

## **Watermead Parish Council Meeting**

**Thursday 20 October 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Held at the Village Hall, Watermead**

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr M Morgan, Cllr D Forder  
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Clerk)  
plus 1 members of the public – Graham Severn

Cllrs held a minute's silence in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II

**22.33 Apologies**

None received.

**22.34 Declarations of Interest**

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda – Cllr Singleton and Cllr Forder regarding any discussions that might take place relating to Guillemot Court.

**22.35 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property**

No report received.

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

Cllr Bond reported on the opening of the Buckingham Park to Berryfields Greenway which had been completed on time and was very impressive.

Cllr Bond and Rob Butler had visited the new walkway around Watermead.

With regard to the Warm Spaces initiative, Cllr Bond asked if the PC were willing to offer a day and that community funding was available if a suitable venue could be found. Cllr Severn commented that the village hall was fully booked/existing pre-school facility.

Neighbourhood watch was being re-introduced. The PC had a good neighbourhood policing team and the Clerk was impressed with their quick response to emails. Unfortunately they had not been able to attend parish council meetings. Cllr Bond had offered to relay any information they may have to parish council meetings.

The homeless person living by the large lake had been contacted and had been found somewhere he could go. Graham Severn had also informed him of the Roman Park Community Trust.

Parishioners were conscious about the amount of police time spent at the Best Western.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

### **Council Meeting**

**22.37 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 21 July 2022**

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

Cllr Severn welcomed Dan Forder to the PC. Cllr Singleton to include an introduction in the Village View.

Cllr Singleton

**22.38 Planning Matters**

**(1) To update on any Planning Applications submitted**

- **21/03659/AOP Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for landscape for change of use from garden centre to Industrial/Storage units.** To confirm the application has now been withdrawn by the Applicant.
- **22/00113/ENFNOT – 16 The Comfrey** This retrospective application was refused and is subject to Enforcement. A communication has been received that the householder is appealing the decision. Concerns were

also received from a resident with regards to advice received from Buckinghamshire Council.

**(2) 22/02849/APP 20 Kingfisher** – Householder application for removal of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension - plans for this application have been circulated and comments were received via email due to the determination date of this application. No objections were received to this application.

**(3) Parish & Town Council Call In Process Update**

Within 28 days of being notified of a Planning Application, Town and Parish Councils must use Public Access or Consultee Access to notify the planning officer that:

- They wish to call in the Planning Application to the relevant Planning Committee
- Provide material planning reasons for a call in
- Provide an undertaking that a representative will attend and speak at committee if the request for call in is agreed

The Service Director for Planning and Environment, in consultation with the Chairman (or, in their absence, the Vice-Chairman) of the relevant planning committee will determine whether or not the matter called in by the Town or Parish Council should be considered by Planning Committee, or whether the exercise of delegated powers is appropriate.

**22.39 Neighbourhood Plan & Open Day**

The date for the Open Day had been postponed due to the passing of HM the Queen. The Village Hall was already booked up so the group discussed the idea of having a session at Kelvin's meeting room and possibly sharing around the other businesses which would allow further engagement with them. Regular interaction was needed going forward. Most sections of the plan had owners who would produce a draft to be included in a single document which would be sent to Sally Chapman. Thanks were given to The Clerk and Peter Dean for producing the land assessment plan. Cllr Forder was invited and agreed to draft the Wildlife and Bio-Diversity section.

Cllr Forder

The Design Code had been circulated for comments.

**22.40 Finance & Administration**

1. Cllr Mackay & Cllr Rose Resignations  
Both Cllr Mackay and Cllr Rose resigned from Watermead Parish Council Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Electoral Services were notified Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August and their process was adhered to.

Thanks were given to both Cllr Mackay and Cllr Rose for their service.

2. By-Election Results including election of Mr Dan Forder & update including costings

Dan Forder signed the relevant documentation.

