

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 21 February 2019 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead**

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton,
BCC Cllr Netta Glover, AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond
PCSO Jo Morgan and PCSO Georgina Locke
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk),
plus 13 members of the public

18.83 Apologies

Cllr Rose, Cllr Gent, Cllr Toler

18.84 Declarations of Interest

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

18.85 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

Concern was expressed regarding the amount of policing around the crematorium during the times funerals had been taking place. The PCSO advised that this was due to intelligence received regarding a potential protest. Residents were concerned that it was a waste of police time and taxpayers' money. Cllr Schwab requested that the police follow the process through full circle and go back to their source of intelligence to say there had been no such protest. Cllr Severn advised that the PC had spent the last 5 years opposing the crematorium but that it does not condone any form of protest. The PC has an issue with the planning authority (AVDC) not with Westerleigh. Cllr Severn, Cllr I. Schwab and The Clerk had met Westerleigh in Bristol to try and discuss Watermead's concerns.

Residents feel that the police are siding with Westerleigh. PCSO Jo Morgan responded that the police were present to protect all parties in the event of a protest, especially with regards to mourners being emotional and potentially irrational. Many residents felt intimidated to walk around the public footpaths of the large lake with such a heavy police presence up the mound, on the Watermead allotments, in the bushes and the hotel car park.

There were incidents of regular drug deals and cannabis smoking taking place around the small lake and the car park with little or no interest from the police. Residents felt there was a disproportionate reaction to reports of actual crime compared with attendance at the crematorium. Cllr Severn to speak to James Davies/Tim Metcalfe at the next IAG. Roger Cooling also wished to write.

Cllr Severn

The PC advised that it had no idea funerals were going to take place as the crematorium was not supposed to have opened until all the remaining conditions had been discharged. The EA have agreed with WPC that the condition has not be met and they were very surprised to hear that the crematorium had already been built and open for business. WPC had written to AVDC on this matter. AVDC have not discharged all conditions but Westerleigh were open for business.

It was agreed to extend the public meeting.

Cllr Severn advised that the PC had been trying to meet with AVDC since November had received no response and no one was willing to meet. A FOI request from WPC to AVDC had been ignored. AVDC must act and enforce. A formal request was made to Cllr Bond to get a response from AVDC. Funerals have taken place, which is in breach of the conditions.

Cllr Bond

A parishioner queried whether funeral directors were aware that planning permission was subject to the conditions being charged. Cllr Severn advised that the PC had written prior to opening to many local funeral directors advising of the remaining 15 conditions.

A parishioner queried what AVDC were doing going forward to monitor air quality after a body has been cremated. The Clerk read out an email response from Environmental Health in response which stated that "AVDC have reviewed a copy of the latest emission monitoring conducted at the site the previous day and were satisfied that none of the emission levels were breached. In addition, all emissions go through a rigorous filtration system prior to release and therefore the risk to human health from any emissions is minimal. In this instance AVDC have no concerns in relation to the operation of the site and will not be taking any further action." The Clerk to request sight of the data.

The Clerk

A parishioner questioned why ADVC would not meet with the representatives of the Watermead community. Cllr Bond advised that the officers say there is nothing to discuss. The parishioner responded saying there clearly is if conditions have not been met. Cllr Bond will endeavour to facilitate a meeting with AVDC.

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

Cllr Glover gave her report. Cllr Bond advised that the budget had been finalised.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

18.87 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2019

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

18.88 Planning Matters

- (1) **To update on any Planning Applications submitted** – no updates.
- (2) **7/00771/APP - Watermead Village Car Park, Lakeside – Erection of 21 Flats** – At time of report we are waiting a committee date.
- (3) **1401575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, The Riviera** – already discussed in open forum. In the event AVDC do not respond to the overdue FOI request and our request made to Ashley Bond to arrange a meeting it was agreed our communications with them should be made public.

18.89 Finance & Administration

1. To agree the payment schedule for February 2019 - The Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule for February 2019, which was approved.

