

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2020 at 7.30pm
Via Video Conferencing

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

20.21 Apologies
None.

20.22 Declarations of Interest
To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – none

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

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

Cllr Bond reported on the Community Board Meeting, which had taken place, which the Clerk had also attended. Watermead has different needs/issues to other areas such as Ivinghoe so it was important to get views across. Cllr Glover reported a successful Community Meeting chaired by Ann White at which people were invited to express what they would like from the Community Board - bridge games, theatre trips etc. The Chair advised of the Talking Bench, which had been suggested by Peter Dean and would be implemented.

Cristina raised the issue of cars parking along the spine road during the warm weather. She reported on the difficulty in passing with a pushchair whilst maintaining a social distance when cars are parked on the pavement. It was agreed that she should write to the Clerk who would forward her concerns onto BC.

The Clerk

Cristina queried ownership of the fallen tree by the care home. The Clerk confirmed that the PC owned the tree and that works had been scheduled but have been delayed until first week of August due to a nesting bird.

Trees/bushes had become overgrown and covering the path towards Osprey Walk making passing with a pushchair/in a wheelchair difficult. It was noted that the land was owned by Hamid Pardis. It was agreed that the Clerk write to request it be cut back.

The Clerk

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

20.25 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 June 2020
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting. It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk should sign on behalf of the PC.

20.26 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted - none received.
The Clerk reported on the Motion to Buckinghamshire Council regarding Planning and Parish Councils as follows:

We propose that the Council should undertake a consultation with town and parish councils, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of their engagement with the planning department, following changes to the planning consultation process in the Buckinghamshire Council constitution. The outcomes of this consultation and evaluation exercise and any recommendations resulting from it, should be

presented to Council, prior to the May 2021 elections.

20.27 Finance & Administration

1. To agree the payment schedule for July 2020 - The Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule, which was approved. A further payment of £2,010 was approved for CLC Grounds maintenance. An over spend on litter removal was reported. Cllr Glover reported that she had requested funds but unfortunately the litter issue was the same everywhere.

Payment Schedule		Jul-20				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	7001689555	R&M Land	£51.60	£10.32	£61.92	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	Village Hall Bin	Village Hall	£25.60	£0.00	£25.60	BACS
Ian Whittome	22nd June 2020	Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
Window Flowers	33448	Hanging Baskets R&M	£2,038.00	£407.60	£2,445.60	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	Awaiting Invoices	Litter, R&M, Grass & Allotment Cut	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Jul-20	Assistant Clerk	£230.52	£0.00	£230.52	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Jul-20	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,613.31	£0.00	£1,613.31	BACS
HMRC	Jul-20	PAYE & NI	£500.55	£0.00	£500.55	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Jul-20	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Celebration Management	Jul-20	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
Community Heartbeat	6170	Adults Pads for Defib.	£81.00	£16.20	£97.20	BACS
Serco/Herts Supplies	537598	Village Hall Supplies PPE	£168.98	£33.79	£202.77	BACS
D. J .Lucas	15072020	Litter & R&M	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	BACS
Hunter Pest Services	1608	Wasp Nest Treatment	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00	BACS
E.ON	0114 6959 5940	Land Electricity	£8.74	£0.44	£9.18	BACS
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£28.08	£1.40	£29.48	BACS
ACRE - Community Impact Bucks	VH Subscription	Acre Village Hall Subscription	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
Routine Payments Total			£5,926.38	£469.75	£6,396.13	
Non Routine Payment						
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total			£5,926.38	£469.75	£6,396.13	
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 2020 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of June 2020, which were approved.
3. Co-option Vacancy - A vote of thanks was given to Julian Gent. Applications had been received from Georgina Bates and Peter Dean who were both in attendance. The Clerk advised that Cllr Phil Toler had formally submitted his resignation to the Parish Council. Phil has very kindly agreed to continue with his services to the parish, including continuing with the Village View team, the sound system at the Carol concert, drone photography etc. The Clerk to start the casual vacancy notice process.

The Clerk

20.28 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land and Routine Land Work Small Lake Fallen Trees

Cllr Singleton reported a bird nesting in one of the trees that is scheduled for

removal. This has been reported to Patrick Kernan and the below works are scheduled for 6th August 2020 (after the nesting season period). Continue to monitor. The scheduled works include the fallen tree near to the spine road.