Following the Notice of Vacancy ten or more residents of Watermead triggered an Election for both vacancies. We were advised by Jo Hart of Electoral Services that the Parish Council needed to cover the costings of the Poll Cards as in the event of an election (more than two candidates stand) the timeframe for postal votes etc would be very tight and the Parish Council may be open to criticism if not enough timing was given. The cost of the Poll Cards is £850.00.

Only one candidate stood and Mr Dan Forder was elected (non contested) as Parish Councillor. We have to repeat the process to fill the second vacancy. After a General Election we are able to co-opt but as an election

has been triggered by residents of Watermead, we have to repeat the process until the vacancy is filled.

I have spoken with Jo Hart and she has advised that we now have a very good reason to delay the printing of the Poll Cards and wait to see if an election is called for the second vacancy. We do have to pay the design fee, which is £200. Therefore our costs to date are £1050.00

If more than one candidate stands the total further cost for an election to be paid by the Parish is in the region of £4000. Jo Hart of Electoral Services provided all the above figures.

Also the Village Hall users that use the hall on Thursdays including the Pre-School and Kumon Maths have been on notice for closure on these dates.

The Precept would need to be increased as a result of these unbudgeted monthly costs.

3. The payment schedule for August/September/October 2022 was approved. Further payments were approved for Dave Lucas of £175 for ad hoc land jobs and wheelie bin cleaning, Ian Whittome of £50 for grass cutting and CLC Grounds Maintenance for routine litter, land and grass cutting.
4. The accounts to the end of September 2022 were approved.

Payment Schedule		Oct-22					Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)		Comments
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount				
Mobile Mini	7002592258	R&M Land	£55.20	£11.04	£66.24	BACS			
Ian Whittome	26th Sep 2022	Grass	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	BACS			
CLC Grounds Maintenance	Oct-22	Litter, R&M & Grass, Allot	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS			Awaiting invoices - To declare at meeting.
Michelle Jackson	Oct-22	Assistant Clerk	£258.01	£0.00	£258.01	BACS			
Noreen Shardlow	Oct-22	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,726.91	£0.00	£1,726.91	BACS			
HMRC	Oct-22	PAYE & NI	£564.54	£0.00	£564.54	BACS			
G. M. Hall & Co	Oct-22	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS			
Village Hall Management	Oct-22	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS			
British Telecom	698700	P/BB	£20.20	£4.04	£24.24	DD			
E.ON Next	A-7F27D6CF	Electricity - The Bandstand	£24.25	£1.21	£25.46	DD			
Buckinghamshire Council Bins	569118	Village Hall and Land Bins	£226.57	£0.00	£226.57	DD			
Castle Water	19/05/8082	Allotment Water Supply	£106.07	£21.21	£127.28	BACS			
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£45.30	£2.26	£47.56	DD			
Herts Supplies	CS537598	Village Hall Cleaning Sup.	£53.94	£10.79	£64.73	BACS			
ACC Facilities Management	ACC/11353	Event Plant Hire - To be reclaimed	£280.67	£56.13	£336.80	BACS			The net amount to be reclaimed/invoiced to Events Committee.
Vale Countryside Volunteers	1227553	R&M - 2 Days of Volunteers	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	BACS			
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS			
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS			
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	BACS			
<b>Routine Payments Total</b>			<b>£4,331.66</b>	<b>£106.68</b>	<b>£4,438.34</b>				
<b>Non Routine Payment</b>									
<b>Total</b>			<b>£4,331.66</b>	<b>£106.68</b>	<b>£4,438.34</b>				
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:						

5. 2021/2022 Year End – External Auditors Report  
I am pleased to confirm that our external audit for year ending March 2022 is now complete. On the basis of PKF Littlejohns's review no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern and all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have been met. Certificate has been issued.

Other matters not affecting their opinion but wish to draw to our attention were also none.

**6. Budget 2023/2024**

The Clerk to circulate the draft budget for review and comment.