Payment Schedule		Feb-19					Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount		
Mobile Mini	7001122407	R&M Land	£48.00	£9.60	£57.60	BACS	
Burgess	136/116139	Hall Supplies	£13.15	£2.63	£15.78	BACS	
Taplins Plant Hire	185944	Heras Fence Christmas Tree	£2.40	£0.48	£2.88	BACS	
Rachel Seago	WPC 1021	Village View Design	£860.00	£0.00	£860.00	BACS	
British Gas	967419617	Village Hall Gas Supply	£250.06	£12.50	£262.56	BACS	
Ian Whittome	Feb-19	R&M Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS	
Michelle Jackson	Feb-19	Assistant Clerk	£230.52	£0.00	£230.52	BACS	
Noreen Shardlow	Feb-19	Clerk & Office	£1,570.06	£0.00	£1,570.06	BACS	
HMRC	Feb-19	PAYE & NI	£526.29	£0.00	£526.29	BACS	
G. M. Hall & Co	Feb-19	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS	
Celebration Management Service	Feb-19	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS	
CLC Grounds Maintenance	Feb-19	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,380.00	£0.00	£1,380.00	BACS	
Berryfields Parish Council	102	Playground Inspection Course	£235.00	£0.00	£235.00	BACS	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
Routine Payments Total			£5,780.48	£25.21	£5,805.69		
Non Routine Payment							
Total			£5,780.48	£25.21	£5,805.69		
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: _____					

2. To agree the accounts to end January 2019 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end January 2019, which were approved.

18.90 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 Update on Routine Land Work

Walkway

Dave Lucas presented to the Parish Council a custom made bracket to prevent the walkway sideboards from becoming detached. Dave Lucas is concerned that we can only repair/drill into the sideboards so many times. It was proposed and agreed to ask Dave Lucas to obtain quotes up to £1k to fix the walkway. Any proposed works could not commence until the new financial year.

Watermead Small Lake

19th February 2019 - Andy Killingbeck of the Environment Agency confirmed two islands would be installed at the Small Lake over the next few weeks.

Replacement Dog Waste Bin

Marcus Young Landscapes are awaiting arrival of new bin from manufacturer.

Lake Clearance/Islands

Awaiting Contractors D. Lucas & CLC Grounds Maintenance.

Watermead Entrance Clearance

Ongoing - Graham Severn & Peter Dean, Watermead residents/volunteers have very kindly offered to clear the area around the entrance to Watermead. A site visit was made and there is some very severe vegetation, which cannot be removed by their gardening tools. I spoke with our contractor Darren of CLC Grounds Maintenance and he is willing to clear within his monthly R&M budget. Once these works have been carried out Graham and Peter will attend to tidy the area.

Ducks Signs

Once locations have been determined, installation will be imminent.

Marcus Militello, Hedgerow Havens Project Officer of Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Update: Hedge planting is now complete. Marcus and the team from Vale Countryside Volunteers including Adrian Bayliss achieved the works in one working day as opposed to two. As mentioned in the plan Marcus has now advised, it would be good to carry out two cut and removes this year, one in late April and one in August. Marcus will be introduced to our contractor Darren Adamson of CLC Grounds Maintenance to see if he can do this part of the project, as he believes this would be best. Marcus confirmed the BBOWT will cover the costs of carrying out the cut and remove this year, and then following the payment of the grant to us the PC will make these future costs. The proposed works will be carried out by Dave Lucas due to the type of cut required (grass being collected) and CLC Grounds current commitments.

Marcus will visit Watermead in March to spray off some of the weeds on site again.

Florence Nightingale Land Request

February Update: PC await Event Management Plan, Risk Assessment, Insurance and proposed route.

At the September 2018 meeting of the Parish Council and subject to the necessary documentation being approved and receiving the relevant permission from other landowners in advance, the Parish Council resolved to seeing the return of the Florence Nightingale Superhero Fun Run return to Watermead.

Michelle Merrison has been in contact to inform us that whilst it was decided that they would not be going ahead with Superhero Fun Run, they would like to hold an 80's themed fun run instead, preferably in April. Reasoning behind the 80's theme is that it is their 30th Anniversary.

Brief overview of event:

Date - Saturday 6th April

Time - Registration from 10am, Warm up 10.45am, Run begins 11am.

Ideally they will have a 2.5km route (one route round the lakes) and a 5km route (twice around the lakes)

They hope to have 200-300 runners and will be promoting in the local area around Watermead.

All runners will receive a medal on completion.

CCTV Proposal – Cllr Severn & Cllr Toler

Unfortunately Cllr Toler is not able to attend but has provided the below report.

