

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 18 November 2021 at 7.30pm
Held at the Village Hall, Watermead**

Attendees: Cllr S Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr E Rose, Cllr S Mackay
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, BC Cllr Diana Blamires
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)
plus members of the public: Graham Severn, Libby Rose, Peter Dean

21.59 Apologies

Cllr M Morgan

21.60 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interest regarding the agenda – Cllr I Schwab – item 21.67.1 Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM92423, BM188000 and BM92422) and in respect of any matters concerning legal advice for which she is retained

21.61 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

A crime prevention email had been received which would be included on the PC website.

The Wing teams have been divided and the main point of contact is now PCSO Matthew Samson.

Cllr Severn had received a call from the Police Sergeant looking after the Community Speedwatch, and would be reviewing sites for a speed gun and camera.

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

Graham Severn reported that over the last couple of weeks he had witnessed a lady cutting down hedges on the small lake. Cuttings had been disposed of in the hardstanding to the rear of the Nursery. Approaching the small lake some of the trees/bushes had also been cut back. Graham to report to the Clerk if he sees her again so that the Clerk can attend immediately if available.

Bucks Council

Diana Blamires reported on the drain clearance programme, which was due to start on Watermead imminently. It was noted that they had in fact been seen on site that day.

Diana reported that she was now Chair of the Covid Regeneration Group. WPC to forward any projects they may require funding to assist groups with Covid Recovery. Cllr Severn reported on the Buddies coffee mornings held at Esquires on Berryfields and it was hoped to set up a lunch club at the Miller & Carter, both of which would benefit from funding.

Ashley Bond reported on the Environmental Community Board Meeting, which had taken place on Wednesday and advised that WPC's funding application was in the final stages. Confirmation to be emailed to the Clerk for her to forward to the other funder, FCC.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

21.63 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 21 October 2021 & Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14 October 2021

The Minutes were agreed and signed as true records of the meetings.

21.64 Planning Matters

(1) To update on any Planning Applications submitted

(2) 21/03659/AOP – Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for landscape for change of use from garden centre to Industrial/Storage units – the PC had submitted its letter of objection and asked for the application to be called in.

(3) 17/00771/APP Piazza Car Park Proposed Development – Cllr Bond to check it would be called in. Residents of the piazza had undertaken a robust traffic survey using the methodology of the traffic surveyor which had also been included.

21.65 Finance & Administration

Payment Schedule		Nov-21				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	700220325	R&M Land	£53.00	£10.60	£63.60	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	523721	Village Hall	£28.20	£0.00	£28.20	DD
Buckinghamshire Council	523721	Land Bins	£108.90	£0.00	£108.90	DD
Ian Whittome	12th November 21	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS
Fusion Business Supplies	INV1110749505	Envelopes	£10.49	£2.10	£12.59	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2795-2797	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,688.00	£0.00	£1,688.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Nov-21	Assistant Clerk	£246.28	£0.00	£246.28	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Nov-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,646.11	£0.00	£1,646.11	BACS
HMRC	Nov-21	PAYE & NI	£520.81	£0.00	£520.81	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Nov-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Nov-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
E.ON Electricity	A-4A9A8D6C	Village Hall Supply	£211.34	£42.27	£253.61	BACS
British Telecom	SM50260908	Office Phone, Village Hall Phone & Wifi	£190.35	£38.07	£228.42	DD
British Gas	60026660	Village Hall Supply	£41.25	£2.10	£43.35	BACS
LMS Printing	8781	L Registry Map Printing	£51.75	£10.35	£62.10	BACS
Rachel Seago	Winter 2021	Graphic Design Winter 2021	£825.00	£0.00	£825.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Routine Payments Total			£6,291.48	£105.49	£6,396.97	
Non Routine Payment						
Kedel Limited	PO32560	Memorial Bench B. Phillips	£719.04	£143.81	£862.85	To be reclaimed from applicant
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total			£7,010.52	£249.30	£7,259.82	
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:			

1. To agree the payment schedules for November 2021 – the Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule for November 2021, which was approved.
2. To agree the accounts to the end of October 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of October 2021, which were approved.
3. To report External Auditors Report – the exercise of public rights notice should have been dated 24 hours before the date it was displayed but actually had the same date.

21.66 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Severn and Cllr Mackay had met with Westerleigh the previous week to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. Westerleigh were very keen to help and support the PC. The planting was going ahead as agreed and they would be looking to discharge their landscape condition. They were looking at putting beehives and reinstating the barn owl box in the memorial gardens.

