

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 16 February 2023 at 7.30pm

Held at the Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr M Singleton
Cllr M Morgan, Cllr A Bond
BC Cllr Diana Blamires, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk)
plus 4 members of the public – Graham Severn, Peter Dean, Mr & Mr Holland

22.64 Apologies

Cllr D Forder
Michelle Jackson
BC Cllr Peter Cooper

22.65 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda - Cllr I Schwab on any items relating to Land Registry or Legal, Cllr Bond on any items relating to Planning, the Community Board or Buckinghamshire Council.

22.66 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

Our Local Neighbourhood Policing Team now intend to attend Parish Council meetings. We are scheduled for attendance July 2023 meeting.

NO HANG UP SCAMS

'No Hang Up' scams are a particularly worrying type of scam which are becoming more common as of late particularly with **our** elderly and vulnerable residents.

This is where the scammer will call the victim and tell them that there is a problem with their banking. The scammer will ask for the victim's PIN number and/or passwords. If the victim starts to become suspicious, the scammer will tell the victim that if they don't believe them, that they will hang up and that the victim then needs to call their bank or the Police immediately. They will do this with the intent of panicking the victim and making them feel flustered.

The scammer will then tell the victim that they are about to hang up and that that the victim must dial either 999 or their bank's telephone number (which is on the back of their bank card) straight away.

Because the victim is now feeling flustered, they don't always realise that the scammer has not hung up the call. The victim will then dial 999 or the telephone number for their bank. Due to them panicking, they do not realise that there is no dial tone before they dial.

The scammer will then "answer" the call pretending to be the Police or the bank.

The victim will then believe that they are now talking to the Police or their bank. The scammer will ask lots of questions, so all the financial information that the victim believes is going to the Police or the bank is in fact, going to the scammer. The scammer's whole purpose is to cause the victim panic, so they aren't 100% concentrating on what they are doing and miss the important element that they have not hung up the call and that the line is still open.

- **ALWAYS** CHECK FOR A DIAL TONE WHEN PHONING THE POLICE OR BANK IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU.
- USE A DIFFERENT PHONE WHEN MAKING THE SECOND PHONE CALL.
- ALWAYS TERMINATE THE CALL EVEN IF THEY SAY THEY ARE GOING TO.

- ALLOW YOURSELF SOME TIME TO COMPOSE YOURSELF AND THINK STRAIGHT.
- PHONE A TRUSTED FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.
- The most important point here is, THE POLICE WILL **NEVER** ASK YOU FOR ANY FINACIAL INFORMATION AND THE BANK WILL NEVER ASK YOU FOR YOUR PIN OR PASSWORD.

We have had increasing amounts of reports of this type of scam, and it is very important that we spread this advice to as many people as possible. Please share this information on your social media and to any family and friends who you believe would benefit from reading this.

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

Graham Severn reported on the young lad and gentleman looking after an injured pigeon that afternoon.

A bike had been abandoned on Hamid Pardis' land. It had been reported to the Police and there was nothing further the PC could do as it was on private property.

Cllr Severn thanked Peter Dean for his involvement in the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition which had taken place the previous evening. People had been very complimentary on the documentation and the photography. Peter commented on the change of Highways contractor. The bollards across the county were filthy especially along the A418 Rowsham. Cllr Blamines/Cllr Bond to raise at the next Highways meeting. The Clerk to forward a list of highways matters for Watermead to also be raised.

Cllr Blamires/
Cllr Bond
The Clerk

Elderly residents were being conned at getting tree work undertaken at ludicrous prices. Peter had done some research into joint action between TVP/Trading Standards to have no cold calling. It was agreed to do a leaflet drop around Watermead saying that the PC would not request any tree work be undertaken by residents unless they are visited by a PC Cllr. Peter Dean to put together a draft. Roof work, driveways and waste removal were also target issues. The PC has a list of approved contractors that it uses to undertake works.

Cllr Blamires reported on the small amount of money available for feasibility studies for cycle paths. These included Aylesbury to Whitchurch, Aylesbury to Wing and canal path at Cheddington. Further information to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Graffiti had been removed the morning of the last PC meeting. The Clerk had forwarded pictures of the tag to Cllr Blamires for information as it appeared all over Aylesbury.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

22.68 To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 19 January 2023

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

22.69 Planning Matters

- (1) **To update on any Planning Applications submitted** – no new applications submitted. No update on existing applications.

22.70 Finance & Administration

1. The payment schedule for February 2023 was approved.

Payment Schedule		Feb-23				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	7002764267	R&M Land	£58.60	£11.72	£70.32	BACS
Ian Whittome	Feb-23	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	Feb-23	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,294.00	£0.00	£1,294.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Feb-23	Assistant Clerk	£278.60	£0.00	£278.60	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Feb-23	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,822.29	£0.00	£1,822.29	BACS
HMRC	Feb-23	PAYE & NI	£593.49	£0.00	£593.49	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Feb-23	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Feb-23	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
HCI Data (Website Domain)	WEB15190	Parish Council Domain	£85.00	£17.00	£102.00	BACS
British Telecom	SM50260908	Parish Council & V. Hall	£267.40	£53.48	£320.88	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council Bins	608624	Village Hall and Land				
D. Lucas	Feb-23	Bins	£89.47	£0.00	£89.47	DD
E.ON Next Electricity	A-CA102F38	Awaiting Invoice	£290.00	£0.00	£290.00	BACS
E.ON Next Electricity	A-7F27D6CF	Gatehouse December 23	£31.77	£1.59	£33.36	BACS
E.ON Next Electricity		Bandstand Electricity				
		Supply	£25.08	£1.25	£26.33	DD
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
Routine Payments Total			£5,505.70	£85.04	£5,590.74	
Non Routine Payment						
Total			£5,505.70	£85.04	£5,590.74	
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:	

One further payment of £865 for The Village View Graphic Designer was approved.

