

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 18 June 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

20.12 Apologies
None.

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

20.14 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property
No report received. Concern was expressed that there had been no communication from TVP despite several social distance issues being reported - use of the outdoor gym, pathways being obstructed etc. There had also been an incident of a mass gathering in Buckingham Park and Watermead as well as the Black Lives Matter protest, which TVP did attend. Cllr Severn to raise WPC's concerns at the next IAG meeting. The Clerk advised that WPC were currently not receiving regular updates from TVP but confirmed that a copy of the agenda was being sent in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Severn

20.15 Open Forum for Parishioners at 7.40pm – 8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting
5G Masts
Loren Parker wished to bring to the attention of WPC the roll out of 5G across Aylesbury and the potential harm to public health. She had tried to make contact with Buckinghamshire Council but had been unable to find out who owns the 6 or 7 towers already up in Aylesbury. It was agreed that WPC with the assistance of Cllr Bond would request the information from the planning department. Cllr Rose made reference to the British Medical Journal, which did not raise any serious problems with 5G masts. Cllr Rose to review the research papers provided by Loren. Loren was advised to make a formal Freedom Of Information request to the legal department of Buckinghamshire Council requesting specific information on the installation of 5G network equipment onto Buckinghamshire Council lamp posts. Cllr Severn to provide contact details for the 3 masts that have been put up on the A41 in Berryfields. The Clerk/Cllr Bond/Cllr Glover to work together with Buckinghamshire Council to see whether any work had yet been undertaken on lamp posts.

Cllr Rose

Cllr Severn

The Clerk/Cllr Bond/Cllr Glover

Planning Application Process

Cllr Bond advised that he had been in discussion with Susan Kitchen regarding the PC's concerns over changes to the planning application process whereby if the PC wishes to object to a planning application, contact must now be made with the local council member to have it called in. There was concern that the local member may decide a certain project needs to go ahead and not take the PC's objections into consideration.

Litter

Cllr Rose had advised that Buckinghamshire Council were advertising Watermead Lake on their Bucks Family Information Service page implying that Buckinghamshire Council own the land and inviting people to visit Watermead. There had been an increase in the number of visitors during the Covid-19 pandemic, which had resulted in much more litter being left behind. WPC had increased its litter collections at considerable cost and a number of volunteers were also litter picking the areas daily. The woodland areas were being used as toilets. It was requested that Cllr Bond ensure that the advert is removed from Buckinghamshire Council website with immediate effect. Cllr Rose also

Cllr Bond

commented that due to having these extra costs for litter collections, the PC no longer has funds available to carry out other projects for the benefit of Watermead residents. Photographic evidence of the litter issues with a timeline together with a cost comparison of litter collections this year against last year to be submitted to Cllr Bond in support of an application for funds from the emergency crisis fund. There had also been an increase in the number of dogs being walked on Watermead and dog poo bins were not being emptied as frequently as they should be even though this service was being paid for.

Cllr Rose/
The Clerk

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

20.16 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 May 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.

20.17 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted

WPC confirmed that the objections made in respect of the Piazza flats still stand. Further photographic evidence to be forwarded to Cllr Bond.

20.18 Finance & Administration

1. To agree the payment schedule for June 2020 - The Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedules which were approved. Further payment of £2382 for litter, grass, allotments and R&M to Darren Adamson of CLC Grounds Maintenance was approved. Cllr Bond to try and obtain a wheelie bin.

Cllr Bond

| Payment Schedule | | Jun-20 | | Payment Method (if Chq provide Number) | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------|
| Company | Invoice No | Allocation | Net Amount VAT | | Gross Amount | |
| Mobile Mini | 7001661136 | R&M Land | £51.60 | £10.32 | £61.92 | BACS |
| Buckinghamshire Council | 1704421 | Business Rates | £611.28 | £0.00 | £611.28 | BACS |
| Ian Whittome | 25th May 2020 | Grass | £45.00 | £0.00 | £45.00 | BACS |
| Eagle Graphics | 26910 | Village View Summer 2020 | £1,353.00 | £0.00 | £1,353.00 | BACS |
| CLC Grounds Maintenance | Awaiting Invoices | Litter, R&M, Grass & Allotment Cut | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | BACS |
| Michelle Jackson | Jun-20 | Assistant Clerk | £230.52 | £0.00 | £230.52 | BACS |
| Noreen Shardlow | Jun-20 | Clerk & Office/Expenses | £1,616.59 | £0.00 | £1,616.59 | BACS |
| HMRC | Jun-20 | PAYE & NI | £500.55 | £0.00 | £500.55 | BACS |
| G. M. Hall & Co | Jun-20 | PAYE | £20.00 | £0.00 | £20.00 | BACS |
| Celebration Management | Jun-20 | Hall Management | £600.00 | £0.00 | £600.00 | BACS |
| Orchard Consulting | 120 | Internal Audit & Postage | £256.70 | £0.00 | £256.70 | BACS |
| Rospa Play Safety | 48703 | Gym & Park Inspection | £75.50 | £15.10 | £90.60 | BACS |
| D. J. Lucas | 18062020 | Litter & R&M | £995.00 | £0.00 | £995.00 | BACS |
| David Ogilvie Engineering | 185102 | Outdoor BBQ | £624.00 | £124.80 | £748.80 | BACS |
| E.ON | 0114 6959 5940 | Land Electricity | £9.01 | £0.45 | £9.46 | BACS |
| British Gas | 600026660 | Village Hall Gas Supply | £42.08 | £2.10 | £44.18 | BACS |
| | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | BACS |
| | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | BACS |
| Routine Payments Total | | | £7,030.83 | £152.77 | £7,183.60 | |
| Non Routine Payment | | | | | | |
| | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | | | £7,030.83 | £152.77 | £7,183.60 | |
| 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 May 2020 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of May 2020, which were approved.
3. To Report Annual Internal Auditor Report – The council's internal auditor report had been received and confirmed accounts have been carried out in accordance with compliance and relevant procedures expected.
4. Cllrs unanimously agreed to renew the following Parish Council policies:
 - Standing Orders (including Risk Assessment)
 - Financial & Procurement Regulations
 - Communications Policy
 - Asset Register

