

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 18 March 2021 at 7.30pm
Via Video Conferencing

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr I Schwab,
Cllr P Dean, Cllr M Morgan, Cllr E Rose
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, BC Cllr Netta Glover, BC Cllr Peter Cooper
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)
Stuart Mackay plus 3 members of the public

20.87 Apologies

None

20.88 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – none

20.89 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

PCSO Tina Hobson had provided a report. She urged residents to lock their cars up in the day and at night, as there have been thefts from vehicles in Watermead recently. They have been undertaking patrols especially in the evenings and are also keeping an eye on the piazza car park. Crimes should be reported on 101 or 999.

20.90 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 reported that Cllr Netta Glover would be retiring as Cllr following the April meeting. Elections were due in May.

Poonam Gupta and Sanchia Davidson introduced themselves in advance of the upcoming elections.

No issues were raised by parishioners.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

20.91 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 February 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

20.92 Planning Matters

1. **To update on any Planning Applications submitted** – no updates. The Clerk was continuing to monitor the Football Club Ground application.
2. **2 Shelduck Close** – Watermead Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of the area to the front of the property adjacent the original drive is used for additional parking and the landscaped area has 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. It was unanimously agreed that the PC should remain neutral to the planning application.

The Clerk

20.93 Neighbourhood Plan

A questionnaire would shortly be distributed to parishioners of Watermead which residents were encouraged to complete online with a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher. It was hoped to have the first draft responses with the Council by the next meeting in April as well as an outline business case.

The Chairman wished to express her thanks to Peter and Stuart for their work for putting the questionnaire together. Stuart had tracked down 140 businesses in Watermead.

20.94 Finance & Administration

1. The payment schedule for March 2021 was agreed. A further payment to CLC Grounds Maintenance for litter, R&M and grass of £1,294 was approved. With regards to the Neighbourhood Plan, the PC had received £1,800 funding a few months ago. Copies of invoices and payments needed to be provided to the funders to prove that the funds have been spent as stated. The Clerk had therefore been chasing up invoices from the printer and planning consultant. Payments of £500 for printing and £1,311.20 for professional consultancy were approved and would be paid for out of the £1,800 funding received.

Payment Schedule		Mar-21		Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)	
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amour
Mobile Mini	7001955858	R&M Land	£53.00	£10.60	£63.60
Buckinghamshire Council	Village Hall Bin	Village Hall	£48.10	£0.00	£48.10
Ian Whittome	27th Feb 2021	Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Supply	£128.33	£6.41	£134.74
CLC Grounds Maintenance	AWAIT	Litter, R&M & Grass	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Michelle Jackson	Mar-21	Assistant Clerk	£240.51	£0.00	£240.51
Noreen Shardlow	Mar-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,613.31	£0.00	£1,613.31
HMRC	Mar-21	PAYE & NI	£500.35	£0.00	£500.35
G. M. Hall & Co	Mar-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Village Hall Management	Mar-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00
Compton Insurance Services Ltd	C06481	Village Hall/Compton Ins.	£1,262.94	£0.00	£1,262.94
Came & Company Ltd	11162061	Parish Council Insurance	£2,081.66	£0.00	£2,081.66
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1. To agree the accounts to the end of February 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of February 2021, which were approved.
2. To appoint Internal Auditor – It was unanimously agreed to appoint Gus Orchard as Internal Auditor
3. Process to renew the following Parish Council Policies:

- Standing Orders (including Risk Assessment)
- Financial & Procurement Regulations
- Communications Policy
- Asset Register

The Clerk to email the above policies to Cllrs for review for adoption at the April meeting.

The Clerk

5. Insurance Renewal (Final Year – Long Term Agreement LTA) – the Clerk had circulated to Cllrs the insurance renewal, which would be the last year of the long-term agreement.

20.95 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



Crematorium Screening

The meeting scheduled for 27th January 2021 with Alan Jòse of Westerleigh Crematoria was postponed due to Westerleigh Covid-19 restrictions. A new date has been scheduled for April to discuss the on-going concerns that the Parish has relating to the screening at the Crematorium and the “living wall” that was planted with the purpose of preventing residents of lakeside properties seeing funeral cortege’s entering and leaving the Crematorium. The living wall has failed, as have other screening plants.

This meeting will also consider other planting ideas for the site that have been postponed due to the Pandemic.

The Clerk had been in contact with Alan Jòse at Westerleigh regarding the ashes, which had been disposed of around a tree on PC land. He was grateful for the issue being brought to his attention and offered to rake over and cover with soil. The Clerk to forward to Cllrs a copy of the Crematorium’s certificate with regards to the disposal of cremated remains.

The Clerk

Westerleigh would consider how they could reaffirm with clients not to scatter ashes on PC land. It was agreed to revise the PC’s Memorial Policy to include the issue of scattering of ashes and also Chinese lanterns for review at the April meeting. It was also agreed to provide a copy of the Memorial Policy to local funeral directors and crematoria. Cllr Singleton to include an article in the next issue of the Village View

The Clerk

Cllr Singleton

covering details of the Memorial Policy.

Walkway Brackets Installation - Delayed due to flooding.

Balloon Meadow Benches – The Clerk would be meeting with Dave Lucas the following day.