**7. Communications received from S. Forrest & A. Jones**

**Mr S. Forest Communication (in reverse order)**

*Hi Noreen,*

*Thank you very much for getting back so quickly. Really appreciated.*

*The fact of the matter is that the regulations were not adhered to which is actually a formal breach of the relevant Local Government act (Audit Commission Act 1998) and the Parish Council's own policy, which was renewed very recently.*

*In the event that the normal procurement procedure is going to be ignored the Council needs to give permission in advance. According to the minutes of the last meeting that was not the case. The reasons for the waiving should have been detailed rather than just agreed upon by the Parish Council. In matters of rule waiving and financial matters it is always best practice to be as open and transparent as possible to avoid negative public scrutiny.*

*I see that the Jubilee event was first raised back in January. That should have been enough time to start the procurement process. If there was a last minute problem with a supplier or some sort of other issue then I suggest that should have been recorded publicly and the rules not ignored.*

*I would like this communication brought to the attention of the full Parish Council and I would like to see the explanation for the waiving of the normal procurement procedure properly minuted at the next Parish Council meeting. I would also like a minuted apology and a declaration that this won't happen again.*

*I know you all work very hard and do excellent work for Watermead but it is essential that the rules are followed. That is an essential ingredient of good local government. Being cavalier with the rules is not acceptable.*

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*Apologies I was unable to respond to you yesterday, following the two days of intense heat there was a bit of a catch up with site visits that were postponed.*

*I write to confirm receipt of your email and I to advise as follows.*

*The Facebook All About Watermead comments have been brought to the attention of Watermead Parish Council and duly noted thank you.*

*With regard to the Parish Council's Finance & Procurement Regulations, you are correct in your understanding that most services over £3,000 (excluding exemptions) require three quotations.*

*Mayhem Productions were recommended to the Parish as they were able to source and provide all the services we needed, including the following:*

- 1. Stage Truck*
- 2. Sound Equipment*
- 3. Mixers*
- 4. DJ*
- 5. Compere*
- 6. Compatible music system for Acts chosen music*
- 7. Sound Engineer*

## 8. Liability Insurance

*Using the above system saved the Parish Council sourcing all these individually.*

*When we received the quotation for the services we required for the day, due to time constraints we were not able to delay the decision/obtain more quotations as preparations needed to be made. Also there were many events on in the area and we believe we may have struggled. Furthermore if we went out to tender in April a decision would be delayed to May.*

*The Parish Council wanted to mark this special event with a community picnic celebration with live music for all to enjoy. It was just a shame though that the weather was not on our side.*

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*Hope you are well and survived the baking heat.*

*I was reading an exchange on All About Watermead concerning the Jubilee event which triggered my curiosity about the Parish Council's Procurement Policy.*

*According to the April minutes Councillor Phil Gomm was awarded the contract to manage this event, for a sum of £3,500. According to the Procurement Policy all expenditure over £3,000 has to be put out to tender by the Clerk to at least three potential suppliers. I believe these regulations cannot be breached unless a formal application is made in advance of any award.*

*With that in mind can you tell me (a) if the Parish Council adhere's to the current Financial & Procurement Regulations (b) if so why was the contract not put out to tender, as required by the binding regulations (c) if any formal request to waive the regulations was made and (d) if the Parish Council members discussed this in committee given that £2,000 was taken from the legal budget to pay for this.*

*My interest in this is purely because I firmly believe that all large expenditure should always be put out to tender as a matter of course to ensure value for money.*

*I look forward to your response.*

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### **The Council discussed this and responded as follows:**

The Parish Council did not obtain 3 quotes due to time constraints but it appointed an event manager to do this on its behalf. Phil Gomm's original quote was for £3,500 with all services included but on the day there were a number of acts who dropped out so he did not need to bring in as much equipment and therefore reduced his final invoice to £2,900. The PC welcomed the opportunity to discuss this in person with Mr Forrest.