- The accounts to the end of January 2023 were approved.
- To appoint Internal Auditor for year-end 2022-2023 – it was agreed to appoint Gus Orchard as Internal Auditor.
- Insurance Renewal (April 2023) - questionnaire had been circulated. Rebuild costs for the bridges to be sought.
- Communications Received – subsequent communication had been received from Dr Rose. The Clerk had sent an email inviting him to attend a meeting, but no response had been received.

22.71 Neighbourhood Plan and Open Day

There had been an open day the previous evening which had been well attended by approximately 36 people.

It had been agreed to create a display board for each section within the plan.

A matrix document had been created which would include feedback from the businesses. A second email had been sent to businesses to offer them some time with the PC to talk them through the neighbourhood plan and offer support. The first such meeting was with Westerleigh.

Wildlife/bio-diversity section had been produced by Cllr Forder. The Clerk and Peter Dean had been working on the amenities/facilities section which included the natural environment and flooding issues. Cllr Severn was working on the transport section and it was hoped to have it ready for the next open day on 4 March.

22.72 Reports, Requests and Recommendations Received

1 To update on Land Registry Matters

Cllr I Schwab advised that the Crown Solicitors, Burgess Salmon, have written for an undertaking of costs in the region of £1750 plus VAT in order to undertake a valuation of the land. Individually the small parcels of land that form the 2 titles are probably worthless but put together they will just go over the threshold. Cllr I Schwab had requested a meeting with them to explain that the land is worth nothing.

One of the pieces of land falls within Mr & Mrs Holland's garden in Pintail Close who were in attendance.

Before any transfer documents can be drafted a consideration has to be considered. Cllr Severn suggested offering £1 or alternatively the PC instructing a local land agent to undertake a valuation.

2 To update on Land & Routine Land Work

Watermead Small Lake Walkway –David Patrick from Environments For People and Contractors. Contractor previously advised March, awaiting confirmation.

Walkway Brackets to be installed by Dave Lucas w/c 20th February 2023

Works agreed and awaiting completion:

Existing Benches Ground Works D. Lucas – Awaiting better weather.

Watermead Piscatorial Working Group Day Update

The dates for the working parties will be Sunday 2nd April, Sunday 28th May (8am – 1pm) & Wednesday 31st (Evening 5pm – 8pm).

Existing Litter Bins – N. Shardlow (Preparation for Spring/Summer) – it was agreed to reinstate the decommissioned bins into service as new liners have been sourced.

Watermead Crematorium Planting Scheme

Update received from Alan José 15th February 2023.

As an update on the planting, during the past two days the following work has been completed:

- Planted 3 Hazel on the bank between chapel window and lake to replace shrubs that had died.
- Added 2 *Viburnum opulus* and 6 *Rosa rugosa* to bank between chapel and lake.
- Added 1 Hazel and 1 *Viburnum opulus* to bank by bridge.
- Planted bridge with 4 Ivy and 2 Honeysuckle. Over time these will soften the bridge and provide great nesting habitat.
- Planted 1 Field Maple lakeside.
- Planted 1 Weeping Willow lakeside – near shipping container.
- Replaced 15 dead Hornbeam in the lakeside hedge – near shipping container.
- Staked, mulched and added guarding to multiple trees.

The benefits of this work will be seen over the coming months and years.

Whinchat Trees

The trees in Whinchat by bus shelter needed trimming back. The Clerk to report on FixMyStreet.

Hanging Baskets

Prices were awaited.

3 Request received from Florence Nightingale Hospice Walk of Light
All documentation received and circulated via email. The PC wished them well with their event taking place on 24 June 2023.

4 To Update on Allotments
No update.

5 To Report on Village View
The Spring issue had gone to the printer the previous day. This year was 30 years of publication.

6 To update on Village Hall
The reported scope of works commenced Monday 13th February 2023.

7 To update on Transport/Highways
Cllr Severn wished to involve other parishes in making representation to the Planning Department at Buckinghamshire Council regarding the insufficient road infrastructure in Aylesbury and the volume of traffic every morning. Cllr Severn and BC Cllr Diana Blamires to arrange a meeting with MP Rob Butler to make him aware of the situation.

The Clerk to forward a list of outstanding highways matters for Watermead to Cllr Blamires & Cllr Bond in time for their Highways meeting.

8 Larks by the Lake – Watermead Events Committee
The Watermead Events Committee held their launch meeting for Larks by the Lake Monday 13th February 2023. The format for Larks remains the same and tasks have been distributed to Committee members. The documentation is being prepared and will be presented at the March 2023 Parish Council Meeting. The event would be held on Sunday 28 May 2023.

22.73 Date of meetings
16 March 2023, 20 April 2023, 18 May 2023 and APM, 15 June 2023, 20 July 2023, 17 August 2023, 21 September 2023, 19 October 2023, 16 November 2023, 21 December 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked people for their attendance.