Village Hall Toilet Repair	£72.50	£14.50	£87.00	BACS
D. Lucas	6th July 2021	Allotments Litter Disposal (Including Fridge & Tyres)	£325.00	£0.00	£325.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Routine Payments Total			£3,638.11	£27.91	£3,666.02	
Non Routine Payment						
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
Total			£3,638.11	£27.91	£3,666.02	
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 the end of June 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of June 2021, which were approved.
3. Social Media/Communications Policy (Resident Request) – Donna Aldridge had

noticed that the Policy on the website was quite old. The PC agreed that this would be reviewed and updated. A Communication Plan for the Neighbourhood Plan project was needed. Cllr Severn to discuss with Cllr Mackay and Cllr Morgan to ensure everyone has the opportunity to comment. Cllr Singleton commented that the Village View was also a form of communication and was hand delivered to all parishioners.

21.32 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land Transfer

Cllr I Schwab advised that she was awaiting consultation information which will include an indication as to the price. As already discussed under the open forum, as soon as plans were received in a suitable format showing all the areas concerned, these would be made available. At the point the land is transferred WPC would be prepared to consider offers to grant permission for parishioners who wished to maintain the land outside their property.

2 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work Bandstand Island Bridge/Footpath by Nursing Home/Drop Bollard – Clerk Update

Litter

From: Noreen Shardlow <noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: Additional Bins - Balloon Meadow
Date: 28 June 2021 at 14:55:05 BST
To: "sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk" <sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk>, "awschwab@me.com" <awschwab@me.com>, Mary Singleton <marysingleton07@gmail.com>, "ericrosewpc@aol.com" <ericrosewpc@aol.com>, "irinaschwablegal@gmail.com" <irinaschwablegal@gmail.com>, Mick Morgan <mick.morgan@watermead-pc.gov.uk>, Stuart Mackay <stuart.mackay@watermead-pc.gov.uk>
Cc: "michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk" <michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk>

Dear Cllrs,

re: **Additional Bins - Balloon Meadow**

As agreed at our June 2021 Parish Council meeting, I was awaiting clarification on a couple of points from Harry of Commercial Waste Services and he has now confirmed the following.

Buckinghamshire Council are able to provide 3 x 360l bins as per the costings previously circulated. Harry has now confirmed that during the peak busy periods we will pay the rental and collection fee. If a collection is not needed for a couple of weeks then we can pause our collections and only pay the rental fee. In the months that we do not require any collections (weather depending Oct-Mar) Buckinghamshire Council will return the bins to their depot and we will not pay any rental etc and the bins will be returned when we ask.

Harry is now adding the three bins to our existing account at the Village Hall and adding the balloon meadow location, this saves a lot of time with Waste Transfer Agreements etc. I have asked for the three bins to be delivered to the Village Hall just incase I am not around the day they deliver. Once at the hall I can wheel to the meadow and secure (chain and padlock) in the required locations.

Weekly collections will be made from the drop section and I will also advise of our collection days as soon as Harry confirms.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Noreen

Noreen Shardlow CiLCA,
Parish Clerk
Watermead Parish Council

At time of report a follow up email is being sent to Harry to see when the waste bins

will be delivered.

Martin Nolan Support Services response received.

Hi Noreen,

My sincere apologies for the delay in coming back to you - I've been trying to see if any of the part time staff that I use fancied picking this job up before I priced it for you.

Unfortunately, none of them are able to commit to this on a regular basis - so being as I am also unable to commit to weekend evenings due to other existing commitments, I'm afraid that I would need to decline the opportunity to quote for this work.

I really am sorry that it has taken this long to come back to you.

Martin

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Martin Nolan

Office: 01296 593001

Mob: 07708 702024

Other businesses which are members of the Nolan Support Services Ltd family include:



It was proposed and agreed to try and recruit a teenager (17+) over the summer to undertake the sunset litter picks on a Saturday/Sunday. It was agreed to put an advert on the All About Watermead Facebook page.

Watermead Piscatorials/Environment Agency

As agreed some time ago, I am pleased to confirm that the barrier between the lakes (under the bridge) has now been removed. Contact from the Watermead Piscatorials was received to advise that Andy Killingbeck from the Environment Agency would be attending at 7th July 2021. All went to plan and the barrier equipment was removed from site and disposed of by Andy.

Memorial Bench Request

A location has now been determined (see below) and agreed at the July 2021 PC Meeting. The bench would flow the same direction as the existing benches.



Works agreed and awaiting completion:

Walkway Brackets D. Lucas**Existing Benches Ground Works D. Lucas****Replace temporary fencing barriers around small lake D. Lucas**

BBQ - Waiting confirmed collection date from David Ogilvie Engineering. Contact has been made on three occasions, two to collect and one to advise about the flooding.