Balloon Meadow

Cllr Rose reported that a request had been made by a parishioner that the grass verges and areas of the balloon meadow not be mowed to allow wild flowers to grow.

The Chairman commented that there is already a wildflower meadow behind the gatehouse and that hundreds of daffodil bulbs had been planted which had unfortunately been stolen. Bulbs had also been planted in the Copse and in the Balloon Meadow many years ago. Daffodils had been planted along the grass verges but unfortunately as cars had parked on grass verges they had been destroyed. Other possible areas of land to be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk to respond to the parishioner advising of existing designated wildflower areas.

The Clerk

2 Large Lake Footways Project Update

Four quotations had been received for the Large Lake footpath project

- Environments For People
- BG's Garden Services
- Focuss Construction
- Dowdy Contractors

All information, plans, notes etc that have been provided to me are included in the attached. For information with the new quotations Focuss Construction have provided three options including moving the path away from the lake, raising the path and installing a boardwalk and please note Dowdy Contractors quotation is subject to free access to the property on the right hand side of the footpath (Kestrel Way), this is due to the size of their equipment.

With regard to funding, we are in the same position as reported at the February meeting as per below:

The Clerk advised of potential sources of funding:

- Aylesbury Garden Town – micro grants available of £2,500
- 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

It was agreed to proceed with expression of interest to FCC Communities & HS2 with a total budget of £100k including fees. It was proposed and agreed to take professional advice from Cole Easdon on the quotes received and the best way forward. Dowdy have kindly offered to review the quotes with the PC for suitability. The Chairman to make contact with HS2 regarding the possibility of them offering engineering expertise. Safety lighting was also discussed and needed consideration.

3 Watermead Piscatorials Update

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

4 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust

Another £2,500 had been received from The Garden Town to pay for food which meant that there were sufficient funds to provide food for another year. A school uniform company had donated a school blazer, which had been needed by a pupil.

The Trust were currently collecting Easter Eggs and welcomed donations.

Cllr Severn had been highly commended at the Community Impact Bucks, Women In Charity Awards Ceremony, Outstanding Volunteer.

5 To update on Allotments

Nothing to report.

6 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that work was starting on the next edition. The deadline for contributions was 26 April for distribution in June. A new printer had been appointed. The front-page image was one of the entries from last year's photographic competition. Peter Cooper to provide articles as a frontline worker and also on the Queen's Park Art Centre.

An open garden event to be organised in July to raise funds for Florence Nightingale.

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. The Clerk provided Christopher Evans of Compton Property Management the before and after photographs that were 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.

Contractors had returned to site this week and would be inspecting the wall.

The Government's announcement on 22 February, confirmed that village halls would not be able to fully reopen after Easter, except for a small number of permitted activities. From 12 April 2021. Only the activities shown here are permitted. Other activities e.g., art classes, clubs, WIs, craft groups, Parish Council meetings will not yet be permitted.

Indoor gyms can re-open, but not exercise classes.

All indoor children's activities can open, including dance classes, musical activities, cubs, scouts, brownies.

Parent and child groups can open indoors, e.g., parent and toddlers, with up to 15 attending plus under-fives. The social contact rules will continue to apply in all settings - meaning social distancing must be maintained.

We need to consider the return of our regular hall hirers. This includes Kumon Maths, Jo Jingles and Castielli School of Dance from after the Easter Holidays. This request does not include adult community groups, private parties/events. The re-opening of Watermead Footsteps has worked very well with the new measures, including different entrance and exit point and reduced numbers.

It was agreed to allow Jo Jingles to return after Easter on a Tuesday afternoon. It was further proposed and agreed to allow the Clerk to proceed with future group returns as per the Government guidelines.

8 Compton Property Management

The Clerk had received a breakdown of costings for the works done to the Village Hall. The windows, redecoration, iron railings, rear wall totalled £5,500 plus VAT. It was proposed and agreed to make a one-off voluntary contribution of £5,500 out of the COVID grant funding received.

Path

Grounds man Peter Norman had made contact with the Clerk regarding the path. The path itself was on Compton's land but borders PC land. Boundaries to be checked and liaise with Christopher at Compton Property Management.



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

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 17th February 2021 via Jo Cottle of Oliffe Close is that an engineer is expected to attend by the end of the week.

Update 23 February 2021

Mandy Pearce, resident of Waxwing Close has provided us with the below update and this has just been confirmed by a call I have just received from Thames Water.

Thames Water have now attended to the drain in question and the pipe has gone from 85% blocked to almost fully clear now. The next step is that they have to send down some repair compound to repair a crack in the pipe. I have just been told that this will soon take place after 9th March 2021.

Also to be noted is that Buckinghamshire Council have been seen in Watermead clearing the storm drains.

Cllr Severn update – Meeting with Buckinghamshire Council, Environment Agency and Thames Water.

The Clerk reported that she made contact with Zipp Mobility advising of the PC's decision to defer for 6 months until further data was available.

11 Photography Exhibition

The photography exhibition would be held on 18th September.

It was proposed and agreed to offer Freedom of Watermead (Freedom of Village Hall) to Dave Lang in recognition of the enormous amount of work he does every day collecting litter.

20.96 Date of meetings

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 21.22pm and thanked people for their attendance.