### **Communication received from Ashley Jones (in reverse order)**

*Many thanks for your update.*

*I have early this morning walked the large lake route.*

*I am delighted that the path route via the 'beach' now has safe free access from the Kestrel Way entrance and horseshoes back to the main path.*

*In terms of the path, this is now greatly improved with the pumice like compound which seems to act as a binding agent against the previously applied type 1 aggregate. Much better all round for joggers walkers, small children, dogs & their walkers, so good news.*

*The remaining question is the path dip at Robins Bench. I thought I read in one of WPCs communication releases that there are plans to address the bridge over the flooded area at a later date once the requirement of Planning Objections from the EA are fully understood?*

*It seems to me that should a similar elevated wooden construction be considered (actually not a bad idea for this end of the path rather than the Kestrel Way end) then the ability to transfer materials and plant are now significantly disadvantaged by the new bridge! No chance of getting a dumper truck over the footbridge! Especially as Hamid Pardis has denied access from the crem-side?*

*Noreen thanks again for all your efforts professional and speedy to reply as always.*

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*Since our last communication, I am not sure if you have been around the large lake but I just wanted to provide you with the following update of works that has subsequently taken place.*

*Over the weekend and all day Monday our Contractor completed the new path by applying a much finer Type 1 Aggregate top surface.*

*Our grounds-team have already been to site and cleared much of the vegetation and tree stumps that leads to the lake edge (also sometimes referred to as the "Beach Area"). Arrangements are also in place for a local organisation called the Vale Countryside Volunteers who have arranged a working group day.*

*If there are any tree stumps that you believe are still a hazard that we have missed, please do let me know and I will get them removed.*

*The horseshoe path has also been cut back and our team will be returning to tidy/remove the brash that has formed at the end, just as you join the pathway.*

*I note your suggestion with regard to future maintenance and I can confirm that this information will be passed to our grounds-team.*

*If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

\*\*\*

*I write to confirm receipt of your email, which has been duly noted and I would like to advise as follows.*

*I will now forward your email to all Cllrs for their consideration and this will also form part of the monthly Clerk's Report that is sent to all prior to our meetings.*

*Our scheduled meeting of this week has been postponed but the above mentioned report will be circulated to all when the next meeting is confirmed and agenda is published.*

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*To: Watermead Parish Councillors*

*Dear Cllrs*

*Re: Lake path refurbishment*

*From first impressions and having now walked the refurbished path on a couple more occasions I would like to give some feedback.*

*On a personal note I have jogged and walked this route daily since moving to Watermead 20 years ago, good exercise and an uplifting experience, this walk*

*balances town living with stepping away to a country nature trail so I feel I know the route fairly well.*

*The ground from the Kestrel Way entrance, to the first spinney of trees, rarely floods to a point of restricting access! It has become worse since the expansion of the large lake by the Westerleigh developers to accommodate and push heavy rainfall away from the newly constructed crematorium carpark. The lake increases gradually here after heavy rain but is still walkable in the right footwear! As an aside there is an argument that Westerleigh should have contributed towards the costs of the path improvement, after all it is their development that has accentuated the flooding towards our homes!*

*In terms of the repaired path, we already have the perfect template of what 'good looks like' from the original path! In Village View former Cllr Stuart Mackay, in his Watermead background article mentions the floodlit circular jogging path around the lakes, what a great visionary the Watermead developers. RoyCo, were!*

*So what does this huge bridge bring to the walk – very little in my eyes. When there is flooding under this bridge, the walk will not be accessible further along the path due to other areas of flooding which are more likely to restrict access.*

*The flooding at 'Robin's Bench', should you be able to wade through this flooded area, (more difficult as there a strong water current from the river to the lake) you will be confronted with further flooding at the path-exit crem side. Then again at the jetty which becomes submerged and deep water along the ramp cutting off the path to the balloon field!*

