

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 19 October 2023 at 7.30pm
Held at the Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Morgan, Cllr A Bond, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr D Forder
BC Cllr Diana Blamires, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Clerk)
plus 3 members of the public – Graham Severn, Mr & Mrs Dorr

23.47 Apologies
Cllr I Schwab

23.48 Declarations of Interest
To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – Cllr A Schwab on any items relating to Legal and Cllr A Bond on any items relating to Planning, the Community Board or Buckinghamshire Council.

23.49 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property
No police report received.

23.50 Open Forum for Parishioners at 7.40pm – 8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting including Land Request received from Mick Dorr Smiles Charity
Mick Dorr wished to hold a regatta at the beginning of July 2024 to raise money for Smiles Charity supported by Hemel Hempstead Kayak and Canoeing Club. The event would be held on the large lake subject to permission being received from Mr Pardis. It was hoped to have a few stalls on the balloon meadow. Health & Safety reports, risk assessments and insurance would be provided by the Canoe Club. Professional paddleboarders to race from the jetty to the bandstand. There would also be 8 person paddle boards which would be for teams. Cllr Singleton to include details in the Spring edition of the Village View. Cllr Singleton

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

23.51 To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 21 September 2023
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

23.52 Planning Matters
1 To update on any Planning Applications submitted – no new applications and no updates on existing applications.

23.53 Neighbourhood Plan
An Open Day was held on Saturday 22nd July 2023 at the Village Hall. The purpose of this final date was for the Green Spaces assessment to be presented along with a general update on where we are with the plan.

The next stage will then be the Regulation 14 which requires the draft Neighbourhood Plan proposal to be the subject of a pre-submission consultation before it is submitted to the local authority for independent examination. The consultation for this should last at least 6 weeks.

The Neighbourhood Planning Team will now be making plans to see how to make the plan and the work undertaken more visible to people on a regular basis. Plans are being made to include it on the website and a number of copies to be distributed around local businesses. QR codes were also discussed.

Once all these plans are confirmed after our meeting with Sally Chapman, our retained planning consultant, an announcement will be made by The Neighbourhood Planning Team.

23.54 Finance & Administration

We've designed template letters which you can use to contact your MP on this issue. You may like to amend or personalise it with an introduction and sign-off; if appropriate, the inclusion of any personal experiences will help add context and influence. Template letters sent via email.

It was unanimously agreed to support and put together a policy.

4. Budget 2024/2025 Preparations

The accounts for September 2023, previously sent now have a blank budget column for 2024/2025. The Clerk to start preparing ready for the November meeting guesstimated figures. Any requests for consideration to be emailed to the Clerk prior to the November meeting. Budget meeting to be held on 7 December at 7pm.

23.55 Reports, Requests and Recommendations Received

1 To update on Land Registry Matters

Cllr I Schwab still chasing via telephone and email.

2 To update on Land & Routine Land Work New Walkway Kestrel Way

New Update: Focuss Construction have paid £300 towards the caps. The Clerk to instruct Mr Lucas to carry out the works.

The Clerk

A resident of Watermead would like to start a Simply Walking initiative and the PC supported the idea. Details to be included in the Village View and also the Neighbourhood Plan. Volunteers would be needed to lead walks.

Cllr Singleton

Bird Information Boards – Cllr Bond, Cllr Forder and Clerk

Cllr Forder and the Clerk had met with Katrina Holyoake Co-ordinator of the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board that day and Cllr Forder had put together his ideas to update the information boards. A QR code would be included which could be scanned and information downloaded to a phone. Cllr Forder had started on a digital copy which would be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Forder

Litter Bins

The bins are now being monitored and once we see a more regular reduction we will reduce to one collection a week and off hire the purple bins.

Existing Benches Ground Works D. Lucas Walkway Brackets

3 Large Lake Walkway Project

As agreed at the July 2023 Parish Council meeting the Walkway Project figures were presented at the last Neighbourhood Plan Open Day. One resident was fully supportive of the project at the precept being raised to cover the initial costings one was against and three people advised they would think about it and pop a note through the Village Hall door.

Whilst preparations were being made for the View it was agreed to put a poll on the website. The results received so far are as below.

Yes 9 – No 12

Only 21 people out of a population of around 2,000 had voted. It was agreed to include in the Winter edition of the Village View with a deadline for voting of 15 January 2024.

Cllr Singleton

4 To Report on Allotments

Allotment AGM scheduled for Wednesday 15th November 2023, 7:30pm at Watermead Village Hall.

5 To update on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that the deadline for submissions was 26 October. An editorial meeting to be held on Sunday 22 October.

6 To report on Village Hall

No update.

**7 To update on Transport/Highways
Buckinghamshire Council – Works That Remain Outstanding**

CLr Bond had chased on the MVAS & Street Lighting Column Balloon Meadow, street lighting column on the Spine Road/The Watermead Inn crossing and MVAS on exit to Watermead

These works would be undertaken on 14 February 2024 and not September 2023 as advised previously by Zoe Ford (update below). The PC expressed their concerns that this timeframe is too long and asked can these works be brought forward.



Permanent bollards on traffic island. The brickwork edging is falling into the road.



Update received from Buckinghamshire Council

Report received from Zoe Ford at Buckinghamshire Council

I have spoken to the ITS team re the VAS and the street lighting team with regards to the bollards and street lights:

The VAS on Watermead - we have been informed that the ITS team will be adding the replacement VAS to the new replacement column LC008, this will be a strengthened column so the VAS can be installed on the column thus avoiding an extra pole and avoiding street clutter. They are awaiting a date when the replacement column will be installed. The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on exit from the estate was inspected on 20 March 2023 and the main control Printed Circuit Board (PCB) was found to have failed. This component is now obsolete and we are unable to source a new replacement. We are trying to source a salvaged part to use otherwise we may have to look at replacing the whole sign.

This work is on a programme of works but they are not able to provide me with a firm date unfortunately.

The bollards and street light on Watermead - Column LC018 which needs replacing and 2 bollards also - the column is on an imminent program of works and the Bollards

are on a program following the column replacements.

They hope that they will start by the middle of September.

Communication Received

A communication from Dr Rose was received and circulated, wishing to record his concerns about the traffic and speeding. Dr Rose had been emailed on a previous occasion of where we stand with the replacement MVAS equipment and it was agreed to send Cllr Bond's update of this meeting (new timeframe).

20mph – The Parish Council confirmed that this was discussed at previous meeting and concerns were raised over the cost for surveys & consultation. Cllr Bond confirmed that many applications for a 20mph were being refused. The PC questioned the management of traffic for 20mph as enforcement was not managed at 30mph.

8 Watermead Christmas Fair and Carol Concert

The Christmas Fair would be held on 2 December and the Carol Concern on 9 December.

9 Land Request received from Smiles Charity Mick Dorr

It was unanimously agreed to support the charity event subject to all documentation being received.

23.56 Date of meetings

16 November 2023, 7 December 2023 (budget meeting)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.21pm and thanked people for their attendance.