

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 15 September 2016 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead**

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

16.43 Apologies

AVDC and BCC Cllr Netta Glover, Cllr Gent

16.44 Cllr J Gent

1. To acknowledge receipt of Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Application for Dispensation Cllrs agreed to accept Cllr Julian Gent's dispensation.

Confirmed all relevant dispensations in setting the precept are in place in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011

16.45 Declarations of Interest

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

16.46 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

To discuss any Neighbourhood Watch matters – TVP

No police report received. The PC had written to the Chief Constable regarding the issues and problems Watermead were having and a response was awaited.

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

Sally Stocker had previously requested a bench in memorial of her late husband Peter Stocker. The siting of the bench had been discussed by the PC but Mrs Stocker was not keen on the proposed location and requested that the PC reconsider its decision for the bench to be sited in the beach area. The bench would be made out of recycled plastic and set on a concrete base. The PC agreed to add the item to the next agenda for discussion.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

16.48 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 July 2016

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

16.49 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted – no updates

2. 13/03534/AOP – Land East of Watermead Update – the PC confirmed that the planning application had been rejected by the Secretary of State. Thanks were given to AVDC, Cllr Bond and Bierton Parish Council.

3. 14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, Riviera Site – the PC confirmed it had been granted leave to appeal. A date would be set by the Listing Office for AVDC, Westerleigh and the PC to attend. All of the grounds the PC had raised for objection were valid for appeal.

16.50 Finance

1. To agree the cheque run for September 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the cheque run for July 2016 which was approved.

Ian Whittome	312	GPC Grass Cutting	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	2664
Greenbarnes Ltd	12996	Memorial Bench	£383.52	£76.70	£460.22	2665
Eagle Graphics	21269	Village View Printing	£1,497.00	£0.00	£1,497.00	2666
Sign Wizzard	29346	Replacement Signs Crem	£49.38	£9.88	£59.26	2667
Information Commissioner	Z3321511	Data Protection	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00	2668
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall	£5.44	£0.27	£5.71	2669
Celebration Management Services	268	Village Hall Management Assistant	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	2670
M. Jackson	Sep-16	Clerk	£212.00	£0.00	£212.00	2671
Cancelled Chq. Error when writing.					£0.00	2672
N. Shardlow	Sep-16	The Clerk	£1,436.92	£0.00	£1,436.92	2673
HMRC PAYE	Sep-16	PAYE	£463.58	£0.00	£463.58	2674
G. M. Hall & Co.	Sep-16	Payroll	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	2675
CLC Grounds Maintenance	1595, 1594 & 1622	Litter, R&M & Grass Cutting	£1,503.00	£0.00	£1,503.00	2676

An additional cheque was agreed for £23.56 to Thames Water for water supply to the allotments.

2. To agree the accounts to end August 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end August 2016 which were approved.

3. External Auditor Report – Accounts 2015-2016 – The PC's accounts for 2015-2016 have now been returned from the External Auditors, Mazars and they advise as follows:

“On the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

Another matter not affecting their opinion but in which they wish to draw our attention to is as follows. Bank reconciliations must now be an annual reconciliation as opposed to March end of year reconciliation. This was arranged for this audit and has been noted for future audits.

16.51. Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1. To update on Land – Clerk's Report & Full Council

Copse Repairs – repairs had been carried out several times but the new wires/cables ties had been cut through and a tree had also been cut down. It was agreed to seek quotes to install CCTV and solar panelled lighting. Signage would also be installed advising that the land was private, belonged to WPC, and trespassers would be prosecuted.

Vans/Signage on Spine Road

A van was being parked along the spine road and an advertising sign by the roundabout. It was reported that signs could be laid down flat. The Clerk would write to the owner to request its removal.

The Clerk

There has been vandalism to the “No Crematorium” signs on the white gates with the cutting out of the word “No”. It had already been agreed to replace the signs.

Tree Works – no progress, awaiting the contractor to carry out. The Clerk to chase.

Vegetation around Lakes – Cllr Rose requested and it was agreed that the teasels around the lake walk not be cut back as they attract birds/goldfinches.

Fallen Tree in Copse - Following the communication received from Hamid Pardis previously circulated, the Clerk had now managed to speak with Paul Holton, Biodiversity Officer of Aylesbury Vale District Council and Ralph Branston, Tree Officer also of Aylesbury Vale District Council.

Images of the tree fallen within the Copse have been sent to both and the following advice has been received verbally.

