

## Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 17 June 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, Cllr E Rose  
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk) (via video link)  
plus 1 member of the public (via video link) – Graham Severn

### **21.14 Apologies**

Cllr Morgan, BC Cllr Ashley Bond & BC Cllr Peter Cooper.

### **21.15 Declarations of Interest**

To declare any personal or prejudicial interest regarding the agenda – Cllr I Schwab – item 21.22.1 **Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM92423 and BM92422)**

### **21.16 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property**

At time of report no Police report has been received.

Cllr Severn had raised police presence at Parish Council Meetings at the IAG and was advised that it would not be possible to cover all 192 parishes but that a report would be sent when possible. In terms of policing in Aylesbury and the area, there have been much successes including a big drugs raid.

A report/request had been received from a Parishioner to raise the matter of e-scooters as they had nearly been mown down by one being used on the pavement.

Cllr Severn commented it was important to reiterate that Zipp Scooters should be ridden on roads and not pavements. Privately owned scooters should only be ridden on privately owned land. Police will deal with if they catch offenders.

There had been few burglaries and with the warm weather, parishioners were reminded to ensure windows/doors are closed.

Cllr Severn invited the Community Safety Officer to visit Watermead and other parishes.

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

Graham Severn had emailed the Clerk on a matter. It was agreed for his concern (hard standing area between the small lake and cricket pitch) to be sent to our local neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Clerk

A new neighbour of Cllr Rose has noticed a tremendous smell due to debris in the lake. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Environmental Health.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

### **Council Meeting**

### **21.18 To agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 20 May 2021**

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

## **21.19 Planning Matters**

1. 21/01913/APP 15 Turnstone Way – Extension to existing garage and first floor extension – the PC agreed to remain neutral to the planning application.
2. 21/01717/APP 8 The Heron – New garage to side – the PC agreed to remain neutral to the planning application.
3. To update on any Planning Applications submitted

### **2 Shelduck Close** – Provision of new garage

October 2020 a planning application was submitted for the provision of a new garage. Shortly after the application was submitted Planning advised to withdraw the application. An Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use was required.

The area to the front of the property adjacent the original drive is used for additional parking and the landscaped area have been maintained as a front garden space all within the curtilage of the original house. The parking area was blocked paved to match the existing drive in 2000. The additional parking area and the front garden area have been used and maintained as such since 2000. The parking area can quite clearly be seen on Google earth images taken in 2003 and 2006.

Contact has been received from the householder to advise that this certificate has been refused.

## **21.20 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Business Questionnaire had been completed and the covering letter was nearly ready to go. Thanks were given to Cllr Mackay and Peter Dean. All businesses on Watermead will receive a questionnaire and a personalised letter and this will be followed up with a visit.

Results of the Residents Questionnaire will be submitted. A number (177) was chosen at random by Cllr Singleton and the 177<sup>th</sup> questionnaire completed would be the winner of the £50 Amazon voucher. The second Residents Questionnaire would be produced shortly. The Clerk had obtained the second tranche of funding.

## **21.21 Finance & Administration**

1. The payment schedule for June 2021 was agreed.

[illegible]

2. To agree the accounts to the end of May 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of May 2021, which were approved.

## 21.22 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

### 1 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM92423 and BM92422)

At the previous meeting Cllr I Schwab had been instructed to make contact with Burgess Salmon regarding areas of land. Cllr Severn proposed and it was agreed that the PC purchase the land and spend up to £1500 on associated legal fees with Burgess Salmon. Cllr Schwab & Cllr Severn had arranged a site to look at each piece of land. Cllr I Schwab was awaiting the title plans. Thanks were given to Cllr I Schwab.

**Bandstand Island Bridge/Footpath by Nursing Home/Drop Bollard** – Waiting a confirmed date from Focuss Construction. Contact had also been with the Lakeside Nursing Home with regard to access arrangements.

**Litter** - As previously advised by email a site assessment has been carried out and we have also spoken with our existing land contractors Darren Adamson of CLC Grounds Maintenance and Dave Lucas. Cllr Rose reported that the litter problem has increased greatly in the last couple of years partly due to Covid and the lockdowns but also the fact that for a while Watermead was advertised by Bucks Council as a good place for picnics has added to the number of visitors.

During lockdown, with bars and restaurants closed and many not able to go to work, every fine day bought a large volume of litter on the Balloon and Fishermen's meadows with evidence of large drinking parties. Now the problem is concentrated at weekends and bank holidays with many large picnics and barbecues. From the litter left it is clear that many groups either bring take-away food to Watermead or get it delivered to our fields

The evidence from our early morning walks is that many visitors do bag up their litter and take it to one of the existing bins which rapidly become full to overflowing and then bags are deposited around the bin.

Because many of the bags contain food leftovers they attract wildlife including birds and squirrels especially foxes and get dragged across the field or into the woods before being torn open. At weekends we have spent an hour or more clearing up the resulting mess only to find the same bags dragged out again the next morning.

As Dave Lang doesn't normally do litter at weekends and Libby and I are out early for our walk we usually end up clearing up the overnight mess round bins sometimes helped by Mary. We are happy to do this but it eats into our exercise period and there is a time in the summer when we will not be available.



Two years ago, as a possible answer to this problem, WPC purchased the large double metal bin by the memorial garden. Unfortunately, the narrow apertures designed to keep out wildlife also prevent full bags from being put in the bin and these get left on the ground.

So, the problem is lack of capacity compounded by access to wildlife. The largest of our current bins the square slatted ones are quoted as holding just 158 litres. The smaller round bin along the edge of woodland by the memorial seat, which is much used holds just 111 litres.