*The balloon field now floods out to the stepping stones and the path leading to the piazza, so suitable footwear is still required to complete a walk around the big lake.*

*Where much needed improvement has been undertaken are the repairs to the path, ironically from the point where the bridge ends through the tree spinney, to the small bridge over the river to lake inlet. However the material used on the path throughout is wrong and unsuitable, MOT Type 1 aggregate base layer is normally used for roads not paths, it would be good to refer back to the original path material much kinder underfoot, especially if you are jogging or walking with small children or anyone who is not sure-footed. Any reputable construction company would know this!*

*Suggested improvements:*

- 1. Remove Type 1 aggregate and replace with the surface previously used for the jogging track*
- 2. From Kestrel Way entrance give clear open path access turning left towards the lake and memorial bench. Make good cut down shrubs which have left stumps which are potential ankle-breakers!*
- 3. Grounds-team to clear this lakeside path, re-opening the walk that horseshoes round the bridge, an interesting walk to see the seasons change and any wildlife.*
- 4. Potential future issues: where the contractors have scalped the vegetation to the ground under the new bridge construction. As the vegetation re-establishes it will grow up, around and through the bridge. It may be an ideal to keep this maintained and under control!*

*I am unlikely to be convinced there is value in the monstrous bridge construction but I do hope some of my suggestions for improvement can be considered!*

*Could I also respectfully suggest as a 'lessons learnt' from project of this cost and size that plans and drawings are issued for parishioners comment, there is every*

*chance we may have something helpful to offer!*

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The top layer of the footpath had not been applied at the time the communication had been received but once completed this seemed to alleviate some concerns as per email communications. With regard to the dip at Robin's bench, the PC was currently unable to provide any update until it was known how to move forward with this as there was currently no funding and limitations on what the EA would approve. It was agreed to request a site visit from the EA to give advice on a solution. The Clerk/Cllr Morgan/Cllr Forder to attend.

Ashley had also enquired about the crematorium screening and discharges. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the update received from Alan Jose of Westerleigh and information from Buckinghamshire Council Planning portal.

## **22.41 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations**

### **1 To update on Land Registry Matters**

No update received.

### **2 To update of Land & Routine Land Work**

**Refuse Service provided by Buckinghamshire Council** – The service is now off hired and the purple land bins will be stored in the container until we need to resume the service Spring 2023.

### **Land at Guillemot**

Thank you for your email.

We've chased up on the Freeholder and it's their belief that the land is owned by them, and to be maintained by the Management Company in accordance with their obligations set within the lease. They haven't indicated that they have any reference to it previously being transferred to the Parish Council nor have they indicated an intention to do this. You may be able to contact them directly to seek ownership of the land however, the Management Company would not necessarily be involved with this, as they do not own the land, we simply maintain it. I've shared the contact details below for the agent acting on behalf of the Freeholder:

[Info@grgroup.co.uk](mailto:Info@grgroup.co.uk)

Thank you for bringing the fence to our attention, we'll arrange for this to be repaired.

Appreciate the above may not have been the answer that you were anticipating however, we're just reiterating the point outlined by the Freeholder.

**Watermead Small Lake Walkway** – At time of report I am awaiting/chasing an update from David Patrick from Environments For People and Contractors.

### **Email 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

re: **Small Lake Walkway Update**

Further to Cllr Rose's email dated 25th May and the update communication provided at our June Parish Council meeting, I write to provide you with the following update.

Wednesday 22nd June 2022, David Patrick of Environments For People attended to inspect the small lake walkway. He confirmed that the walkway has subsided near



to the outflow pipe at the Nursing Home and believes this is caused by the surface run off drain, and the water impact is lifting the surface of the lake, exactly where this post is positioned. This has not yet been confirmed in writing. He agreed after taking many photographs, videos and measurements, he would prepare a report for Cllrs to consider at our next meeting.