Anti-traveller Posts

Cllr Schwab reported on the incident where a car had lost control on the spine road and the anti-traveller posts onto the cricket pitch had been compromised. It was proposed and agreed to have the posts looked at.

Fence across to the small lake

Graffiti needed cleaning off the fencing and the back of the information sign.

Hanging Baskets

It was proposed and agreed to contact Bucks Council with regards to moving the hanging baskets from the spine road to around the mini roundabout.

3 To update on Screening Meeting with Westerleigh

Cllr Severn reported that a very useful meeting had been held with Westerleigh the previous week in which plans to screen outbuildings and the road junction had been approved. Westerleigh had been in contact with the Clerk and had offered the proceeds of their charity collection of £2,250. It was proposed and agreed that the money be put towards a new piece of gym equipment. It was also proposed and agreed to advise planning that WPC were happy for them to discharge the landscape condition provided they are adhered to.

The Clerk had circulated 2 photographs in relation to the land bordering the lake (lowered alleviation area in front of the crematorium). Westerleigh had asked whether the PC would prefer this area cut back or left more natural. It was unanimously agreed to leave natural.

4 Large Lake Footways Project

The Clerk reported that to assist with the PC's funding application to FCC, match funding would be beneficial and it may be possible to obtain match funding from the Community Board. It was agreed to proceed with both funding applications.

The Clerk

5 Vale Countryside Volunteers Working Group Days

The Clerk to meet with Adrian Bayliss to identify suitable areas and arrange working group dates.

The Clerk

6 Watermead Events – Update & The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Events Committee to decide on which date to hold the event. It had previously been agreed to purchase a bench.

Open Gardens Event to be held on 25 July to raise funds for Florence Nightingale.

Front Garden Competition – any nominations to be made to Cllr I Schwab/The Clerk.

7 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust

The Trust now has documents from Lloyds Bank, which will be signed off. The Trust will then have a bank account which will allow them to register with the charities commission and apply for grants available to charities. 96 people had been given food that day but there was a shortage of volunteers to deliver.

8 To Update on Allotments

The annual Allotment competition had taken place on Tuesday and the winner would be reported at the next meeting.

9 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that work was commencing on the Autumn issue of the Village View. An editorial meeting had been arranged for 1 August and the deadline for submissions was 26 July. All contributions were welcome.

10 To update on Village Hall & COVID-19 Measures including return of groups

Update: Contractors have now returned to site.

As advised in a recent email, the rear wall of the Village Hall has again been subject to water damage. I provided Christopher Evans of Compton Property Management the before and after photographs that I sent to all and he immediately passed them onto Charles Mallard, Surveyor/Project Manager for the Piazza Development.

Charles Mallard visited the hall last week to inspect the damage to our wall and has agreed when ACC Facilities Management (appointed contractor for the Piazza) return they will inspect and report back the findings and Charles will provide us with an update/course of action.

Awaiting guidelines next week but it was planned to phase in long term groups from September. Cllr Severn requested groups continue to wear masks and sanitise.

11 To update on Highways, Transport & MVAS

Dear Clerk

You may already be aware that 2 new technicians have recently been recruited in the north of the county and that there has been some subsequent internal re-organisation. I have therefore taken over from my colleague Matt Whincup with regard to those parishes, which are included in the Wing and Ivinghoe wards.

In general I would advise that individual defects are reported via [FixMyStreet](#) but if you wish to have a response or update on more complex issues I can be contacted at the email given above. I am also happy to attend site meetings if necessary.

Further information about TfB activities including surfacing programmes, current roadworks etc can be found via the link below:

[Parish Portal | Dashboard \(transportforbucks.net\)](#)

Regards
Paul Foot
Local Area Technician



The below concerns were reported to Cllr Ashley Bond and Zoe Ford of Transport for Bucks (TFB) is now attempting to resolve all of the below issues.

Areas of land the Parish Council have received complaints about. The responsible authority is Buckinghamshire Council and all have been reported.

The Comfrey – Pothole in road
The Comfrey – Installation of alleged unauthorised fencing/gates.
Lack of grass cutting in Hawfinch, Brambling, Watermead junction and the main road by allotments.
Overgrown/potentially dangerous trees in Hawfinch and Partridge Way.
Brambling - Fencing along pathway to rear of properties

Cllr Severn to forward details of the MVAS battery to Cllr Mackay.

Cllr Severn

12 Photography Exhibition

It was noted that fantastic photos were being posted on the All About Watermead Facebook page.

21.33 Date of meetings

19 August (if needed), 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.08pm and thanked people for their attendance.