Extensive searching via the internet has not shown up any lidded bins of sufficient capacity. There is a compressor bin on the market which costs £1400. A large, 4 wheeled, wheelie bin which holds 1100 litres has been suggested as a solution. These are heavy and difficult to move and would need to be parked on hard standing near the road and so would be open to fly-tipping or domestic rubbish unless locked. It is unlikely that members of the public would trek right across the field to use it when there are existing open bins nearer. So it might be useful as an overflow container but would depend on volunteers moving bags from other sites preferably late at night. Last year Bucks Council rejected the request for a 1100 litre bin on a number of counts.

The Clerk and Cllr Rose met Harry Hughes a representative of Bucks Council last week. He was helpful but his role is essentially sales and the final decision depends on those responsible for collections; we are still waiting for his report. 360 litre 2 wheeled bins are available these have 50% more capacity than the normal domestic bin and could be placed at various points around the field. And locked and chained in place. However if supplied and emptied by Bucks Council they would need to be taken to the kerbside on collection days. This would require regular volunteers.

It is possible to purchase 360 litre wheelie bins for around £75 ex VAT. Strong black liners for these bins are available at about £40 per hundred. However, when asked, Darren Adams our regular ground contractor said he would not be happy emptying them citing weight and possible mis-use. (The weight would not necessarily be more than the current level)

David Lucas had indicated that, in principle, he would be prepared to empty these bins on an-hoc basis and dispose of the litter but this would be an extra cost to the PC.

If the PC is minded to go for this option it was suggested to install signage on the bins asking people to take their bags home if the bin is full.



Below are two emails received from residents about the litter:

*Hi Noreen*

*There has been discussions on all about watermead to take the bins away for July and august as a test to see if people take their rubbish home I don't think the PC agree with this but it could be worth a test There would have to be signage especially around the dog bins Best wishes*

Hi Noreen,

Just picking up on the Facebook thread concerning litter and as per Eric's suggestion sending this email to you.

*It seems that I am not alone in suggesting we consider removing the bins around Watermead. I was pleased to see Eric state that solutions were being discussed but saddened this option was not one of them and that none of the solutions under consideration were even mentioned.*

*For me removing the bins would eliminate the problem of full bins and overflowing bins. The bin gets full and wildlife can easily pick and strew litter around and of course the wind can then blow it further afield, into the lake for example and across it to the far end...for example. This is then exacerbated by the dumping of rubbish around an already full bin. Simply put, if the bins were not there they wouldn't get full and people couldn't leave rubbish next to a full bin leaving them with no choice but to take it home. I actually think we are encouraging the problem by having bins and providing people an easy option to avoid taking it home. Dealing with people's personal rubbish is not the responsibility of the Watermead residents through the council tax system, surely.*

*I do a fair bit of running on off-road trails around the Chilterns with a local running club and what I don't see often is litter to the degree we do here. I accept they may have an army of people clearing up mess before me of course!*

*Emptying the bins costs us a small fortune and that money could be better used. I understand that this won't stop the mindless dropping of litter in other places, this happens everywhere and I don't see how we can solve that issue.*

*Can the PC consider this option and maybe trial it for a month??*

Cllr Severn proposed and it was agreed that the PC hire 3 x 360 litre litter bins from Bucks Council together with associated costs of weekly emptying.

Cllr Severn to speak to Martin Nolan and request he provide a quote for a sunset litter pick on Saturdays and Sundays. Cllr Rose expressed concern that the bins would need to be brought to the hard standing area each week for collection.

### **Memorial Bench Request**

May 2021 the PC agreed to the request received from Tracy Rogers for a memorial bench. A location has now been determined (see below) and would flow the same direction as the existing benches. The PC agreed to the proposed position. A second bench to also be ordered for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Clerk



### **Use of Balloon Meadow**

Permission for Karl Morgan to return to his weekly classes on the Balloon Meadow was agreed.

It was reported that the Balloon Meadow was being used for a commercial operation. Cllr Severn & Cllr A. Schwab to visit.

Cllr Severn/  
Cllr A. Schwab

### **Hanging Baskets**

It was unanimously agreed to install the hanging baskets along the Watermead spine road.

### **Crematorium Screening**

A follow up meeting is now scheduled.

### **Annual Play Inspection RoSPA**

The annual play inspection (RoSPA) has now been carried out by Play Safety. Of the 34 areas/equipment inspected all items were given a low risk except three.

Copy of the full report will be sent via email and the three identified areas will be actioned.

### **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.

## **2 Large Lake Footways Project Update**

New round of funding was to open shortly and an application was to be submitted.

## **3 To consider appointing a lead councillor to report to council on routine land maintenance matters**

After discussion it was agreed not to appoint a lead Cllr.

## **4 Watermead Events – The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

A beacon would be installed on the mound at Berryfields on 2 June. It was proposed to invite the Deputy Lieutenant to attend on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to cut the ribbon for the new bench.

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

A Village Hall was under construction.

## **6 To update on Allotments**

The annual Allotment competition is taking place week commencing 12th July 2021. Ken Keasley of the Aylesbury Horticultural Society is judging the allotments.

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

The deadline for articles for the Summer edition was 26 July. Any contributions were welcome. The Open Garden event to be held on 25 July in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.

## **8 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.

**9 To update on Transport & MVAS**

Cllr Severn was still trying to source a battery. The SID exiting Watermead was not working. Sentinel to be used again. Cllrs discussed ANPR cameras to monitor cars coming in and out of car park. Cllr Severn to discuss with Community Safety Officer.

**10 To update on Highways**

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

The Clerk to take up with Cllr Bond.

The Clerk

**11 Photography Exhibition**

Ron Adams was no longer able to judge. It was proposed and agreed that Cllr Rose should instead.

**21.23 Date of meetings**

15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm and thanked people for their attendance.