Trees are never a straightforward matter due to the nature of encroachment onto neighbouring properties/adjoining landowners. We have to consider firstly and mainly duty of care, does this tree pose a threat to the public? Legal aspect (injury) does not apply i.e. someone could trip, until harm or injury has been caused! We as Parish Council need to determine does this tree pose a threat to the public, are there any other foreseeable risks associated.

Whilst birds/wildlife are nesting in the tree we cannot remove the tree (RSPB advise between March and August). There is no law for wildlife using a tree as shelter. Advice from the Environmental Agency received from Ralph states that if a tree has fallen into a natural watercourse we would have to remove (once season allows) due to debris build up/collection, this does not apply to Watermead. As mentioned when we met we were concerned about further damage to the bank. Ralph confirmed that damage would have taken effect at the time of the fall. Cllrs agreed to leave the tree.

Dog Signage – it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a stencil at £55.

Litter Contractor - Further to the July meeting the Clerk advised that the litter contractor had given his notice with immediate effect. She met with Craig on a Friday evening who at the time mentioned/indicated he felt the arrangement may be too much for him. Notice was received over the weekend prior to the August Bank Holiday.

The Clerk had arranged with immediate effect for Darren Adamson of CLC Grounds Maintenance to carry out this service on completely the same basis. Darren knows the system very well as the mentioned before, he covered Craig when on holiday and will charge the same for this service.

The PC agreed that CLC Grounds Maintenance should continue.

Model Boat Club - Communication had been received confirming arrangements and accepting the PC's proposal to use the grassed area of land behind the gatehouse for the purpose of car parking whilst using the lake for sailing model yachts and boats.

Alison Lambert Bench Request - To confirm arrangements are now in place for the bench to be positioned within the tree line on the Balloon Meadow.

Introduction of Memorial Bench Policy – Cllr Rose had prepared a Memorial Bench Policy which would be discussed/adopted at the following meeting. Clerk to circulate.

The Clerk

Small Lake Bandstand – The Clerk to obtain a quote for ordinary paint.

The Clerk

Land between Sandpiper and The Osprey: Still waiting to hear from Ralph Branston. Cllr Bond to chase up on behalf of the PC.

To update on Bank erosion & Land Project

A quote had been received from Environments for People of £34k to undertake the

Cllr Severn

erosion work. Cllr Severn was in the process of applying for grant funding of up to £50k from Biffa and WREN. Grants were also being sought from Suez and Paradigm Foundation for the proposed play area.

3 **Watermead Piscatorials & EA Site Update**

The barrier between the small and large lake had been installed. However the installation was not as expected and the ducks were unable to pass through from one side to the other. It was agreed that Cllr Rose contract Mr Killingbeck, EA Fisheries Department. It was noted that a high number of fish stocks had been observed in the small lake.

Cllr Rose/The
Clerk

4 **Tree Survey Update**

Awaiting the Contractor to commence works.

5 **To Update on Allotments & Competition**

Cllr Rose's revised report had been circulated to Cllrs and would be included in the Village View. Cllr Rose commented how well the allotment holders have done.

Ditches site inspection is still to be carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council who will come back to us in due course with their findings and suggestion of works. TFB have just rearranged Local Area Technician areas. Matthew Whincup will continue with Watermead.

6 **To report on Village View**

Deadline for articles is 26 October and all contributions were welcome.

7 **To report on Village Hall**

Works to the village hall had been put on hold pending Compton's decision on whether to decorate the whole of the piazza area.

8 **To update on Transport/Highways Issues**

The banners on the A413 had been reported to TfB and removed by BCC. The Clerk was pursuing the grass cutting at the junction. Cllr Rose reported that there had been an accident involving 3 cars the previous morning.

The Clerk to investigate the possibility of installing anti-traveller posts/boulders on grass verges.

The Clerk

Weeds in Roadways

It was agreed to proceed with the weed spraying at a cost of £600 and advertise in the Village View for a working party to remove the weeds once they had died back.

Bus Bollards on Lark Vale – has still not been repaired despite it being promised within a few weeks. Call out was originally placed in November 2015 and it was agreed to contact the press if it had not been completed by November 2016.

Some of the road signs in Watermead had become illegible or damaged. To replace them would cost £160/sign. Cllr Bond to take up with AVDC. The footpath sign owned by BCC from Curlew to Lark Vale was also damaged.

The streetlights which had been reported had not been fixed within the timeframe specified.

9 **To update on MVAS**

The PC were still awaiting receipt of the survey from BCC despite payment having been made.

10 **To update on Christmas Events**

The band, vicar and Father Christmas had been booked for the Carol Concert. The craft fair had been arranged for 3 December 2016.

16.52 **Date of meetings**

20 October, 17 November, 15 December (Budget)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01 pm and thanked people for their attendance.