

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 20 January 2022 at 7.30pm

Held at the Village Hall, Watermead

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

21.69 Apologies

Cllr M Morgan, Cllr E Rose, Cllr I Schwab

21.70 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interest regarding the agenda – Cllr I Schwab and Cllr A Schwab – item 21.77.1 Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM92423 and BM92422) and in respect of any matters concerning legal advice for which she is retained

21.71 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property Statistics received from our Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

Watermead 17/11/2021-16/12/2021

2 x Public Orders
1 x Make off without payment
3 x Concern for Safety
2 x Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
1 x Harassment/Stalking
1 x Missing Person

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

Graham Severn commented that the fencing around the culvert on the small lake was falling down and needed repair once the water levels had gone down. Photo to be send to the Clerk.

The bollards on the pedestrian refuge between the large and small lake were in need of cleaning.

Smoke had been seen coming out of the crematorium. Cllr Severn to forward photos to Alan Jose at Westerleigh.

Cllr Severn

Graham Severn proposed holding an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which would include The Big Lunch on Sunday 5 June 2022 on the Balloon Meadow. As well as food stalls and entertainment, people could bring their own picnic and chairs. This event would take place instead of Larks by the Lake. Graham Severn/Cllr Singleton/Cllr Mackay/The Clerk to discuss details with the Events Committee. Cllr Severn enquired with BC Cllrs whether there was any funding available from the Community Board. Cllr Bond to make enquiries.

Cllr Bond

BC Cllr Blamires had previously sent an email regarding boundary changes. Cllrs agreed WPC wished to remain with Wing but would review and respond to BC.

BC Cllr Cooper reported on 20 mph speed limits and felt that Watermead would make a good 20mph zone. A TRO would still be needed which the PC would have to pay for as well as signage. WPC did not feel it could justify the cost of £10k for a TRO when speeding within a 20mph zone could not be enforced. Cllr Severn responded that the PC has an MVAS which is in need of repair and also shares with Berryfields a movable flashing speed sign. Cllr Singleton asked if residents were being consulted on whether they wished 20mph restrictions when BC Cllrs were undertaking door-knocking visits. Cllr Cooper/Cllr Blamires to organise a simple poll on social medial.

BC Cllrs

Cllr Singleton commented on cyclists using the pavements, usually children on their way to and from school. It was agreed to add a cycling safety campaign to the agenda for the February meeting. BC Cllr Blamires to enquire within the Council whether there was anyone who could get involved with a safety campaign.

Cllr Blamires

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

21.73 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18 November 2021

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

21.74 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted
2. **21/04922/APP 3 Kittiwake** – Householder application for ground and first floor side extensions and replace approved Juliet balcony with full balcony. Garage conversion. It was noted that 3 neighbouring properties had objected. It was therefore agreed to support their objections on the grounds of overdevelopment, it being out of keeping with the local vernacular of the rest of the properties and lack of parking. It was agreed to request that the application be called in and BC Cllr Blamires offered her support and assistance as she does not sit on the Planning Committee.
3. **21/03659/AOP** - Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except for landscape for change of use from garden centre to Industrial/Storage Unit – no update. Cllr Severn reported that the company which had made the original application had been taken over by a 24 hour courier operation. BC Cllr Blamires offered her assistance with opposing this application also.
4. **17/00771/APP** - Piazza Car Park Proposed Development – no update.