John Dennis of Watermead Nursing Home has now given permission for Patrick Kernan, approved contractor of the Nursing Home and our chosen contractor for the fallen trees on the small lake to gain access via their garden. Patrick is attending w/c 15th June 2020.

Update 16th June 2020 - Darren Adamson who agreed to remove the tree that fell Saturday 6th June 2020 near the spine road, is facing a problem with the removal. Darren presumed that this would be a simple task but his team are unable to remove. Darren is now obtaining some prices for us but I will also speak with Patrick Kernan and see if he can remove this when he attends to do the trees and the Nursing Home.

Newly Designated Wildflower Meadow

The required cut and collect of the meadow is scheduled with RTM Landscapes. To be cut by the end of July 2020.

Marcus Militello, Wayne Samuels of RTM Landscapes and the Clerk met Friday 12th June 2020 to carry out a routine inspection. Marcus advised that that the project is going to plan and we now need to arrange the annual cut for July. The flail and remove cut that is required cannot be carried out by Darren Adamson nor Dave Lucas so we asked Wayne Samuels of RTM Landscapes to attend (contractor the PC used for the crematorium boundary fencing) as he has the required equipment. The cost for the flail and remove the following day is £400. This amount will be used from the received and designated funding from the BBOWT grant.



Crematorium Screening

The Chair reported that the Parish Council were applying for a grant for trees from the Woodland Trust.

The Chairman

Alan Jose has been advised of BBOWT's concerns and advised to cease any further planting until the PC advised of an alternative location. Revised plan sent to Cllrs. Cllrs agreed the new location.

12th June 2020 - Whilst on site with Marcus Militello it was noted that some Willow Trees have been planted along the bank of the river. This was not carried out by BBOWT. To be discussed.

Cllr Severn and the Clerk met with Alan Jòse, Westerleigh Ambassador and Marian Webb, recently appointed Regional Manager of Westerleigh on Thursday 23rd January 2020. The agreed proposed planting plans were provided to Westerleigh who have agreed to pass these onto their landscape/grounds team for possible inclusion. We are awaiting a response from Alan Jòse to advise and for a further meeting to take place. Delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

At the November 2019 Parish Council meeting a draft proposed planting plan was circulated and agreed. A meeting between the Parish Council and Alan Jose of Westerleigh has been arranged for later in the month.

Small Lake Vegetation

Meeting to take place.

Cllr Singleton/The Clerk



Tree Request – Land to the rear 69 Kestrel Way

Works were now completed by Greg O' Callaghan.

A resident has expressed concerned about the very large trees (on PC land) to the rear of her property. A site visit was carried out with Eric and it was agreed that we would seek opinion from Greg O' Callaghan to see if the trees are a risk to her property.

Saturday 13th June 2020 Greg O' Callaghan attended and advised that some remedial works will need carrying out (not removal of tree). At the time of putting my report together I am waiting Greg to send his advice and fee.

Litter & Land Usage Update

The Clerk reported that Cllr Bond & Cllr Glover had attended the first Community Board Meeting but certain priorities do not affect Watermead. The Clerk had also attended this meeting and reported the concerns for Watermead. Katrina Kelly agreed to take forward the PC's environmental concerns as one of the priorities.

Walkway Brackets Installation

Social distancing had been an issue for the works to be undertaken with so many users of the walkway. It was therefore agreed to close the walkway for a day to enable the works to be safely undertaken by Dave Lucas. The Chair to obtain Heras fencing to be installed at each end of the walkway.

The Chairman

2 Vale Countryside Volunteers (VCV) update/request

Cllr Rose reported that Adrian Bayliss and his team were keen to visit again in September. He proposed work be done on other side of the river and that the allotment car park be used.

3 Large Lake Footways Report & Small Lake Walk/Erosion Update
Footways and Banks - Environments For People await a confirmed date.

4 Large Lake Tree(s) Request received from Hamid Pardis
It was proposed and agreed to respond to Mr Pardis's letter regarding trees around the lake using the points Cllr Rose had made in his email to Cllrs. It was also agreed to request scientific evidence regarding his suggestion of vegetation polluting the lake. Trees that were not owned by the PC to also be identified.

