

## Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 20 July 2017 at 7.30pm  
The Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr Rose, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr J Gent, Cllr Toler  
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk),  
AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond plus 3 members of the public

### 17.34 Apologies

BCC Cllr Netta Glover

### 17.35 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – Cllr A Schwab & Cllr I Schwab – All items relating to Crematorium and Legal.

### 17.36 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

No police report received. The latest figures available online were April statistics for Aylesbury North. The Clerk to request up to date figures. There was concern that residents were not reporting incidents of crime or suspicious activity to the police but instead were posting on facebook. An article would be included in the Village View to urge residents to report all matters to the police.

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

Libby Rose questioned whether the storage container would be staying and if so whether there were any plans to plant around it. Cllr Toler reported that as the container was sited next to a hardstanding surface it was difficult to plant trees. Cllrs to consider a trellis with plants in pots or camouflage.

Cllr Glover had circulated her report by email. Cllr Bond gave an update on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

## Council Meeting

### 17.38 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 June 2017

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

### 17.39 Planning & Licensing Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted - **17/01864/APP** – 26 Kestrel Way Single storey rear extension had been approved by AVDC.
2. **17/00071/APP – Watermead Village Car Park Erection of 21 flats with associated parking.** The PC had made contact with the applicants who had declined the offer of a meeting. At time of report we are waiting report/committee meeting date from Aylesbury Vale District Council.
3. **14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, The Riviera** – Consultation documents were being reviewed as and when received. The PC had met with AVDC twice and had requested it be kept in the loop with developments.
4. **17/01793/ENVPER – Environmental Permit for proposed Crematorium** – The licence for the cremator had been granted but that did not give Westerleigh permission to operation without planning permission.

## 17.40 Finance & Administration

**1.To agree the payment schedule for July 2017** – the Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule which was approved. One additional payment of £85 to Schwab & Co was approved.

Payment Schedule		Jul-17				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	
K&L Building Services	WPC01	Bandstand Refurbishment	£2,695.00	£0.00	£2,695.00	BACS
British Telecom	WM41233299	Village Hall Broadband	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00	Direct Debit
E.ON	10750983470	Village Hall Electricity	£80.97	£4.05	£85.02	BACS
E.ON	11469595940	Bandstand Electricity	£23.76	£0.50	£24.26	BACS
E.ON	13519464970	Gatehouse Electricity	£43.87	£2.19	£46.06	BACS
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£8.48	£0.42	£8.90	BACS
Highways & Solar Solutions	SI-33	MVAS Brackets & Rings	£371.59	£74.32	£445.91	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co.	761	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
M. Jackson	Jul-17	Assistant Clerk	£225.18	£0.00	£225.18	BACS
N. Shardlow	Jul-17	Clerk & Office	£1,531.98	£0.00	£1,531.98	BACS
Celebration Management	CPF0288	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
HMRC	Jul-17	PAYE & NI	£516.49	£0.00	£516.49	BACS
Mobile Mini - Land Storage Unit	10331176	Land Storage	£205.00	£41.00	£246.00	BACS
Herts Supplies	CS537598	Village Hall Cleaning Sup.	£54.99	£11.00	£65.99	BACS
David Lucas	1705	Installation of fencing and repairs	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00	BACS
Ian Whittome	762	GPC - Grass Cutting	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	See Invoices	Grass, R&M, Litter, Adhoc Litter, Allotments	£2,493.00	£0.00	£2,493.00	BACS
Burgess Office Equipment	136/102047	Office Supplies	£5.39	£1.07	£6.46	BACS

**2. To agree the accounts to end of June 2017** - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end June 2017, which were approved.

**3. To consider introducing a Land Request Policy** – since the May Fair event the PC had received requests for the use of its land. The Clerk to draft a policy for Cllrs to review at the next meeting in September.

The Clerk

**4. Parish Council electronic documentation storage** – SLCC to recommend providers.

## 17.41 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

### 1 Update on Routine Land Work

**Bandstand** – Refurbishment of the small lake bandstand complete by appointed contractor, K & L Property Services.

**Balloon Meadow Copse** – Refit top wire to existing fence and to extend existing protection fence. Works complete by appointed contractor, D. Lucas.

**Litter Bins** – The bottom has corroded on one of the bins on the small lake. At time of report awaiting price. Surplus fencing stored in the land container.

**Kid Inc. Nursery Tree** – As reported tree to the rear of Kids Inc. was down. The Parish Council contractor made safe our side and following a letter being sent to Kids Inc. Head Office, works have been carried out.

