

## Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 16 September 2021 at 7.30pm**  
**Held at the Village Hall, Watermead**

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr E Rose, Cllr M Morgan  
BC Cllr Ashley Bond  
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)  
plus members of the public – Graham Severn, Donna Aldridge, Mark Aldridge, Susan Browning  
Jacqui Palfrey, Elaine Farrell, Nick Jones, Emma Jones, Libby Rose, John Morgan, Mr & Mrs Javed Khan

**21.34 Apologies**  
Cllr S Mackay

**21.35 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, BM92422 and BM188000)**

**21.36 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property**  
Police report received as follows:

“Residents of Watermead, Thames Valley Police are investigating several break into vehicles which occurred in the early hours of Sunday 12/09/2021 morning around 0130hrs.

We have been made aware of incidents in Lark Vale, Guillemot Way, Stonechat.

Fortunately a resident sighted a suspicious person & officers attended the area, following a search a rucksack was located with what we believe stolen items within, the police now have these items in our possession.

We are trying to contact each person who reported a break in on that night to see if we can reunite any items to their rightful owner.

We would like to remind all vehicle owners to please not leave any items on show and in the cases above we believe all the vehicles were insecure. So please double check you have locked your vehicle by checking the door handle.

Please be vigilant and any suspicious incidents witnessed at the time please call 999.

Thank you

Wing NHPT”.

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

**Javed Khan** had moved into Sandpiper in December and was delighted to be living here with fantastic neighbours and a pleasant environment. Overjoyed to be part of the community. He wished to raise an issue regarding the cleanliness, health and safety of the lake. It appears there is a stalemate situation between the PC and the owner of the lake and he urged the PC to find a way to work through the issue and liaise with Mr Pardis. Having spoken to Mr Pardis, Mr Khan reported that Mr Pardis wished to co-operate with the PC. The Clerk had already made contact with Mr Pardis and copies of those emails had been delivered to Mr Khan. This matter would be discussed under agenda item 21.42.1. **Cllr Severn** advised that Mr Pardis owns the lake and ultimately has responsibility to clear it. The PC would do everything in its power to try and persuade him to do it. **Mr Khan** commented that Mr Pardis wished to collaborate and did not feel it was his responsibility alone. **Cllr Severn**

commented on the fridge/freezer which had been removed by the PC. **Cllr Morgan** added that the PC do many things to try and improve the environment around the lake which ultimately improves the environment in the lake. Cllr Morgan/Cllr I. Schwab/The Clerk/Mr Khan to meet up to discuss.

**Donna Aldridge** requested that the discussion be communicated to all residents as everyone has an interest and she offered assistance in finding a long-term solution. **Cllr Schwab** advised that permission would be needed from Mr Pardis to access the lake.

**John Morgan** wished it to be noted in the minutes that if it is illegal to trespass in the lake, then there is a problem with people swimming in the lake. **Cllr Severn** responded that as Mr Pardis was the owner it was down to him to enforce. **Mr Morgan** requested Mr Pardis be contacted and advised that he needs to take action. There was also currently an issue with blue/green algae. **Mr Morgan** had been in contact with the Clerk regarding signage around the small lake and he felt that there needs to be no swimming signs around both lakes.

**Ashley Bond** – the Community Board would be providing trees for the Queen's Jubilee free of charge from the Woodland Trust. Details had been forwarded to the Chair.

Gulley cleaning – 7 trucks would be on the road from today and a further 3 the week after to cover the whole of Bucks. Any gulley issues should be reported on FixMyStreet.com or to Cllr Bond.

The Community Board are going to have a session on the causes of litter and people's mentality behind littering. Cllr Severn was invited to attend.

A parishioner had reported to Cllr Bond that the birds on the display boards around Watermead were not correct. Cllr Bond advised that the Community Board would replace them. Cllr Severn queried whether the Community Board would also be willing to fund signs advising of the dangers to swim in the lake.

**John Morgan** suggested having more litter bins around the lake. He commented that the funfair/circus or any event which draws crowds to Watermead brings increased litter. Encourage funfair to send volunteers to litter pick. Cllr Severn advised that the funfair did litter pick each night. It was noted that much litter came from Favorit Chicken and other fast-food chains as well as businesses on Watermead. Any events organised by Watermead are cleared of litter after the event. Cllr Severn to report Mr Morgan's concerns to the Community Board. Cllr Bond advised that the initiative was more about why people litter in the first instance.

**Donna Aldridge** queried what engagement had been done with the Aylesbury Garden Town with regard to the Jubilee trees. **Cllr Bond** responded that Watermead was not part of the Aylesbury Garden Town. Mrs Aldridge requested to see a copy of the map to confirm that WPC owns the land in question. The Clerk to provide copies to Mrs Aldridge.