They are opposed to the industrial unit application.

A donation from their collection had been given towards leisure equipment.

The Clerk and Peter Dean had been taking photographs of all land parcels to include in the land assessment for the Neighbourhood Plan. Peter Dean suggested using a drone to take some aerial shots as well.

First draft of the land assessment to be circulated within the next month or so.

Cllr Mackay's commercial questionnaire had been sent out with a few replies received.

Cllr Morgan had provided an update from the Watermead Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Team:

Initial resident and business questionnaires have been sent out and responses have been collated for analysis. This will enable the NP Team to review at the next stage and ascertain the key elements for inclusion in the follow up questionnaires.

The NP Team has met with the Planning Consultant who specialises in neighbourhood plans and advises NP Teams on the 'process' and provides a comparative view and feedback. This will help the NP Team to follow 'best practice' and increase the quality of the NP and ultimately help in ensuring the Plan can be 'adopted'.

I am pleased to report that the Consultant was very happy with the progress and activities to date under what can only be described as the very challenging circumstances of the past 18 months. It is now vital that we get the next key steps completed:

- Stage 1: The NP Team and the Planning Consultant will work together to ensure that the 'Aims, Objectives and Vision' of the Plan are drafted prior to the next phase of engagement.
- Stage 2: The completion of the crucial 'Land Assessment Survey' is required as this is a key element in the NP. There is a formal process to follow in order to do this and each piece of land identified will be assessed against an agreed criteria. Each site is then assessed, either Red, Amber or Green in terms of any development, Red being a 'showstopper' and Green being 'available/achievable'. Clearly Watermead has overwhelming constraints in that they are within the non-developable flood plain or have been through a planning process, such as an appeal, where they have already been deemed 'unsuitable'.
- Stage 3: On-going engagement with businesses and landowners within our 'Designated Area'.
- Stage 4: Once the first two stages have been completed we will re-engage with residents and businesses through Open Days and other events in order to increase key stakeholder engagement.

Anyone interested in understanding more about the Watermead Neighbourhood Plan can do so by contacting the Parish Clerk who will put them in touch with one of the Team.

The NP Team really do need YOUR FEEDBACK, ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT to ensure that the Plan represents YOUR vision for the Watermead of the 'future'.

21.67 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land Registry Matters

Copy of consultation letter and maps emailed 16th November 2021. Cllr Schwab reported that WPC was now in contact with Holly Charania, the Treasury Solicitor. The Clerk advised she had so far received one response to the consultation letter and a telephone call. Cllr Schwab reiterated 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 back to homeowner.

2 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work

Litter Bins Balloon Meadow – CLC Grounds Maintenance has dropped to one collection per week with the normal bins. The bins with lids on will be replaced with new steel bins and then the bins from Buckinghamshire Council will be off-hired.

Meeting with Westerleigh – discussed under 21.66.

Grass Path Clearance – Cllr Rose reported that two/three years ago WPC had requested that Vale Countryside Volunteers cut a path on the land next to the little bridge which opened up the view of the river bank and closer view of the tree with the kite's nest. It also gave access to the back of the woods. The path is no longer accessible as it became overgrown over the summer. Peter Dean had agreed to strim back the area subject to the agreement of the PC. It was therefore proposed and agreed that Peter Dean would strim back the area. Thanks were given to Peter.

A vote of thanks was also given to Jim Chignell for tidying up the area around the Welcome to Watermead sign.

Works agreed and awaiting completion:

Walkway Brackets D. Lucas
Existing Benches Ground Works D. Lucas

3 Recordings of Parish Council Meetings

Cllr Rose commented that when the PC had been meeting by Zoom, meetings had been recorded and it had been possible to go back and listen to what had been discussed. This stopped when the PC were able to meet publicly and at the first meeting there had been some controversy between parishioners and the PC about what had been said. He felt it would have been in everyone's interest if that meeting had been recorded. Cllr Rose therefore proposed that all future PC meetings are recorded. Cllrs gave their opinions and did not vote in favour of the proposal.

4 Memorial Bench Request & Update

Mr Richard Benz Memorial Bench Request – An application document had been circulated to Cllrs via email for a bench on the tree line of the small lake which was approved.

Mrs Phillips - At the October 2021 meeting the Memorial Bench application received from Mrs Phillips was agreed. I can confirm that a bench has been agreed and ordered. The style of the bench is the same that is already installed in this location. The bench delivery timeframe is 10-12 weeks, the applicant is happy with this timeframe. As soon as the bench is delivered I will make arrangements to meet Mrs Phillips on site.

