

## **Watermead Parish Council Meeting**

**Thursday 18 February 2021 at 7.30pm  
Via Video Conferencing**

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr I Schwab,  
Cllr Peter Dean, Cllr Mick Morgan  
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, BC Cllr Netta Glover, BC Cllr Peter Cooper  
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)  
Stuart Mackay plus 1 member of the public

**20.77 Apologies**  
Cllr Rose

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

**20.79 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property**  
No report received.

**20.80 Open Forum for Parishioners at 7.40pm – 8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting**  
Cllr Glover had emailed her report which had been circulated to Cllrs.

Cllr Bond advised that 125,000 vaccinations had taken place that day and all was going well. Cllr Glover added that all of the care homes have received vaccinations and 90% of the over 70s. Anyone over the age of 70 who had not yet received a letter should now make contact with their doctor's surgery to get on the list for a vaccination.

Cllr Bond also advised that £4m had been included in the budget for clearing of gulleys over the whole of Buckinghamshire.

Cllr Severn asked Cllr Glover to pass on her thanks to BC and the team of volunteers for the organisation of lateral flow tests.

In his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Community Board, Cllr Peter Cooper invited WPC to make a presentation at the next meeting on 3 March.

Cllr Cooper advised that funding was available from HS2 to affected surrounding areas. A total of £3M was available with £1M in the first year.

No issues were raised by parishioners.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

### **Council Meeting**

**20.81 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2021**

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.

The Clerk

**20.82 Planning Matters**

**1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted** – no updates. The Clerk was continuing to monitor the Football Club Ground application.

The Clerk

**20.83 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Morgan reported that the group had held a couple of meetings and all was going well. The group, which included three residents, had engaged a professional consultant and a formal project plan had been drawn up. The next

working group meeting would be taking place on 24 February.

## 20.84 Finance & Administration

1. The payment schedule for February 2021 was agreed.

Payment Schedule			Feb-21		Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)	
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	7001892365 & 7001923748	R&M Land	£106.00	£21.20	£127.20	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	Village Hall Bin	Village Hall	£20.30	£0.00	£20.30	DD
Ian Whittome	Feb-21	Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Supply	£66.48	£3.32	£69.80	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2637-2639	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,294.00	£0.00	£1,294.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Feb-21	Assistant Clerk	£230.52	£0.00	£230.52	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Feb-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,613.31	£0.00	£1,613.31	BACS
HMRC	Feb-21	PAYE & NI	£500.55	£0.00	£500.55	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Feb-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Feb-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
E.ON Energy	0114 6959 5940	Electricity Land	£9.41	£0.47	£9.88	BACS
		Gatehouse repaint, land				
Dave Lucas	Jan-21	adhoc and barrier repair.	£575.00	£0.00	£575.00	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	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
<b><u>Routine Payments Total</u></b>			<b><u>£5,080.57</u></b>	<b><u>£24.99</u></b>	<b><u>£5,105.56</u></b>	
<b><u>Non Routine Payment</u></b>						
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>£5,080.57</u></b>	<b><u>£24.99</u></b>	<b><u>£5,105.56</u></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: _____			

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

## 20.85 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

**1 To update of Land and Routine Land Work**

**Spratt Endicott Parcels of Land** – Ongoing. Awaiting response from Crown Estates.

**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.



## **Bandstand Island Bridge/Footpath TBD**



### **The Gatehouse – Flood Damage Update**

Update – Works are now complete.

### **Crematorium Screening**

The meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with Alan Jòse of Westerleigh Crematoria had been postponed due to Westerleigh Covid-19 restrictions.

Cllr Morgan reported that the living wall was dying off and had specifically been put in place so that residents on the opposite side of the lake would not be able to see hearses pulling up outside and coffins being transferred to the chapel. There is also direct access view of the bridge, car park and front of the crematorium. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Westerleigh with a copy to the Landscape Officer and Planning Enforcement.

The Clerk

**Walkway Brackets Installation** - Delayed due to flooding.

**Balloon Meadow Benches** – Due to water levels our contractor has not been able to assess.



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

Since our January 2021 meeting two further contractors have been identified by Cllr Severn. Focuss Construction have made a site visit and we are currently awaiting advice and costings and unfortunately the second contractor Dowdy site visit had been postponed due to water levels but had been rearranged for Monday 22 February 2021.

The Clerk advised of potential sources of funding:

- Aylesbury Garden Town – micro grants available of £2.5k
- Community Board – could possibly add some new infrastructure to the PC's chosen scheme
- Chiltern Rangers – interested to help out with butterfly reserves/wildflower meadows or a small grant
- FCC – Communities Foundation (grants available up to £100,000)
- HS2

**3 Watermead Piscatorials Request**

Andy Killingbeck of the Environment Agency had confirmed he was happy for the piscatorials to remove the wire fencing between the 2 lakes.