The Clerk

The Clerk to write separately bringing to Mr Pardis's attention the mess left behind by fishermen together with photographic evidence.

The Clerk

5 Watermead Volunteer Army & The Watermead Inn COVID-19 Scheme
The army had now moved to the store at Berryfields and an advert had gone out to residents to recruit volunteers there. Donations of food were being given every Saturday, which enabled bags of food to be delivered to families, which would last them a week. A fridge had been ordered. Thanks were given to all the volunteers.

6 To update on Allotments & Competition
Peter Smith, Chairman Watermead Gardening Society:

"What did you do during lockdown? In these difficult times our allotment was the one thing that kept all the adults in my household sane. That and the fine weather, which meant we could walk to the site and carry out the weeding, watering or all the other tasks in enjoyable conditions. It became the highlight of our day, so a big thank-you to the Parish Councillors' for continuing to support such a valuable community amenity. The wild life continues to thrive, e.g. we have seen a harmless garden snake around plots 12/19. Kites and pheasants still abound, but we have not seen many deer recently.

Before announcing the winner I must say a big thank you to Ken Keasley and Ray Powell for giving us the competition marking criteria and then using it to judge the allotments. Dr Eric Rose has carried out this role in the past, so when he stood down Ken and Ray were recommended. Both have their own allotments and are members of the Aylesbury Gardening Society, Ken being the Chairman. Judging day was overcast but the rain held off and I thoroughly enjoyed showing the judges the innovations people had used to gain to most from their plots.

As a plot owner I recognise the effort many of you have expended to achieve the wide variety of produce seen. A good example is last year's winner Diane Lee plot 46. It is worth walking over to see the scarecrows, (they always bring a smile to my face). One item we decided to add to the marking guide was for the number of the plot to be clearly displayed, thank you for those that did so and that gained you an easy ten marks out of a total of 140. The clear winner was Roger Mills plot 42. It was packed with a wide variety of vegetables and was well laid-out, neat and tidy. Well done Roger and Marion, both great supporters of the Society. Second came Lisa Smith and her little team of helpers on plot 13. Overall the judges were very impressed by the variety of plants grown (one unknown to us) and the tidiness of most of the plots.

One aspect that impressed me was how some have adapted their plots to meet a wide variety of needs, such as family areas complete with a fire-pit, or safe play areas for children. All achieved within a plot measuring no more than 25 x10 metres. With this mind I am awarding plot 50/51 a "Highly Commended", complete with a bottles of wine. Well done the Szydio family, your hard work has produced a place that is a joy to sit in and contemplate the lovely countryside that surrounds the site. In face well done all of you, the site looks really good. The winners will be awarded at our Autumn meeting."

The Clerk reported that a further 7 plots had been marked up.

7 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that the editorial meeting had taken place on Sunday and deadline for contributions was 26 July. VE Day celebration photos were welcomed.

8 To update on Village Hall, Cygnets & COVID-19 Measures

Cllrs discussed sale/transfer of equipment from Cygnets to WPC and the Clerk had provided an inventory of equipment currently held at the Village Hall, which is owned by the Cygnets Pre-School.

The Cygnets are finishing at the end of the week and as previously mentioned they are now starting the process of scheduling all their equipment and offering items for sale.

With regard to their larger items we will need these for the new pre-school setting, other hall users use their furniture and also private party hirers. The total cost to replace contents £13,007.00 approximately. It was proposed and agreed to offer £2,276 (17.5%) to include all the equipment listed.

Thanks were given to Dot Toler on behalf of the PC for all her work over the past 24 years. Her work has been massively appreciated by many.

9 WLRA & Compton Property Management

At time of report we are awaiting the Schedule of Works costing. The Clerk had been in contact with Christopher Evans of Compton Management since the last meeting.

10 Provision of new Pre-School

Make provisions for handover during school holidays.

11 To update on Transport & MVAS

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path – Awaiting Update.

The MVAS had been serviced and volunteers were needed to put it up on poles and move around.

It had not been possible to use the Sentinel whilst maintaining social distancing, as ideally 2 people were needed to operate.

12 To update on Highways

Representation to be made to BC on behalf of the parishioner regarding parking along the spine road.

20.29 Date of meetings

20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm and thanked people for their attendance.