With activity stepping up following the recent adverse planning decision by AVDC, I think it's time to give serious consideration to a couple of small discreet surveillance cameras mounted under the eaves of the gatehouse. Having done some research and taken some advice I recommend these:

<https://nest.com/uk/cameras/nest-cam-outdoor/overview/>

They have the following advantages:

Highly secure operating system run via a subscription account.

Inexpensive compared to full blown commercial systems

Easy to install and set up

Daytime and night time (infra red) capability.

High quality image, wide angle (130 degree)

Designed for outdoor use.

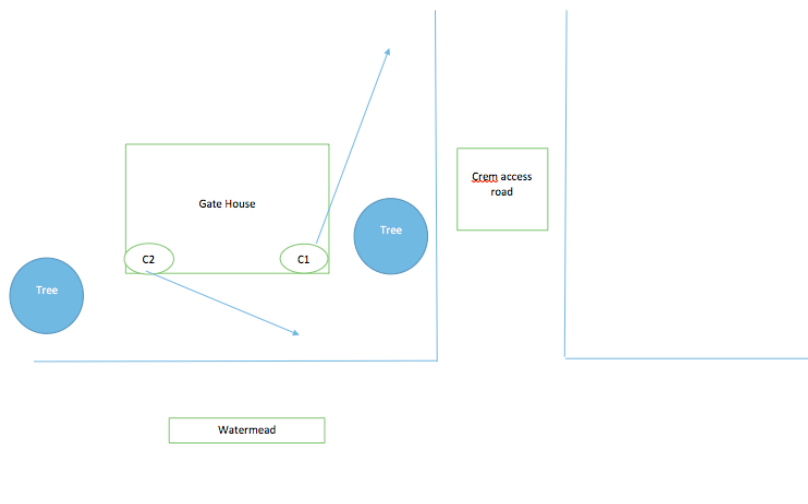
Constant streaming and recording of at least 5 (max. 30) days history

Can be viewed remotely via Wi-Fi

To give you an idea of price, Amazon is currently doing a special offer of £269 for two cameras, which would adequately cover main road, gate and entrance road.

I would be happy to do the installation and setup. Having anyone outside the PC doing the installation would be a potential security risk in my view.

It was proposed by Cllr Severn, seconded by Cllr A Schwab and agreed unanimously to install four cameras and install Wi-Fi at The Gatehouse. The Clerk to contact Cllr Toler upon his return.



2 To update on River Thame Trust Visit

Update report received February 2019: Before moving forward with suggestions for improvement works on the river at Watermead I think it is key that we first establish the water depth at low flows. If the water is shallow we could think about running a work party to add in some woody material to the channel to increase the habitat and flow diversity. However if water is going to be above thigh high we wouldn't be able to do this safely with volunteers. I'll plan to visit later in the year to establish the depth and then we can move forward from there.

3 Updates received from the Events Committee – An Event Management Plan had been received for Larks by the Lake to be held on Sunday 26 May 2019, which Cllrs approved.

4 Allotments

The agreed increase to allotment fees. One full year notice must be given and as the meeting we agreed this was in January we are not able to increase until January 2021 as contract are from 1st January-31st December.

5 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that the Spring issue had been completed at the beginning of the week and was now with the printers. It would be distributed weekend after next. A meeting had been held with a potential new printing company and a cheaper quote was received. Eagle Graphics had agreed to accept the reduced quote. It was agreed to continue with the current printer, Eagle Graphics, subject to discussion with Cllr Toler on his return.

6 To update on Village Hall

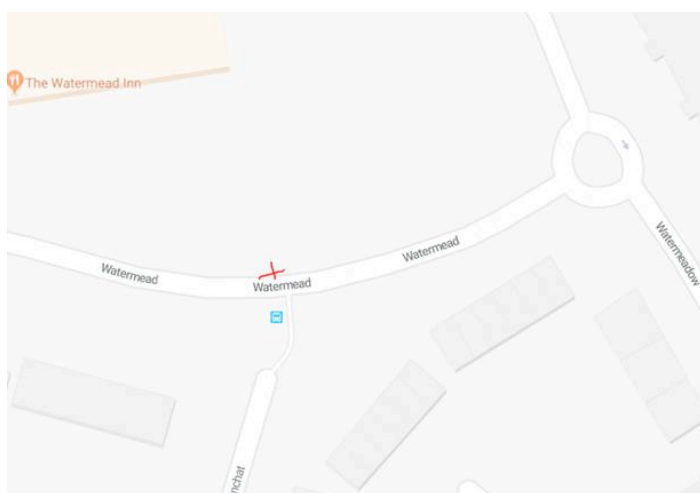
Village Hall redecoration confirmed Easter Holidays 2019.