During this meeting I asked is the walkway at risk of imminent collapse and he advised, no.

Today, Monday 4th July 2022 I received a phone call from Steve who is the Bailiff of The Watermead Piscatorials. He was calling to express his concern, so I agreed to meet with him at the walkway there and then. I explained to Steve where we are on this matter and I wasn't in a position to confirm the dip had worsened since David's visit as I walk this route once or twice a day and to me it looked about the same. I called Eric to get a second opinion (before calling David-Environments For People) as he originally reported this and he has agreed to pop down tomorrow to take a look.

I then arranged a video call with David. He was on a close video for the call and confirmed again (whilst I was with Steve) that the walkway is not a risk of imminent collapse and will provide both a temporary (short term) and permanent fix for this part of the walkway.

I will continue to walk each day and check for any further upright movement and Steve has agreed to to the same.

As soon as David's reports/recommendations are received, I will of course forward to you all.

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As per email from Cllr Rose I initially made with Hugh Roberts of Environments For People and subsequently David Patrick. I have agreed with David this morning to meet him next Wednesday afternoon.

#### **Works agreed and awaiting completion:**

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

### **3 Pilosaur Information Board Request**

Hi Noreen & Sue,

As part of my 5 year-old son's homework at Wingrave School, he is learning about the Pilosaur discovered in the ground beneath the ski slope area. This just got me thinking. As part of the lovely regenerated walk we have around that area, it would be so nice to have some signage with information about the dinosaur.

The children could learn about it when they walk round and people who visit who aren't aware dinosaur bones were found there.

Thinking of costs etc., maybe the sign could just be like the one we have with the species of duck on near the lake or maybe something using materials to make the shape of a Pilosaur, something more interactive but environmentally friendly. The children would love it.

We often take our boys for walks in the field off Kestrel way and pretend to go on dinosaur adventures, so something like this would make it real for them.

I'm just thinking out loud here really, but I think it would be a great thing for the lake area and for Watermead, it's a slice of history from our area.

Perhaps we could involve the children from Watermead to design something for this?

I'd like to say a huge thank you as I think the newly laid path and especially the bridge is beautiful. My family and I really enjoyed our first walk round the lake the other evening. The bridge reminded me of walks in Australia where they have a lot of raised walkways through the forests in Queensland.

Thanks and super well done to all involved.

**Cllr Forder to put initial plans together for updating the wildlife boards as well as working with Cleo Conway-Bence for a new Pilosaur information board. Funding to be applied for from the Ivinghoe and Wing Community Board** Cllr Forder

#### **4 Large Lake Footways Project Update**

To discuss communications received from Mr Richard Deitz (copy of most recent email below).

My apologies in the delay in responding but I have now had the opportunity to peruse the issued documents, my first question is - Is this the whole jobfile? There is a lack of required information?

If the project was managed correctly from the outset the following procedures and information should be readily available,

##### **Contract Process**

- How was the selection process of the scope undertaken, there are minutes in the council meeting that relate to funding but not the project overall, There is no mention of how the final SOW has been agreed or actual selection process of the contractor and interaction with stakeholders.
- Within the minutes it states that contractors "come highly recommended" on what basis? If you have grant money from the local council surely you would utilise their approved framework contractors, not select a company on the basis that they come highly recommended, by whom? There is a duty of care to protect stakeholders and tax payers funds
- What due diligence was carried out on the contractors? Please issue
- Where is the contractors H&S file, do you have it?
- I asked what measures the PC put in place to ensure the correct management of the contract, looking at the response you allowed the selected contractor to carry out the task. How does this protect the stakeholders interests? Can you please furnish me with all their QA sign off sheets and the PC's processes
- Can you issue all formal minuted meetings with the contractors.
- The CDM register has not been included in the documents issued, Has this exercise been undertaken, as it is a project requirement
- H&S file - can you issue?
- Please issue the contractors Schedule of Rates including all OH&P
- Please issue the contractors final account..