The Clerk

**Cllr Severn** reported that WPC have applied for grants from FCC and the Community Board to completely rebuild the path around the large lake.

Cllr Bond advised of an issue where a resident had moved in and started building an extension. Neighbours believed this to be without planning permission but it was actually under permitted development. Cllr Severn reported that planning had been applied for but the application had gone to the Town Council in error and Watermead had not initially been consulted. The Clerk added that when the papers were eventually received it came through as a planning application and not a permitted development. The signage for residents was also marked as a planning application. It was agreed to put an article in the Village View regarding consulting with neighbours in the case of

Cllr Singleton

permitted development.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

### **Council Meeting**

#### **21.38 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 15 July 2021**

The Clerk had received a request from a parishioner to amend the minutes. Cllrs had received draft copies of the minutes and had not asked for any amendments. It was proposed and agreed to sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**Donna Aldridge** and **Jacqui Palfrey** wished it to be noted that they attended the July meeting via Zoom and they objected to two items under 21.27 and that Graham Severn's question had not taken place. **Cllr Rose** suggested that all future meetings are recorded. Jacqui Palfrey advised that she had recorded the meeting. Cllr Schwab advised that parishioners were entitled to record conversations/meetings but it's what happens to the information thereafter. The established record of the meetings are the minutes and there is no obligation or requirement to record any PC meetings. It was agreed to add Cllr Rose's request to the November meeting as Cllr Rose had already given his apologies for the October meeting.

**Mark Aldridge** wished to ask a question. Cllr Severn advised that she had closed the public session. He wished to confirm that Mrs Aldridge's objection would be recorded in the minutes. Cllr Severn confirmed that it would be noted.

#### **21.39 Planning Matters**

- (1) Planning Matters** - To update on any Planning Applications submitted. Include update on 21/02441/APP 10 Mallard Close. At the July 2021 meeting, Cllrs resolved no objections to this application, however we noted that the consultation was sent to Aylesbury Town Council for comment and that the building works had commenced. Following the publication our response on the planning portal the applicant of this application made contact. It was noted that the communication had been received and it seemed an unfortunate misadministration.
- (2) 21/03231/APP 4 Grebe Close** – Single storey front and rear extensions. Conversion of loft including insertion of dormer – the PC proposed and agreed to remain neutral to the planning application.
- (3) 17/00881/APP** – Piazza Car Park Proposed Development – no updates received.

#### **21.40 Finance & Administration**

Payment Schedule		Sep-21		Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)		
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amour	
Mobile Mini	7002137762	R&M Land	£53.00	£10.60	£63.60	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	520948	Village Hall	£40.80	£0.00	£40.80	DD
Buckinghamshire Council	520948	Land Bins	£137.00	£0.00	£137.00	DD
Ian Whittome	23rd August 2021	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS
British Gas	953864187	Village Hall Supply	£54.61	£1.30	£55.91	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2759-2763	Litter, R&M, Grass, Allotment & Heron Hedging	£1,938.00	£0.00	£1,938.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Sep-21	Assistant Clerk	£246.28	£0.00	£246.28	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Sep-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,646.31	£0.00	£1,646.31	BACS
HMRC	Sep-21	PAYE & NI	£520.61	£0.00	£520.61	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Sep-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Sep-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
E.ON Electricity	A-4A9A8D6C	Village Hall Supply	£308.03	£0.00	£308.03	BACS
Focuss Group Construction	INV-0010	Repair to Bandstand, Path & Bollard	£3,850.00	£770.00	£4,620.00	BACS
British Telecom	Q050 D7	Office, Village Hall Phone Line & Hall Wifi	£190.35	£38.07	£228.42	BACS
RTM Landscapes	2989 & 3019	Allotments & Wildflower Meadow	£850.00	£170.00	£1,020.00	BACS
Information Commissioner	032aea721151	ICO Data Protection	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	BACS
Data Protection Fee	Aug-Sep 2021	R&M & Litter	£190.00	£0.00	£190.00	BACS
D. J. Lucas			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
<b>Routine Payments Total</b>			<b>£10,734.99</b>	<b>£989.97</b>	<b>£11,724.96</b>	
<b>Non Routine Payment</b>						
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
<b>Total</b>			<b>£10,734.99</b>	<b>£989.97</b>	<b>£11,724.96</b>	
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:				

Cllr Bond left the meeting

1. To agree the payment schedules for August & September 2021 – the Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedules for August & September 2021, which were approved. Two further payments were approved of £150 for Vale Countryside Volunteers and £2650 for tree works. CLC Grounds Maintenance had billed an extra £150 for hedge cutting by the Village Hall and removal of the dead swan found on Mr Pardis's land that was placed in the PC bin.
2. To agree the accounts to the end of August 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of August 2021, which were approved.
3. Communications received from Parishioners – communications had been received from Donna & Mark Aldridge and John Morgan which had been circulated to and noted by Cllrs.