21.75 Finance & Administration

Payment Schedule		Jan-21					Payment Method
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount		provide I
Mobile Mini	7002269280-7002300412	R&M Land	£106.00	£21.20	£127.20	BACS	
Ian Whittome	5th January 2022	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS	
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2826-2828	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,294.00	£0.00	£1,294.00	BACS	
Michelle Jackson	Jan-22	Assistant Clerk	£246.28	£0.00	£246.28	BACS	
Noreen Shardlow	Jan-22	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,646.31	£0.00	£1,646.31	BACS	
HMRC	Jan-22	PAYE & NI	£520.61	£0.00	£520.61	BACS	
G. M. Hall & Co	Jan-22	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS	
Village Hall Management	Jan-22	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS	
E.ON Electricity	A-4A9A8D6C	Village Hall Supply	£240.36	£48.07	£288.43	BACS	
E.ON Electricity	A-CA102F38	Gatehouse Supply	£16.96	£0.85	£17.81	BACS	
British Gas	60026660	Village Hall Supply	£119.87	£5.99	£125.86	BACS	
SLCC	12965	SLCC Subscriptions	£215.00	£0.00	£215.00	BACS	
Great Horwood Silver Band	Dec-21	Christmas Carol Concert Band	£160.00	£0.00	£160.00	BACS	
Pentagon Sport (South) Ltd	INV-4817	Replacement Ropes for Trim Trail	£116.97	£23.39	£140.36	BACS	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
Routine Payments Total			£5,352.36	£99.50	£5,451.86		
Non Routine Payment							
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
Total			£5,352.36	£99.50	£5,451.86		
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 December 2021 & January 2022 – the Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedules which were approved. A further payment of £150 was approved for Dave Lucas.

2. To agree the accounts to the end of December 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts which were approved.

3. Cllrs agreed the budget for 2022/2023.

			Code	Note	2021/2022 Actual	2022/2023 Budget
			D	E		
4	Income & Expenditure					
5	Precept		prec /G		£80,000.00	-81000.00
6	Bank	Interest	int /G		£4.05	-30.00
7	Village Hall	Hire & V. Hall Grant	hire /G		£14,058.12	-15000.00
8	Grants Received	NHP Grant	man/G		£9,652.00	0.00
9	Legal Costs		use/G		£0.00	0.00
10	Summer Event		lark /G		£0.00	0.00
11	View		view /G		£3,755.00	-8000.00
12	Fishing		fish /G		£500.00	-500.00
13	Devolution		ball /G		£2,255.50	-2255.56
14	Grants (Precept Government)		grant /G		£0.00	0.00
15	Allotments		wren /G		£320.00	-2000.00
16	Christmas Events inc. Calendars		oth /G		£0.00	-500.00
17	LOAN		loan/G		£0.00	0.00
18	VAT Receipts		vat/G		£0.00	-3500.00
19	Income				-110544.67	-112785.56
			Code	Note	2021/2022 Actual	2022/2023 Budget
39	Land	Repairs & Mainten'	r&m /I		16055.90	15000.00
40		Allotments	allot/I		3101.38	1600.00
41		Signs	sign /I		0.00	250.00
42		Litter	lit /I		6493.10	7500.00
43		Grass	grass /I		4000.00	6000.00
44		Energy	ener /I		281.58	100.00
45		Recreational Facilities	rec /I		0.00	0.00
46		Dog Bins	dog /I		0.00	1200.00
47		ROSPA	rosp /I		0.00	250.00
48		sub total			29931.96	31900.00
49	Village Hall	Refurbish	ref /J		0.00	500.00
50		Energy & Services	ener /J		1794.86	2600.00
51		Cleaning Materials	clean /J		204.22	450.00
52		Council Tax	tax /J		0.00	0.00
53		Manager	mngr /J		4800.00	7200.00
54		Insurance	ins /J		0.00	0.00
55		sub total			6799.08	10750.00
56	View	Village View	view /K		4543.89	7000.00
57	Pension	Pensions	pens /L		2126.08	2600.00
58	Other	Gatehouse	conf/P		747.62	900.00
59		Elections	vote /P		2360.75	1750.00
60		Training	trng /P		0.00	400.00
61		Health & Safety	h&s /P		75.50	200.00
62		GPC Expenditure	oth /P		0.00	0.00
63		sub total			3183.87	3250.00
64	Routine Expenditure				71473.57	95662.00