##### **Design**

- Can you please issue the specification documents that the project is based on
- You have issued a structural design file that covers the walkway, there is detail missing for the hand rails and intermediate barrier and kickboards, it may be that you have not issued all of the file, if this is the case can you please do so.
- Can you issue the design development and drawings and register to indicate how the drawings are taken to Construction issue.
- There is no mention of the general pathway in any documentation, how was the SOW agreed?
- There are no Material Selection registers issued
- Was a Value Engineering exercise undertaken?
- As this is a raised, fixed structure, was planning approval required?

When the PC were questioned on the suitability of the material provided for the footpath it was stated that this was in hand as it wasn't fit for purpose. On what

basis do you base that statement as there appears to be no specification for the path

Post Contract - there has been a bonding agent spread on the path that has resolved the issue, but it appears that the contractor has under estimated the quantity required to complete the exercise as after the footbridge it is sparsely laid - is this to be resolved?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Richard Deitz

**It was agreed to respond advising that the PC had followed standing orders, the project had been signed off by the EA and The Buckinghamshire Council. A small contribution had been made by the PC but the vast majority of the funds had come from grants. Due diligence had been carried out by FCC Communities and Buckinghamshire Council.**

**5 Report received from Roman Park Community Trust**

More food and funding was needed with more and more families needing food each week. The Clerk to put a box in the piazza for food donations. Information to be included on the All About Watermead and Watermead Residents Group Facebook pages.

The Clerk

**6 To update on Allotments**

Allotment Competition has taken place. Full Judges Report to be sent via email. AGM to be held on Wednesday 26 October.

**7 To report on Village View**

Work was underway on the Winter edition. An editorial meeting would take place on Sunday 23 October. Contribution needed to be received by 26 October. A feature on the walkway to be included. Cllr Forder to take photos. A resident had kindly donated a bear for the Name the Bear competition at the Christmas Fair.

Cllr Forder

**8 To update on Village Hall**

The Christmas Fair would be held on 3 December and all stalls had been sold. Dot Toler would be doing hot dogs. The Carol Concert would be held on 10 December. The tree would be displayed outside the hall with 2 smaller ones in the gardens.

Recent communications received from WLRA where reported.

Water had leaked into the Village Hall again.

**8 To update on Highways & Transport**

Nothing to report.

**9 Photography Competition/Exhibition  
Watermead Photography Competition September 2022**

**Judges report**

This was the fifth year in which we have run this competition. Unfortunately, the number of entries has fallen from a high of over 100 to just over 40 this year. However the quality remains high and I would stress as usual that in judging there is inevitably an element of personal preference although I was not given the names of entrants before reaching a decision.

**Beautiful Watermead Category**

The winner in this category was number 10 Damon Mitchell. His shot of a swan with a background of the Piazza and a dramatic sky sums up the beauty of our village.

For this reason, Damon is also our overall winner of the bottle of champagne. Runners up were Cleo Conway-Bence for her striking evening shot of the Watermead Inn Bandstand with reflections in the flooded lake Number 14, and Matt Presdee for his photo of a Gosling Number 1.

#### **Open Category**

The Winner In this category is Adele Crawley Number 3 for her nicely captured shot of two dogs. Runners up were Damon Mitchell for his capture of the Red Arrows and Cleo Conway-Bence for her beautifully lit rural shot at sunset.

#### **People and Events**

Unfortunately, there were only 2 entries in this category and I have decided not to award a prize.

Thanks to everyone who entered this year's competition

Eric Rose 21 September 2022

**10**

#### **Watermead Events Committee Film Night**

**Events Committee Update** – Awaiting finalised figures. Attendance was lower than anticipated due to the cold weather. A profit had been made for donation to the Roman Park Community Trust. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Events Committee.

The Clerk

**22.42**

#### **Date of meetings**

17 November, 15 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.06pm and thanked people for their attendance.