

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 19 July 2018 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead**

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr Rose, Cllr Gent Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk), BCC Cllr Netta Glover plus 3 members of the public

18.33 Apologies

Cllr P Toler, AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond

18.34 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda

Cllr I Schwab & Cllr A Schwab – All items relating to Crematorium and Legal.

18.35 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

It was reported at the June 2018 PC meeting that following the numerous series of vandalism acts carried out at our Allotments, PCSO Danny Fahy had made contact to advise Thames Valley Police (TVP) were in a position to install a covert security camera, subject to our approval. The camera if permitted would be installed on one of the tree's (by TVP), near to the entrance of our allotments and is battery operated. The batteries last a week and in the event of break in they will download the footage. TVP have carried out a similar exercise at the proposed crematorium on areas that are not covered by their own CCTV.

The PC agreed that it would not accept condition 2 regarding liability and required the location of the camera confirming. The Police had withdrawn their offer.

The Police were holding "Have Your Say" meeting in the piazza between 1-130pm on Saturday 21 July.

Cllr Severn reported that IAG were concerned about modern slavery.

18.36 Open Forum for Parishioners at 7.40pm – 8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting

A parishioner commented positively on the Silent Soldiers and advised that a few negative comments had been left on the All About Watermead Facebook page.

A Watermead resident had made contact with the Parish Council and had very kindly offered to clear the area around the entrance to Watermead. Len Bone had now given his approval and Mr Roberts would be informed. Graham Severn offered to help.

Cllr Glover gave her report.

Cllr Schwab expressed concern about a number of Arla HGV's travelling through the town centre one behind the other and questioned whether they could stagger their departure times.

Parishes were being consulted regarding recycling facilities reducing their opening hours. Cllrs believed this would encourage fly tipping.

A number of parishioners had complained about commercial vehicles being

18.40 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

18.30 (1) Update on routine works

The two Silent Soldiers have now been installed and Dave Lucas has done an amazing installation at the Memorial Garden. Dave has set in white stones so that come November people can stand their remembrance crosses & poppies in the stones as well as around the memorial (Dave has very kindly donated the stones). The second has been installed under the cherry blossom tree in the Village Hall garden.

The EA had tested the large lake and were awaiting the results. The suppliers of the fish stocks for the small lake had offered a floating island including installation. The piscatorials had given their approval. The PC accepted the offer.

The Clerk/Cllr Rose had undertaken a walk to see areas where trees overhang footpaths:

Routine Maintenance Works

- End of the Heron. Hedge trimmed back (back of shops, hedging where dog waste bin is located)
- The Wilderness Meadow - 1 metre footway strip formed
- Behind the Gatehouse 1 metre strip around the perimeter formed (as agreed via email)
- Trees on the green between The Osprey and Sandpiper needed some overhang removing. A resident expressed concern of who commissioned works. PC agreed to inform the resident prior to any future works.
- Kingfisher open space – Hedging on the left needed a light cut back.
- Many residents expressed concern about the very overgrown area/overhanging tree on Kestrel Way near to the lake walk entrance. The area is owned by one of the properties and a letter was sent to the managing agents of the property.
- The Comfrey road sign has been reported to Aylesbury Vale District Council (state of repair)
- Concern was expressed by a resident to an open space to the top of Lark Vale when a resident asked them to stop walking through by a householder. Again this area is privately owned and the resident has been advised.
- A tree on Lark Vale was causing concern to the neighbouring property. The tree is on private land and the resident has been advised.
- The land under Mr Markham's memorial bench in front of the former Riviera has been cleared of the weeds. This bench is on PC owned land.
- Lake Blue/Green Algae – A time of these notes we are awaiting an update from the Environment Agency.

Replacement Dog Waste Bin

Marcus Young Landscapes are awaiting arrival of new bin from manufacturer.

Lake Clearance

Awaiting Contractors D. Lucas & CLC Grounds Maintenance. Deferred due clarity of lake.

Watermead Entrance Clearance

A Watermead resident has made contact with the Parish Council and has very kindly offered to clear the area around the entrance to Watermead. Len Bone had now given his approval and Mr Roberts would be informed.

Provision of Additional Litter Bin on Meadow

It was proposed and unanimously agreed to purchase a double litterbin and relocate the existing ones.

Walk around mound on PC owned land – Cllr Rose reported that 4 people had attended 1 of who had produced a map to superimpose on the Watermead map. More walks to be organised after September. Cllr Severn to organise a poll on Facebook to find out the preferred time of day for a guided walk. Cllr Singleton to include details in the Village View.