#### 21.41 Neighbourhood Plan Update

**Cllr Rose** expressed his concern regarding the report which had been published in the Village View. Q18 of the questionnaire asked if residents would like a larger Village Hall of which 20% said they would which amounted to 52 people. In the report published it states that a small number of residents subsequently asked for

Q18/19 to be omitted. Cllr Rose felt that although it was a small number of residents, it was a large number considering the number of parishioners who usually attend PC meetings. All had expressed concern with regard to the question as had Cllr Rose who had made a formal complaint as no formal discussion had taken place or been recorded in the minutes. As a result of the disquiet at the meeting, it had been agreed and minuted to strike out Q19 and revisit at a later date. However Q19 had been posted on the website and results of the questionnaire published in the Village View. **Cllr Severn** replied that the Neighbourhood Plan team wished to acknowledge that of the 266 who had answered Q19, it would be reported that the team had been accused of bias and that the team would revisit it. Of the 266 that had replied 63% had been in favour. The Neighbourhood Plan team had apologised and acknowledged that it had got it wrong. Moving forward the team has a consultant who will assess all the information and provide advice on how to proceed. Exhibition Boards had been made and a public consultation would be held. The Boards would be displayed at the Photographic Exhibition on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Donna Aldridge** commented that she didn't think Cllr Rose had been rude to Cllr Severn and was sorry that she had taken it personally. She had sent questions to the Clerk regarding the questionnaire being reissued and was shocked to see the 8-page display in the Village View. She felt it would have been better to have version 2 displayed.

**Cllr Severn** responded that it had been decided not to take the question out due to the number of responses. However, a rider was put with it explaining what had happened and that going forward it would be amended. She confirmed that no formal discussion had taken place regarding a larger village hall but that Cllrs had discussed informally many times. **Cllr Rose** disagreed. **Cllr Morgan** questioned Cllr's Rose's persistence on the question. **Cllr Rose** felt that as a public body the PC ought to maintain standards.

**Donna Aldridge** wished to ask another question. **Cllr Severn** advised that Parishioners were only permitted to speak during the council meeting by invitation. Jacqui Palfrey asked whether parishioners were actually welcome at meetings. **Cllr Severn** responded by advising that the PC's standing orders had been amended many years ago to allow members of the public to speak during a debate by raising their hand. Most councils only allow members of the public to speak during the open forum session. All were welcome to attend and be involved in the discussions.

**Cllr Morgan** continued his concern that, in Cllr Rose continuing to raise the issue, even though discussions have been held and an apology given, the Neighbourhood Plan had not gone any further for the last 2 months due to the ongoing discussions regarding this particular item. The PC cannot continue to be run in this way.

**Donna Aldridge** commented that at the April meeting it was noted that there are 998 houses of Watermead and the return on the questionnaire had been 25%. In her experience this seemed quite low and that when the questionnaire was reissued a communications strategy would be in place to reach all different ages in different ways etc. She had offered to help and suggested the questionnaires could be issued via social media rather than paper versions through letterboxes. **Cllr Severn** replied that paper versions had to be delivered through doors for the PC to be all inclusive to the people that do not have access to the internet. A communication agency was now working with the PC. Donna Aldridge commented that the PC could have used help of the residents which would have saved money. **Cllr Severn** advised that grant funding had been obtained. Donna Aldridge commented that it would have been good to engage with the residents and use their experience. **Cllr Severn** advised that the reason why face to face consultations had not taken place was due to Covid and the PC had not been able to engage with parishioners. From now on exhibitions would be held and open meetings held to which all would be welcome to attend and/or join the working group.

**Cllr Morgan** commented that Cllrs were cautioned on the use of social media.

**Javed Khan** wished to recognise that the PC were not obliged to take any comments from members of the public during the Council meeting and thanked the PC for allowing members to speak. The way the meeting was being run was a little confusing in that issues that needed to be discussed between Cllrs seem to be being discussed with the members of the public and naturally they are going to respond. With regard to Cllr Rose's raising a matter of process, Cllr Morgan's response had been addressed to the public. Cllrs acknowledged this was a fair point.