		Code	Note	2021/2022 Actual	2022/2023 Budget
66	Localism/Events inc Christmas (non Carol)/C	Clark /M		722.15	1000.00
67	Carol Concert	carol /N		0.00	650.00
68	Wildflower Meadow Gardening Project	garden/P		400.00	0.00
69				1122.15	1650.00
70	Project Plan Defibrillator/MVAS/CCTV	powr/O		0.00	300.00
71	Project Plan Erosion Contractor	mater/O		0.00	0.00
72	Project Plan Grant Events Trim Trail Park	plans/O		0.00	0.00
73	Lakeside Dev. Contribution Piazza	renm/O		6600.00	2667.00
74	Project Plan Neighbourhood Plan Costs	conte/O		267.50	0.00
75	sub total			6867.50	2967.00
76		land/O		0.00	0.00
77	Walkway & Erosion Loan repay't	loan/O		5815.99	7424.00
78	Contribution/Donation Fee	fees /O		0.00	0.00
79				5815.99	7424.00
80	Project Expenditure			13805.64	12041.00
81	VAT EXPENSE			2747.91	3500.00
82	Income less Expenditure			-22517.55	-1582.56

4. Cllrs agreed the Precept for 2022/2023

Input 1

Select your Organisation using the drop down Box in the Pink Box	
Parish	Watermead

Input 2

Enter either your proposed Precept Demand D11 or Band D Council Tax for 2021/22 D13

Precept	£81,000.00
Or	
Band D Tax (Estimated)	£0.00

Table - Summary of Results			Do not enter data below
Year	2021-22	2022-23	Difference
Precept	£80,000.00	£81,000.00	£1,000.00
Income	£80,000.00	£81,000.00	£1,000.00
Tax Base	945.71	941.02	-4.69
Band D Tax (Estimated)	£84.59	£86.08	1.76%

21.76 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan team to set up a meeting. No further updates.

21.77 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land Registry Matters

Cllr I Schwab had been collating the feedback from residents and was in talks with The Crown.

The Clerk reported on an enquiry regarding the Spratt Endicott land parcels. On the junction of Kestrel Way and Pintail Close, there is a new homeowner and all alongside the house there is vegetation. The owner had been advised by his lawyers that he owned the land up to the footpath. However, on checking the title deeds the footpath is not where the plans indicate. The Clerk had advised the owner that the PC were in the process of obtaining all parcels of land. The PC to contact the owner in the event a transfer takes place.

2 Communication from Mr Pardis

Full communication sent via email 10th January 2022

From: Hamid Pardis

Subject: Re Watermead Sports Lake – Vegetation and Tree Management

Date: 10 January 2022 at 15:20:58 GMT

To: Noreen Shardlow <noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk>

Dear Noreen

I have written to the Parish Council on numerous occasions regarding the problems cause by trees growing on land owned and controlled by the Parish Council and the encroachment of vegetation on the watercourse into and out of my lake.

I finally received a response from the council via you before the pandemic struck. I have not received any response to my last letter requesting details of the Parish Council's management plan for the trees and vegetation. Even allowing for the pandemic, I think I have allowed a very reasonable amount of time to pass to enable the Parish Council to seek proper advice and produce a strategy to deal with this matter.

I am dismayed but not surprised that the Parish Council can find time to complain and protest about water quality issues with the local authorities and environment agency but fail to do anything to address their responsibilities in reducing the problems. If trees are planted they grow and where they have impact on their surrounding environment they must be managed. This is not withstanding the fact that the trees growing on the boundary between my ownership and the Parish Councils ownership are now substantially encroaching from its land over mine. Indeed trees have fallen into my lake and are a continuing nuisance.

In the absence of any activity on the part of the Parish Council to resolve the nuisance I have obtained quotations from professionals to cut back the trees that over hang the Lake. I hope that the Parish Council would even at this stage have responded positively to resolving the matter. I intend to deal with the excess tree growth on my islands in the lake during the current dormant period. It would seem to me advantageous for all the trees to be dealt with at the same time in terms of disruption and economies of scale. My offer to act cooperatively is to secure what I hope would be the best outcome for all concerned but does not alter the fact that I am advised in making the proposal to reserve my position regarding legal or other action I may be advised to take.