2 Marcus Militello BBOWT Update

Marcus was in the process of drawing up a draft plan for hedge planting. The Clerk to liaise with Marcus and present plan at future meeting.

The Clerk

3 Environment Agency/The River Thame Trust

Awaiting opinion from the EA on the issues with the River Thame.

4 Larks by Lake Children Play Equipment

Full proposals sent via email. Proposals for the Children's Play Equipment were agreed. It was further agreed to remove the tables and chairs at the outdoor gym and apply for grants to replace them.

The Clerk

5 Films by the Lake Event Update

An initial Event Management Plan and a copy of Skylight Outdoor Cinema's Guidelines have been received. Most details are now finalised, however Kelvin is awaiting a confirmed date. Event Management Plan accepted and approved.

6 To update on Allotments

Cllr Rose had produced a report on the allotment competition with the winning plot being Roger & Marion Mills with a wide variety of crops in excellent condition. A close second was Plot 4. A lot of work has been put in with imported topsoil and compost in the raised beds resulting in some fine crops. The owners are Kate Bolt, Charlotte Eardly & Daphne Reid aka the Crafty Chicks.

With the County Show coming up, BCC had been cutting the grass verges along the highways. BCC are saying that as neighbouring landowners it is WPC's responsibility to cut back the trees. Cllr Severn/The Clerk to attend a meeting with BCC.

Cllr Severn/
The Clerk

The Clerk to report the tree which had fallen onto another tree just beyond the stepping stones on the large lake.

The Clerk

7 To report on Village View

The deadline for the Autumn edition was 26 July and the winner of the best front garden and allotment winners would be included. A reminder of the Christmas lights competition to also be included.

- 8 **To update on Village Hall**
The Clerk to organise the repair of the broken toilet. The Clerk
- 9 **To update on Transport & MVAS**
Cllr Severn and Cllr Rose to operate the Sentinel equipment. Cllr Severn/Cllr Rose
- 10 **To update on Highways/Devolution Communication Devolved Services**
It was unanimously agreed to continue with devolved services.

Village Gates

Further to our June Parish Council meeting and the update provided on the Village entrances gates, the Clerk reported the following advice from Matthew Whincup our Local Area Technician, Buckinghamshire County Council confirming both gates will be replaced (see below).

"Now that you have confirmed the gate is no longer serviceable I will order a new replacement along with a matching one for the other side of the road. The gates we use now are actually made of plastic and are a lot easier to maintain and keep clean. They have a wood effect and look just like the original wooden ones but better in my opinion.

I need to confirm what size gates we need as the manufacturer does various widths and I will want to match the size as close as possible to the original ones. I need to have a measure up first then I will order them. It can take a while for the gates to be made and name sign attached".

The Clerk had requested that Matt advises when he has measured and ordered and the Clerk to then provide a further update.

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path

**** AWAITING UPDATE **** As reported at the January 2018 Parish Council a meeting was arranged with Paul Ahluwalia, Traffic Signal Engineer of Buckinghamshire County Council, Cllr Severn, Cllr Rose and the Clerk. The meeting was arranged for Buckinghamshire County Council to provide an outline of what the above-mentioned scheme entails.

Paul advised that at present the remit is to provide a costing to install a Toucan crossing at the point where the Pegasus (horse crossing) crossing was initially proposed on the A413. This was part of the original planning agreement for the Buckingham Park development opposite Watermead. To accompany the crossing, a formal cycle-path is proposed to provide an adequate and usable amenity for those wishing to use the crossing. This element will require extensive (7m) cutting back of the verge-line to allow construction of a cycle-path. Only when a costing has been provided and funding addressed (believe the whole project will be over budget), will a final decision be made on whether to proceed with construction.

The Parish Council provided Paul with the necessary maps and advised that they believe the Parish Council owns the land in question.

The next steps are for Paul to commission a topographical survey and make Land Registry enquiries to determine land ownership. Upon results of this Paul will make contact with us.

Highways Bus Bollards – The bus bollards at Lark Vale are still operational. We are still waiting to hear if the bid for installation of a new system is successful and chasing on a regular basis direct with Transport for Bucks and Cllr Netta Glover.

11 Photography Exhibition/Competition Update

Details to be included in the Autumn edition of the Village View. Rules were a maximum of 2 entries in each of the 3 categories: Watermead Wildlife, Watermead Scenery and Open Category. Photos to be displayed in the Village Hall.

18.41 Date of meetings

16 August (Finance and Planning Working Group), 20 September, 18 October, 15 November, 20 December (Finance Working Group)

18.42 Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it will be necessary for a Councillor to move a motion to close the meeting to the press and public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Planning/Legal Review

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.51pm and thanked people for their attendance.