**Cllr Morgan** updated on the stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. The residential questionnaire responses were being analysed and phase 2 questionnaire to be issued. The business questionnaire had been issued and the team have engaged with some of the businesses around Watermead more directly. A second business questionnaire was anticipated. Technical work still to be done. Much of the relevant information is in storage and would form part of the plan. Consultant to be re-engaged. Next meeting planned for the following week and face to face consultation to be arranged.

## **21.42 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations**

### **1 To update on Land Registry Matters**

Copies of plans were circulated amongst Cllrs and members of the public. **Cllr I Schwab** advised the PC were at the stage where a consultation process would need to be organised. Letters to be written to all proprietors around the green areas. The Clerk/Cllr Severn/Cllr Schwab would be drawing up a list of title holders. By way of background, all the green areas were pieces of land owned by Royco Leisure. Royco had been dissolved and the pieces of land were transferred to the treasurer's solicitors. The PC had expressed an interest in having the 2 titles transferred. Some of the pieces of land are at the back of resident's gardens. Cllr Schwab had previously advised that homeowners cannot apply to the Crown for those pieces of land as they are part of one title. Once the land is in the PC's name, it could at that stage transfer the small pieces to the relevant homeowner. Consultation letters, approved by the Crown solicitors, will be issued. The PC will then decide whether to go ahead with the transfer process.

**Cllr Rose** queried the green area on map 4 which appeared to be road. It was advised that this was grass verges.

**Javed Khan** questioned who had advised that the pieces of land could not be transferred to individual homeowners. **Cllr I Schwab** replied that Burgess Salmon had informed her they would not deal with individuals.

**Javed Khan** asked if the PC would have to pay for the land transfer. A meeting would need to be held to discuss but it was hoped that Cllr Severn would be able to negotiate and start with £1 on the basis that it will cost the PC to maintain the land.

**Mark Aldridge** asked to be shown on the map an example of an area where land was at the back of gardens. The Clerk pointed out on his copy of the map.

### **2 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work**

**Watermead Piscatorials** – The Clerk had met with Martin Mynott and Steve the bailiff of the Watermead Piscatorials. The reason for this meeting is that they are now making plans for their next working day (blue/green algae depending) and moving forward Martin said he would like the PC to be part of these talks. The jobs they have identified and would like to add to their schedule are as follows:

**1. Remove the broken overhanging branches this will enable the group to reintroduce the swim/peg already in place**



**2. Remove the broken branches just under the road bridge**



**3. Remove much of the vegetation that has grown/spread into the into the lake (mainly by wooden footbridge)**





#### 4. Introduce a new fishing peg/swim in the below location



I have to say the member numbers are up and the new contact Don Smith, are very upbeat and really keen on their working days.

The maintenance days on the small lake were unanimously approved by the PC. Thanks were given to the piscatorials.

#### **Culvert between The Osprey & Sandpiper**

The Clerk had written to Buckinghamshire Council, Environmental Health who had given Mr Pardis 15 days' notice to clear the culvert. This has not been done and the Clerk had again contacted Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire Council had advised they would not be taking any action and asked that the PC engage with Mr Pardis. The Clerk was awaiting contact from Mr Pardis.

Cllr Severn proposed that The Clerk find out from the EA what needs to be done to clear the culvert and associated costs and authorise the Clerk to spend up to £500 if Mr Pardis is willing to match fund. Consent from Mr Pardis would be needed to proceed.

**Libby Rose** commented that it would be beneficial to have a good relationship with Mr Pardis as the recent speedboat which had been racing around the lake at 10.30 pm had caused particular distress to one of her neighbours. **Cllr Severn** to forward the comment to Mr Pardis.

**Cllr Rose** commented on Mr Pardis's argument that the flotsam is caused by the PC trees. Mr Pardis had been asked which particular trees he was concerned about and he had highlighted every tree around the lake including those on private land. **The Clerk** advised that the fallen/dead trees under the road bridge, small-lake side are part of the piscatorials' plans.

Cllr Morgan/Cllr I. Schwab/The Clerk/Mr Khan to meet with Mr Pardis to discuss.

**Bandstand Island Bridge/Footpath by Nursing Home/Drop Bollard** – All works now complete

**Small Lake Trees** – Works commenced Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**BBQ** – The outdoor BBQ collected by David Ogilvie Engineering.