**4 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust**

The Trust continued to go from strength to strength. A few people no longer need help for the time being. The Trust had enough funds to continue for another 18 months/2 years. A storage container was now in place. A charity in Wycombe had donated nearly new clothes, which had been distributed. Charity registration should be received soon which would enable the Trust to build a village hall.

The Loneliness Project has been initiated this week and an application had been made for a grant for a pergola in Berryfields where people can meet up. If successful it was hoped to have something similar in Watermead

Thanks were given to all the volunteers.

**5 To update on Allotments**

Nothing to report.

**6 To report on Village View**

Cllr Singleton reported a bumper Spring edition with 36 pages. The issue had gone to print today and should be delivered to Dot a week on Friday for distribution over the weekend. The front cover image was one of the winners from last year's photographic competition. Cllr Singleton thanked all for their help and contributions.

**7 To update on Village Hall & COVID-19 Measures**

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.

At the January meeting the Clerk had reported that a £2k bill had been received from E-ON for the Village Hall and that a case had been opened with E-ON as the maximum charge in previous years over the Winter period had been approximately £300 per month. An engineer had been on site to install a smart meter. He confirmed to EON that the meter readings provided by the Clerk were correct (single rate meter) and the £2k bill would be credited. This has now been confirmed in writing.

**8 Compton Property Management**

Phase I & II project details and service charge accounts for the period ending 24 June 20 had been received and circulated.

The Clerk was currently chasing the costings for the recent work that had taken place at the Village Hall and any future works. To be forwarded to Cllrs once

received.

The amount of the voluntary contribution towards the projects from the PC to be agreed once costs of the recent works undertaken at the Village Hall were known.

#### **Path**

Groundsman Peter Norman had made contact with the Clerk regarding the path. The path itself was on Compton's land but borders PC land. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Christopher Evans of Comptons Property Management and also get the stepped area checked.

The Clerk



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

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path \*\* AWAITING UPDATE

Cllr Severn reported that she was still trying to obtain a new battery for the MVAS.

#### **10 To update on Highways**

**E-Scooter Request** – there was concern that the scooters around Aylesbury had only ever been seen used on the pavements and not the road.

Peter Cooper commented that High Wycombe had today agreed to a trial alongside Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. He commented that the anticipated uptake had not been seen possibly due to the weather but this was expected to increase once the weather improved. There had been initial concern with youngsters using them late at night due to parents allowing them to do so on their driving licences. Once parents were made aware they would lose their licences if this persisted, this misuse has stopped. The company running the scooters were ensuring they are put in the right position in their yellow boxes each night, and replacing/recharging batteries. It was proposed and agreed to review in 6 months once more data was available. The Clerk to make contact with Ben at ZippMobility to advise of the PC's decision.

The Clerk

#### **Drainage Problems Waxwing Close/Oliffe Close – Update**

As agreed at our January 2021 Parish Council meeting contact was made with both Thames Water and the Environment Agency (EA). To date no response has been received from the EA, I have only received an automated response confirming receipt of my email.

Thames Water have made contact and confirmed that a works order has been raised to clear and repair the damaged drain in Oliffe Close, when asked when will they be attending they would not confirm. They did advise this work could not be actioned until the water levels drop. Access is not a problem as it is on the main highway.

Also a further works order has been raised with the Waste Water Control Team who manage the sewerage works and they have confirmed the system is overloaded and believe this is caused by the damaged drains.

The most recent update received 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Jo Cottle of Oliffe Close is that an engineer is expected to attend by the end of the week. With regards to the gulley cleaning budget of £4M, the Clerk requested Cllr Bond ensure Oliffe Close and Waxwing Close were a priority on the list of areas to be addressed. The Clerk and Cllr Severn were due to meet with Rob Butler the following week and would be raising the issue of flooding with him.

Cllr Bond

Many residents have reported on the poor state of the pavements including the spine road. The Clerk had received dimensions on how high a surface is raised or how low a surface is with a pothole and areas would not be looked at it unless it is above or below. The areas that have been reported are significantly worse than figures given. Residents are reporting on Fix My Street, advised an engineer would be out and then advised that the defect would be reviewed 12 months later. Cllr Bond to raise at the meeting with the Highway team the following week. The Clerk to forward photos and advise of areas.

Cllr Bond/  
The Clerk

## **11 Photography Exhibition**

The photography exhibition would be held on 18th September.

It was proposed and agreed to increase the budget for prizes to £200 in order that the prizes could be more generous. It was also proposed and agreed to make a £25 donation to Ron Adams' chosen charity. It was further agreed if restrictions were still in place then to hold the event outdoors (weather permitting).

## **20.86 Date of meetings**

18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.49pm and thanked people for their attendance.