**Bulbs** – It was agreed to plant further bulbs throughout the Parish.

### Communications Received for Consideration

*I have read in the Village View that there is anti-erosion work being carried out on the banks of the large lake, and the provision of a ramp for geese and other birds, and wondered if there is any similar work planned for the small lake?*

*The reason for my enquiry is that unfortunately 10 days ago my husband and I came*

*across a poor goose whose leg had become stuck in the wooden edging by the main footpath near the bandstand. The goose was well and truly trapped, half in and out of the water, and in a very distressed state, struggling hard to get free. We put a call through to Tiggywinkles who sent one of their rescuers, however in the meantime a passing gentleman kindly fetched his van and we managed to release the goose's leg by prising the wooden posts apart with a crowbar he had on board. By this time the poor goose was in shock, very weak and bleeding. As we had a cardboard box, it was quicker to take the bird straight to Tiggywinkles, rather than wait for the volunteer, so having phoned ahead, we agreed to take it across, checked it in and left it in their capable hands. I have just learned today that sadly it didn't make it, due to a badly broken leg, which could not be mended.*

*It is unfortunately not the first time we've discovered birds with legs trapped in the wooden edging around the island on the small lake; fortunately the cygnet and the duck we came across on previous occasions were smaller and could be gently lifted free. It would appear that the wooden edging is a bit of a hazard for our water birds - it has quite a few gaps between each individual post, which is causing their legs to become stuck on fairly frequent occasions - in addition there is no safe place without this edging for the birds to exit and enter the water. The geese especially come out often in this area, to graze on the grass.*

*I wondered if the Parish Council might consider a possible solution to this problem, whether it be ramps similar to those planned for the large lake, put in strategic places, or repairs where there are gaps? It worries me that if nothing is done, there will be continued casualties for sure, as the edging seems to be very hazardous in its current state. I know the Parish Council is very efficient at protecting and safeguarding our local wildlife, and always prioritises its welfare.*

*On a related note, I recently saw the sign in the attached photo by the canal next to the Waterside theatre/Waitrose - an idea perhaps for around our lakes, to further promote healthy food for ducks, and prevent the excess of floating bread in the summer?*



Cllrs to visit and make recommendations.

Cllr Rose had emailed Cllrs his concerns regarding the amount of litter in the small lake. It was proposed and agreed to spend up to £400 on removal and disposal of the rubbish. The Clerk to make contact with Darren at CLC Grounds Maintenance to obtain a quote.

The Clerk

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### **To update on meeting with Vale Countryside Volunteers**

Cllr Rose and the Clerk had met with Adrian Bayliss of Vale Countryside Volunteers to discuss a land maintenance programme around the small lake which would be separated into 3 areas and on a yearly cyclical basis. A firm date was awaited from Adrian but it was expected to be on a Wednesday. Cllr Rose to put together an article to be included the Village View for volunteers from the community. Graham Severn offered to help.

Cllr Rose

### 3 To update on Allotments

#### Fencing to boundary complete

#### Communal Land/Boundary Maintenance Proposal

The Allotments currently looks very impressive, many compliments being received by the Watermead Gardening Society. To get to this stage has taken a great deal of effort by our contractors and plot holders. CLC Grounds Maintenance has been a great help to the team, however due to the vast areas land around the boundary he believes a plan needs to be made. All current plot holders keep their plots to a good standard. However it is the boundary where the Society needs our help.

In budget we agree a sum of £1000 for ad-hoc maintenance works/supplies required. Last year we spent £870 and this included two site visits by our contractor, income received £1529.00. Carrying out two visits a year costs in the region of £350 per trip due to the height of the grass, removing encroachment and removal of litter/debris in overgrown areas. CLC Grounds Maintenance advised that if we were to up the number of site visits to 6 per year (Mar-Sep) he would be able to maintain/manage the communal area for approximately £200 per visit.

It was proposed and agreed to increase the budget to £1200 and increase the number of site visits to 6 per year.

It was also proposed and agreed to plant trees on the land north of the allotments around the back of the ski slope.

**ONGOING** Ditches site inspection is still to be carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council who will come back to us in due course with their findings and suggestion of works. TFB have just rearranged Local Area Technician areas. Matthew Whincup will continue with Watermead.

### 4 To report on Village View

The editorial meeting was scheduled for Sunday 23 July. A new member would be attending and it was hoped she would join the team. The deadline for articles was 28 July.

### 5 To report on Village Hall

Cllrs approved the purchase of paint at a cost of £40 for temporary repaint to be applied during school holidays.

Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society had made a request for a reduction in hall hire. Cllrs agreed reducing to the community rate.

### 6 To update on Transport & MVAS - Sentinel Speeding Equipment

Awaiting delivery of Sentinel speeding equipment funded by the Greater Local Area Forum (LAF).

### 7 Highways – Spine Road

At time of report still we are awaiting quote for knee rail from Aylesbury Mains. It was agreed at the April 2017 meeting for a plan to be circulated which highlights where the wooden bollards were to be situated as per quotations received (red line route).



**Highways/Weeds** – Highways weeds works commenced 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 by appointed contractor CLC Grounds Maintenance. Aylesbury Vale District Council followed up with their street cleaning system, which has really helped improve the highways.

Notification had been received that parts of the A413 would be closed from 24 July to 4 August between the hours of 7pm and 6am. The Clerk had been assured that Watermead would be accessible at all times.

**17.42 Date of meetings**

17 August 2017 (finance/planning working group meeting), 21 September 2017, 19 October 2017, 16 November 2017, 21 December 2017 (budget meeting).

**17.43** 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.