

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 21 April 2016 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chairman), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr Rose, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk), AVDC & BCC Cllr Netta Glover, plus 9 members of the public

16.1. Apologies

Cllr Toler. The Chair reported that unfortunately Roger Cooling had resigned. A vote of thanks was given to Roger on behalf of the PC for his hard work and devotion to the PC especially with respect to the proposed Hallam Land development. The Clerk to contact AVDC to inform of a Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor.

The Clerk

16.2. 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.

16.3. To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

No police report received.

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

Donna Lightfoot commented on disruption of the works at 18 Kingfisher. Her driveway had been blocked by a sand delivery, which meant she had been late for an appointment. There was also litter being left and thrown from van windows onto driveways. Cllr Glover advised to take registration numbers of vehicles and report on BCC website.

Richard Dietz reported that there are large vans arriving from 7am. The vans are left on the pavements, sometimes with their engines running. There are vans left all day outside neighbour's houses, which was causing problems and is also an eyesore. No consideration is being given to immediate neighbours. There had also been fuel spillage from vehicles. Cllr Glover to take this up with Environmental Health on behalf of the resident.

Cllr Glover

Residents believed there is evidence to suggest that a business is being operated from the property. A resident had tried to report to AVDC but had been unable to get through to anyone. The Clerk to write to AVDC regarding this issue.

The Clerk

Aarti Mistry – the main drain between the properties had been boarded over, inaccessible and damaged. She was advised to make contact with Thames Water. She added that the pavement was also collapsing.

Jitash Mistry – the dispute over the boundary line was ongoing. The owner of number 18 had said he would be replacing the fencing in May but now wishes to check the boundary line before proceeding. Cllr Glover advised that this should be taken up with Land Registry.

Cllr Glover gave her report. The PC queried whether there was any news on the bollards at Lark Vale. Cllr Glover to investigate whether it would be possible to temporarily close the road until they were fixed. If this were approved, the Clerk would also need to make contact with the bus company regarding rerouting the buses.

Cllr Glover/
The Clerk

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

16.5. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 March 2016

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

16.6. Charity Event & The Watermead Inn Event Request

Ruth Mayhew of Aylesbury Town Council, Graeme Catten Watermead Resident & Kelvin Wong The Watermead Inn – 2016 event update – an event management plan had been produced and reviewed by Cllrs. The event would start at 11am and finish at around 6pm and would include various events such as welly wanging, May Queen, a bake off, sword fighting, archery, fun fair and more. Many local companies were getting involved with sponsorship and parking stewards had been organised. Cllr Singleton to judge the bake off.

16.7. Planning Matters

1. To update on household Planning Applications already submitted

16/00273/APP & Cert of Lawfulness 16/00271/ACL – 1 Sparrow Close – single storey and rear extension - Confirmation from AVDC has been received that the Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of Sparrow Close has now been issued. The planning application for the single story extension had also been approved.

16/00408/APP – 28 Kestrel Way had been approved. The Clerk reported that there was expected to be an increasing number of Certificate of Lawfulness applications.

2. 16/00769/APP - 18 Kingfisher, two storey side/rear extension – the PC unanimously agreed to support the neighbouring properties in their objections to the planning application on the grounds that it was not in keeping with the area, parking issues, access and loss of light. There was also evidence to suggest the property was being used as a business premises and this would be brought to AVDC's attention.

3. 14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, The Riviera – two public consultation sessions had taken place on 1st and 8th April with good attendance on both days. A questionnaire had also been circulated to all parishioners for their response on whether they wished the PC to proceed and how this should be funded. So far 355 responses had been received, 5 of which were unsure and 15 did not wish the PC to proceed.

4. Hallam Land Inquiry Verdict – not yet received.

16.8. Finance

1. To agree the cheque run for April 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the cheque run which was approved.

Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Cheque
Aylesbury Vale Ass. Councils	NA	Subscriptions	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	2581
The National Allotment Society	S3651A	Subscriptions - Allotmer	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00	2582
Burgess Office Supplies	84492 & 84966	Court Bundles & Office Leaflets & Court Bundles	£136.29	£27.26	£163.55	2583
LMS Printing	6081 & 6082	Crem Banners & Dog Signs	£542.75	£4.55	£547.30	2584
Sign Wizzard	28771 & 28843	Signs	£455.46	£91.09	£546.55	2585
Ian Whittome	93	GPC - Grass Cutting	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	2586
Herfordshire Supplies	H031604524	Village Hall Cleaning	£48.50	£9.70	£58.20	2587
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£131.13	£6.55	£137.68	2588
British Telecom	WM41233299	Village Hall Broadband	£113.09	£22.61	£135.70	DD
EON	11469595940	Bandstand Electricity	£25.10	£1.26	£26.36	P2589
EON	10750983470	Village Hall Electricity	£115.04	£5.75	£120.79	P2589
Richard Kimblin QC Chambers	669597	Legal - Cremaatorium	£2,000.00	£400.00	£2,400.00	2590
ERS Environmental Services	10599	Litter	£408.00	£81.60	£489.60	2591
CLC Grounds Maintenance	1477	Repairs & Maintenance	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	P2592
CLC Grounds Maintenance	1480	Grass Cutting	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	P2592
Celebration Management Serv	260	Village Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	2593
G M Hall & Co.	605	PAYE Audit	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	2594
M. Jackson	NA	Assistant Clerk	£212.00	£0.00	£212.00	2595
N. Shardlow	NA	The Clerk & Office	£1,436.92	£0.00	£1,436.92	2596
HMRC	NA	PAYE & NI	£463.58	£0.00	£463.58	2597
Aviva M. Jackson	NA	Pension	£178.56	£0.00	£178.56	2598

Two further cheques were approved:

Ian Whittome – grass cutting £55
Schwab & Co – legal work £400

2. To agree the accounts to end of March (End of Year) 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts, which were approved.

3. To appoint Internal Auditor – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Gus Orchard of Orchard Consulting as Internal Auditor

Exercise of Electors' rights

There is a statutory requirement for all Councils to provide local electors and other interested parties with the opportunity to inspect the Annual Return and supporting documentation. In previous years Mazars (the PC's External Auditor) have set the appointed date on our behalf. For 2015/2016 there is a change and Mazars no longer have the authority to set the appointed date. The PC must set.

The Parish Council must inform the electorate by way of notice of a 30 working day period during which electors' rights may be exercised. The inspection period must include the first 10 working days of July 2016. Therefore the Clerk proposed and the following dates were agreed - 20th June 2016 – 29th July 2016. The internal audit will be completed by this commencement date and therefore ready for inspection.

4. To renew the following Parish Council Policies:

Standing Orders (including Risk Assessment)
Financial & Procurement Regulations
Communications Policy
Asset Register

Following the March meeting all the above policies were circulated for comment/concerns/additions. Relevant legislative amendments/updates were highlighted for Cllr's information. It was unanimously agreed to accept the policies with the exception of the Communications Policy which would be deferred for review at the May meeting.

16.9. Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1. To update on Land – Clerk's Report & Full Council

Trees between Sandpiper and The Osprey

The Clerk was still waiting to hear from Ralph Branston. An email had been received apologising for the delay but this will be looked into as soon as he possibly can.

Watermead Piscatorials:

A site visit with the Environmental Agency has been arranged for Wednesday 27th April. Don Smith (Watermead Piscatorials), Cllr Eric Rose and the Clerk to attend.

Cllr Rose/
The Clerk

57 Kestrel Way Site Visit - Cllr Rose to report

As agreed at the March 2016 meeting Cllr Rose and the Clerk visited to discuss the land to the rear of his property. It was unanimously agreed to remove the 7 leaning trees and tidy the area at a cost of £1k. It was proposed that the PC undertake a regular land inspection. The Clerk to organise with the grounds maintenance contractor and Cllr Rose to go on the walk around.

Cllr/Rose
The Clerk

Site Visit Request: The Clerk had received contact from 67 Kestrel Way who would like to discuss the land to the front of their property and whether they should be maintaining. The land in question needs to be identified, the Clerk believes that this is under "Watermead Villa's". Cllr Rose and the Clerk to undertake a site visit.

Cllr Rose/
The Clerk

Ownership of Land As previously discussed, many areas of land within

Watermead are still under the name of Royco (original developer) & other parties. Ownership/Title Deeds of certain areas of land have been passed to Cllr I Schwab about the possibility of the PC adopting. Another area has been identified as Buckinghamshire County Council owned and is to be added to the Devolution Agreement. It was unanimously agreed to instruct Schwab and Co to act on behalf of the PC on this matter. Cllr Rose to make contact with Rob Clarke with a view to arranging a meeting.

Cllr Rose

Hanging Baskets – 2016

The 2016 quotation has been received from Window Flowers to provide 28 hanging baskets late May or early June and removing in late September at a cost of £66.25 per basket, £1855.00 plus VAT. No price increase from 2015. It was agreed to proceed.