Piano Donation A resident of Watermead had very kindly offered to donate a piano to the Village Hall, which the PC accepted with thanks.

**7 To update on Transport
Change of Bus Stop Location**

Update: At time of report we are awaiting comparison results from Buckinghamshire County Council. Paul Goodwin will attend w/c 25th February 2019.

With the change made to the Water Rider Bus Service route at the end of November 2018, the Parish Council received an email from Amanda Covington of Buckinghamshire County Council who proposed installing a new stop (pole and flag) to be located opposite the existing Shelter on the main Watermead Road near the post-box – please see map below. Amanda also advised the rest of the route along Watermeadow, Lark Vale etc. will remain Hail and Ride. This email was sent to all for comments.



All comments made by the PC were passed onto Paul Goodwin, Passenger Transport Team at Buckinghamshire County Council and advised that a more permanent/safer bus location needs putting into place.

We discussed the request of a shelter and Paul advised that he knows the area quite well and due to the size of the verge we could look into installing the below style shelter along the spine road which is smaller than the existing on the opposite side. We also discussed the costs of moving the shelter but for two reasons Paul advised against, the shelter is too large and JC Decaux cost to relocate is higher than a new shelter. Paul confirmed costs for a new shelter by email, £5120 plus VAT. He also said he would investigate any possible funding from their budgets. He wasn't sure he would be successful but he said he would ask around and report back to us early in the new-year. **Unfortunately Paul confirmed Monday 14th January 2019 they are not able to contribute**

towards a new shelter.

We need to confirm instructions with regard to the pole and flag stop.



8

To update on Highways

**** AWAITING INSTALLATION ** Village Gates**

Further to our June Parish Council meeting and the update provided on the Village entrances gates, I am pleased to report the following advice from Matthew Whincup our Local Area Technician, Buckinghamshire County Council confirming both gates will be replaced (see below).

"Now that you have confirmed the gate is no longer serviceable I will order a new replacement along with a matching one for the other side of the road. The gates we use now are actually made of plastic and are a lot easier to maintain and keep clean. They have a wood effect and look just like the original wooden ones but better in my opinion."

I need to confirm what size gates we need as the manufacturer does various widths and I will want to match the size as close as possible to the original ones. I need to have a measure up first then I will order them. It can take a while for the gates to be made and name sign attached".

Proposed Toucan Crossing and Cycle Path

**** AWAITING UPDATE **** As reported at the January 2018 Parish Council a meeting was arranged with Paul Ahluwalia, Traffic Signal Engineer of Buckinghamshire County Council, Cllr Severn, Cllr Rose and the Clerk. The meeting was arranged for Buckinghamshire County Council to provide an outline of what the above-mentioned scheme entails.

Paul advised that at present the remit is to provide a costing to install a Toucan crossing at the point where the Pegasus (horse crossing) crossing was initially proposed on the A413. This was part of the original planning agreement for the Buckingham Park development opposite Watermead. To accompany the crossing, a formal cycle-path is proposed to provide an adequate and usable amenity for those wishing to use the crossing. This element will require extensive (7m) cutting back of the verge-line to allow construction of a cycle-path. Only when a costing has been provided and funding addressed (believe the whole project will be over budget), will a final decision be made on whether to proceed with construction.

The Parish Council provided Paul with the necessary maps and advised that they believe the Parish Council owns the land in question.

The next steps are for Paul to commission a topographical survey and make Land Registry enquiries to determine land ownership. Upon results of this Paul will make contact with us.

Highways Bus Bollards

UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019: The installation did not commence (as agreed w/c 18th February 2019). Await a new confirmed date via Cllr Glover.

The installation has been scheduled for the February 2019 half term holidays to ensure the bus service for school children is not disrupted.

The bus bollards at Lark Vale are not operational. The bid for installation of a new system was successful and installation is imminent. Concern has been expressed about the size of bus vehicles now being used and the change of the bus stop location. Awaiting an update from Cllr Netta Glover.

9 To report on Outdoor Gym Area

Cllr Severn/The Clerk to investigate grant-funding to replace the existing equipment at the outdoor gym. Documentation/plans had been circulated via email.

18.91 Date of meetings

21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December.

18.92 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.

Planning/Legal Review