20.19 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land and Routine Land Work Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets had now been installed. Two of the baskets are still to be installed as the brackets were missing, this will be actioned when they return to water.

Small Lake Fallen Trees

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 to reassess the fallen trees.

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

Marcus Militello, Wayne Samuels of RTM Landscapes and myself 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

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. The willow trees would need to be removed as their location was not suitable by the wildflower meadow. It was also agreed that screening should be on Westerleigh's side of the river and not affect the wildflower meadow. The Clerk to resend the map for Westerleigh's review and then a zoom meeting to be arranged with them to discuss.

The Clerk

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

As circulated via email a letter was sent to a resident of Guillemot Court following the cutting of Parish Council vegetation. At the time the Clerk met with the resident a further request was made about cutting back part of the willow tree. Cllr Rose and the Clerk had attended and Cllr Rose had taken the below image, request to be discussed.



A response was received following the letter we agreed to send. The Clerk to ask Patrick Kernan to take a look at the willow tree while he's on site to give advice. The Chair/Cllr Singleton/The Clerk to meet with the residents of the Guillemot flats to discuss what work would they like done to the lakeside vegetation and the willow tree.

Cllr Severn/
Cllr Singleton/
The Clerk

Tree Request – Land to the rear 69 Kestrel Way

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 Cllr Rose 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. Clerk to circulate once received.

Tree Request – Land to the rear of 55 Kestrel Way

Two trees to the rear (on PC land) of 55 Kestrel Way caused concern to the residents of 55 Kestrel Way. Darren Adamson attended and has agreed to remove. Due to the trees being very thin, bent and whippy these works can be carried out within his R&M budget.

Litter & Land Usage Update – discussed under open forum**Walkway Brackets Installation**

Waiting confirmed installation date.

2 Large Lake Footways Report & Small Lake Walk/Erosion Update**Large Lake Footways**

Footways and Banks - Environments For People are hoping to attend w/c 22nd June 2020.

Small Lake Walk/Erosion Update

Footways and Banks - Environments For People are hoping to attend w/c 22nd June 2020.

3 Large Lake Tree(s) Request received from Hamid Pardis

The Clerk had provided a map for Mr Pardis to indicate which trees he was concerned with but no response had been received as yet.

4 Watermead Volunteer Army & The Watermead Inn COVID-19 Scheme

Deliveries had been made to 62 addresses today. Watermead Inn would be reopening on 4 July so next week would be the last week of collecting and storing on Watermead. All food to be moved to store in Berryfields.

5 To update on Allotments

The Clerk reported a waiting list of 16 people.

6 To report on Village View

The Chair commented that the latest issue has been fantastic and full of interesting articles. Cllr Singleton advised that the Autumn issue was under way and would cover VE Day. An editorial meeting would be held on 12 July and contributions to be submitted by 20 July. A decision was needed on whether to go ahead with the photography competition before the Autumn edition was issued.

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

All was going well with Cygnets. One keyworker had been employed by the new preschool and they were waiting to hear if a second keyworker would also be taken on.

8 WLRA & Compton Property Management

Schedule of Works had been received but no costs. It had been agreed that WPC pay 5% as a goodwill gesture. Cllrs agreed to the total payment of £2667.00 (as opposed to the figures of £2294.50 previously agreed to) a difference of +£372.50. It was agreed that the Clerk request a copy of the management accounts for Cllr Toler to review. Cllr Toler/The Clerk to discuss further and report back.

The Clerk/
Cllr Toler

9 Provision of new Pre-School

No update.

10 To update on Transport & MVAS

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path – Awaiting Update.

11 To update on Highways

Spine Road Parking & Safety. There had been issues with people trying to safely cross roads between parked cars and a request had been received for zebra crossings. It was agreed to write to Highways to forward these concerns on behalf of the residents.

The Clerk

20.20 Date of meetings

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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35pm and thanked people for their attendance.