I believe the next Parish Council Meeting is on the 20th January 2022. Please confirm that this matter will be on the agenda with a recommendation that the lower of the quotes is accepted and the work is completed before the end of dormant growth period.

I would expect your response by the close of business on Monday 24th January 2022.

Kind regards
Hamid Pardis

It was agreed that the Clerk should update the letter previously sent, advising we would like to be provided with independent expert evidence. Draft to be circulated to Cllrs for approval.

The Clerk

3 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work

Works agreed and awaiting completion:

Walkway Brackets D Lucas
Existing Benches Ground Works D Lucas

4 Memorial Bench Request & Update

The Clerk reported that 2 benches had been ordered. Cllr Severn and Cllr Morgan had shown Cllr Rose the proposed location of the bench discussed at the previous meeting, which he approved.

5 Watermead Piscatorials Update

Following the October 2021 Parish Council meeting a meet up was scheduled and the Chairman, the Clerk and Peter Dean attended. Martin Mynott, Steve (Bailiff) 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).

6 Large Lake Footways Project Update

FCC Communities Foundation

The PC's grant application with FCC Communities Foundation has been reviewed and assessed and the application of £42,205.00 (50% of net costs) has been successful.

Buckinghamshire Community Board

The below response has been received from Buckinghamshire Council, Community Board:

"In essence we have had great feedback about the project and I am very pleased with the comments we have had. For it to go to members for final recommendations however, there has been a condition applied by council services who we had to involve.

The requirements would mean involvement of the environment agency (for flood risk assessment) and planning (I think for the bridge element). If they have already been involved and covered, please do let me know with any detail you have and we can talk through the next steps either way."

I have since spoken with Katrina Holyoake our Community Board who has confirmed it would be best for us to engage with our preferred/chosen contractor Focuss Construction and their engineer to provide detailed drawings.

It was agreed to contact Focuss Construction and proceed with the Engineer Design Report as per quotation of £2000 included within original scope of works.

7 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust

Cllr Severn reported that more people were using the foodbank. BC Cllr Blamires advised of the COVID regeneration scheme which may be able to support people who have lost jobs due to COVID. Cllr Severn to make an application.

Cllr Severn

8 To Update on Allotments

Annual renewal invoices had been issued.

9 To report on Village View

The winner of the Christmas lights competition would be included in the Spring edition. An editorial meeting would be held on Sunday 23 January and contribution was needed by 28 January. BC Cllr Blamires to provide a contribution.

Cllr Blamires

Cllr Singleton advised that the lunch club would resume in February on the first Wednesday of the month at the Watermead Inn.

Cllr Mackay reported on the letter from Florence Nightingale regarding fundraising opportunities and it was agreed he should reply advising that the PC were open to any suggestions they may have.

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 – Update**

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.

Cllr Severn had already reported on the movable flashing speed sign to be shared with Berryfields.

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.

The received Devolution Agreement for 2022/2023 was duly signed by the Clerk & Chairman.

It was agreed to add a formal agenda item to the February meeting that the PC devolve responsibility for any budgeted payments up to £5k without the Clerk having to reference Cllrs.

12 To update on Christmas Carol Concert

The Carol Concert had been a great success. It was proposed and agreed to hold another event this year to be held on 10 December. The band and Father Christmas had been booked. It was hoped to be able to hold a Craft Fair on 3 December.

13 Watermead Photography Competition 2022

Cllr Rose had reported that the event had been popular with some stunning entries. He proposed that it be held again this year in September with a similar budget for prizes and that it again be held online. This was approved.

21.78 Date of meetings

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

Cllr Severn wished to offer her sincere condolences on behalf of the Council to Noreen Shardlow and her family for the loss of her mother.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.56pm and thanked people for their attendance.