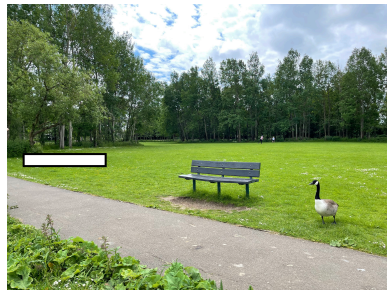


**Watermead Open Gardens** – A total of £228.26 was raised for The Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

## **Litter**

## **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**

#### **3 Large Lake Footways Project Update**

Funding applications had been submitted for 50% through FCC (£45k) and £45k from the Community Board. For the FCC application there would need to be third party contribution which could be the PC. £9k had been put in budget for this project/contribution but the % required would be 10.75% which would mean a circa £4.5k contribution from the PC. This was agreed.

#### **4 Vale Countryside Volunteers Working Group Day/s**

The VCV had done a very good job and a note of thanks was recorded. The Clerk to circulate photos.

#### **5 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust**

The food bank would no longer deliver from 1 October. Instead, it would be opened as a community larder and shop. People in need would pay £5 for 25 items. Another £1200 grant for food had been obtained. Around 6,000 people have been fed. The Trust were also helping people find employment.

#### **6 To Update on Allotments**

**Allotment Agreement** – Change of rules request had been sent via email. **Cllr Rose** proposed and it was agreed to retain wording in item 26 regarding the PC terminating tenancy as a precaution as the landowner. All other changes were approved.

**Allotment Competition** – Report sent via separate email.

**Boundary Works** – Agreed cutting of boundary, RTM Landscapes £450 now complete. A working group day to take place on 25 September followed by a BBQ.

**Allotment AGM** – Scheduled to take place Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### **7 To report on Village View**

The deadline for the Winter issue was 26 October. Any contributions were welcome. The Open Garden Event had raised £228.26.

#### **8 To update on Village Hall & COVID-19 Measures including return of groups Village Hall Rear Wall**

Over the past couple of weeks some of the final stages including works to balcony over the Village Hall have taken place in the Piazza.

Joseph Irwin who lives above the hall initially made contact with me to advise that the works scheduled for his balcony were now complete. August 7th following a heavy rainstorm both Joseph and I checked the wall the following day and all appeared well.

The last storm that hit Watermead at 4am one morning did affect the hall wall. However, it was different and the rear wall was not affected, the area affected is just to the right of the window wall by the shed. I made contact with Comptons (unfortunately Christopher Evans was on three week leave) but Joseph and Marcia advised that a site visit was scheduled on his first day of return and that she would call me when they arrive.

Today both Christopher and their Surveyor Charles Mallard were on site and came to inspect the hall. Where the latest water has seeped in is where the outflow pipe for the balcony is situated so Charles has agreed today that he will instruct ACC to treat this area.

Once the above works have taken place Charles is very hopeful we should be in a position of no more rain damage to our walls.

**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.

### **Return of Groups**

Two groups had not yet returned to the hall. It was agreed not to permit private parties in the Village Hall due to the size of the hall.

## **9 To update on Highways, Transport & MVAS**

Gulley cleaning being undertaken as reported by Cllr Bond.

**Cllr Rose** reported that the speed sign exiting Watermead has not been working for some months. It was proposed that the Clerk investigate costs of repair.

**Cllr Severn** proposed purchasing a SID which shows speed and sharing its use.

### **Coffee Van**

#### **Communication from WM News**

From: WM News Food <wmnews@hotmail.com>

Subject: Coffee van

Date: 29 August 2021 at 17:28:52 BST

To: "noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk" <noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk>

Dear Noreen

I'm very disappointed with the watermead parish council. You should already be supporting the local shops that have been there for 20 plus years and letting the coffee van be up by the day nursery it's taking customers away from a small independent shop that had to pay over £20,000 in service charges and other works

that needed doing. I will be reporting this to the aylesbury vale council as there is no information regarding its street trading license and the council currently have no availability for such license. Once one has started how many more are going to be allowed. The parish council have let down a small shop that has supported the community over this hard time and we always seem to get pushed to the back ground with no thanks.

Kind Regards

Mo

WM NEWS & FOOD

Cllrs sympathized but advised it was out of the PC's jurisdiction. Mo to be advised he could object to the local authority.

**10 Photography Exhibition**

Cllr Rose reported that entries were down considerably this year with 41 compared to over 100 last year. Cllr Rose had judged and would let The Clerk know the results. The exhibition would take place in the Village Hall on Saturday morning.

Cllr Rose

**11 Christmas Events**

It was proposed and agreed not to hold the Christmas Fair this year as social distancing could not be maintained with 12 stallholders and the throughflow of people. Cllr I Schwab abstained from voting.

It was planned to hold the Carol Concert as this would be an outside event.

**21.43 Date of meetings**

21 October, 18 November, 16 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.32pm and thanked people for their attendance.