Cllr Rose expressed his concern regarding the siting of the bench as detailed in his email to Cllrs. Cllr Rose to attend with the Clerk to determine an exact location.

Mrs Rodgers - 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. Unfortunately at the time of report, no response has been received from the applicant.



5 Watermead Piscatorials Update

Following the October 2021 Parish Council meeting a meet up was scheduled and the Chairman, Clerk & Peter Dean attended. Martin Mynott, Steve (Bailliff) and Don Smith attended from the Watermead Piscatorials.

The meeting was a very productive meeting, the Piscatorials were thanked for the works carried out recently and they confirmed that further works are still in progress.

Dredging of the lake was discussed and it was suggested that the Parish Council and the Piscatorials work together with Andy Killingbeck of the Environment Agency to seek funding for this project (potential funder the EA). A ballpark figure of £25k had been provided. Funding applications to be made to the Community Board, the EA and Calvert.

6 Large Lake Footways Project Update

Applications have now been submitted to FCC Communities Fund and the Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board.

7 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust

Buddies scheme already discussed.

8 To Update on Allotments

An AGM had been held and they have new people on board their committee including wardens for maintenance days and events. A bonfire night had been held.

The PC offered its sincere sympathies to Sheena Hudson whose husband had sadly passed away that day.

9 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that a 34-page issue had just gone to print. The winner of the photographic competition was on the front page. Distribution would be weekend after next and included the carols for the Carol Concert. BC Diana Blamires offered contribution to future editions of the Village View.

10 To update on Village Hall & COVID-19 Measures including return of groups

Awaiting contact from Christopher Evans.

11 To update on Highways, Transport & MVAS to include Devolution Update MVAS – new MVAS and speed gun would be arriving soon.

Cllr Severn has reported the MVAS to Buckinghamshire Council, as has Cllr Cooper (as per email dated 17th November 2021).

Contact has also been made with Swarco Traffic, and I can advise as follows:

Swarco's standard call out charge, including two hours labour is £630 plus VAT. However as they have an office in Milton Keynes near to the A5 junction they advised if we can get the non-working MVAS to their offices they would reduce this fee to £180 and again this includes two hours labour. They also kindly agreed if we

wish to get the two devices looked at they would not charge an additional £180.00. They would advise of further charges and parts before we commit to such work.

Apologies for the delay in this matter, on our initial call we had a bit of trouble locating the device on their database. The installation of our devices was before their database was implemented.

The PC agreed to await a response from Buckinghamshire Council.

Devolution Update – Communication received from Buckinghamshire Council:

We have recently listened to your concerns requesting an uplift to the budgets for carrying out devolved services.

These questions have been listened to and the Devolution team alongside Transport for Buckinghamshire have considered the proposals for 2022/23 and gathered information in relation to our budgets.

We are confirming there will be a 3% increase on your devolution budget granted for 2022/23 agreements. This is in line with the Council's annual inflation figure.

As you will be aware, the Highway & Technical services team are currently procuring the new contract for the Highway service to begin in April 2023 and focus needs to be on procuring this important foundation. We also need to ensure that devolution is aligned to the new Highway contract and we are therefore for 2022/23 planning to roll over all existing current contracts we have with Town & Parish Councils for a 1 year period should you wish to continue the agreement.

Confirmation of agreements will be sent out within the next four weeks for Town and Parish Councils to agree and sign.

We very much welcome and appreciate the roles that our parish and town council colleagues play in devolution, but should you wish to no longer be part of the devolved service please use the devolution mailbox, to let us know, otherwise the current agreements will be repeated with the uplift applied. devolution@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

12 To update on Christmas Carol Concert

Father Christmas had been booked as well as a choir and a brass band. Dot Toler to provide mulled wine and Cllr Singleton to organise mince pies. The Clerk/Cllr Singleton to organise presents. Clerk to contact Jane Rennie regarding a Santa's helper.

The Clerk/
Cllr Singleton

The Christmas tree voted on at the last meeting was currently out of stock. A request had been received from one of the Piazza businesses for the PC's assistance in lighting up the Piazza area and for 2 small real trees in the garden area. The Christmas Tree to be installed just outside the Village Hall as opposed to the centre of the Piazza.

21.68 Date of meetings

16 December (budget meeting at 7pm)

2022: 20 January, 17 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May (plus AGM), 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm and thanked people for their attendance.