Swans Nest & Fishing

Communication had been received regarding the swan that nests just around the corner from the Easy Living shop. It has six eggs this year and in past years has lost them to high water and we have had heavy rain recently. On Sunday the well-known odd job man called Graham rang the swan sanctuary for advice and was told that he could raise the nest with twigs and hay. He has had the idea for the future of doing it with an old tyre which would float on high water and doing something more permanent for future years. It was queried whether the Parish Council would have any input into such a project? Graham is willing to do the work but wondered about permission or help with the cost of materials. As the area where the nest is situated is owned by The Riviera, this would need to be taken up with Mr Pardis.

Near a lakeside property in Kingfisher, four people have independently commented that there is a strong smell of cannabis outside the house. It is believed that fishermen use hemp seed to attract fish to the vicinity of their lines. It may be that some seed has washed up on the bank and planted itself and is now growing. The Clerk to advise the PCSO.

The Clerk

Land to the end of The Heron – Very overgrown obstructing the dog bin and footpath. The PC has cut back in the past. Vegetation coming from land included within the large lake ownership. It was agreed to obtain a quote to have the area cut back at a cost of up to £250 under the general power of competence.

The Clerk

There are many other private properties with vegetation causing obstruction and devolved letters have been or are being sent.

Peter Norman had offered to become a volunteer litter picker along with Graham Severn and Dave Lang.

The ROSPA inspection had been scheduled for May.

It was agreed to proceed with the removal of the tree, which had split around the small lake.

2. Dog Control

Signage would be going up the next day around the small lake and on noticeboards. The PC to consider stickers on lamp posts. The Clerk would need to obtain permission from BCC first.

The Clerk

3. To update on Allotments

Rentals as per normal are successful. AGM is taking place Thursday 29th April 2016. Clerk attending.

Ditches – As previously advised Buckinghamshire County Council carried out ditch work to the site on the left hand side of our allotment gate (heading away from Watermead). BCC made it very clear that we needed to clear the ditches on our land. Len Bone was advised the same. However this is where the saga continues. A site visit was made with possible contractors to quote. However

when we examined the works carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council it came to our attention that they did not clear of the existing ditches but formed a new one nearer to the road. This was obviously easier for their contractors but they didn't take into consideration the drainage etc. Concern was passed onto BCC as this new ditch in our opinion does not feed into the original drains etc.

Buckinghamshire County Council who will come back to us in due course with their findings and suggestion of works will now carry out a site inspection. Buckinghamshire County Council accepts all responsibility of these works.

Awaiting an update. The Clerk had spoken with the PC's Local Area Technician Friday 22nd April 2016 who confirmed a site visit was still to be carried out.

4. To report on Village View

An editorial meeting would be held on Sunday morning. The deadline for articles was 26 April. Dog control orders and signage, public consultation days on the crematorium, and the lighting of the beacons for the Queen's 90th birthday to be included as well as the bus bollards.

5. To report on Village Hall

The rear wall to the hall is yet again affected by dampness. This has been reported to Jean Jones of Compton Management. Jean has advised me that we are not the only property affected by this problem. A Surveyor is now scheduled to take a look as they wish to cure this problem before the external decoration works take place.

6. To update on Transport/Highways Issues/Speeding/MVAS

Call out was originally placed in November. The PC was advised in December just before the Christmas break that they were seeking quotes for the repair and would be repaired hopefully within three weeks. Still not working, the report has now been escalated by TFB. We are received many calls and emails from very concerned residents. These residents are contacting TFB as well as the Parish Council, but no adequate replies are being received. All emails and calls are being directed to Buckinghamshire County Traffic Signal Tony Blackmore. Concerned residents have made contact with Mix 96 and this is now on their website.

MVAS/Community Speedwatch – PCSO Ashley Clarke/Cllr Severn – the MVAS machine had now been ordered and the Clerk to liaise with the LAT on the best positioning for the ground screws at the 5 most problematic locations identified as the Watermead entrance spine road, Ayleswater, Watermeadow, Brambling and Lark Vale. Risk assessments of the areas to be undertaken by the Clerk. Data recorded from offenders would be sent to the police.

The Clerk

A request has been made for temporary signage along the main road as this time of year the Ducks are tending to wander into the roads. The Clerk to contact BCC.

The Clerk

All Cllrs to report the pot hole along Weedon Road on the BCC website.

The Clerk had received a call from TfB advising of a complaint received about the Save Watermead Village banners with a request that they be removed. The Clerk to organise relocation of the ones on the street furniture belonging to BCC.

The Clerk

16.10 Date of meetings 2016

19 May – 7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm.

16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December (Budget)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm and thanked people for their attendance.