

## Watermead Parish Council Meeting

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

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chairman), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr Cooling, Cllr Toler, Cllr Rose, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk), plus 3 members of the public

### 15.71. Apologies

AVDC & BCC Cllr Netta Glover, AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond.

### 15.72. Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests regarding the agenda.

Cllr I Schwab & Cllr A Schwab – All items relating to Crematorium, Legal and Rights of Way

Cllr Rose 15.69 Item 1 – Land between The Osprey and Sandpiper

### 15.73. To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

No report received. A car had been keyed in Lark Vale and it was also happening in Berryfields. A brick had been thrown through a car window in Moorhen Court. The Clerk to advise the police that the PC were keen for them to attend parish council meetings.

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

A parishioner queried the PC's decision to introduce a dog control order to have dogs kept on leads around the small lake and on the bandstand. A public consultation had taken place a few years ago and it had been decided then not to proceed on the basis of that consultation. The parishioner queried the PC's change in decision. The PC commented that there had been several incidents of dogs biting people, jumping up, disturbing nesting wildlife and an increase in dog foul around the paths. Cllr Rose commented that the law had now changed since the PC had agreed to investigate a dog control order at the November meeting and new information was awaited. Details would be included in the Village View once received. With regard to the dog fouling, it was requested that the PC install paving slabs to ease access to the dog bins without dog owners having to walk on the muddy grass. The PC agreed to consider this.

There was a request to include the budget in the Village View including details of the precept. The parishioner was advised that information on the precept would be included in the Village View and that he (and any parishioner) was welcome to view the budget via the Clerk's office.

It was commented that the death of Peter Potter was a great loss to the community and would there be a feature on him in the Village View. The parishioner was advised that a feature had already been done in a previous issue and that a memorial bench would be installed in a location agreed by his wife Sally. The PC would also be planted a memorial tree.

A parishioner thanked the PC for keeping her up to date by email with events relating to the proposed planning application for 18 Kingfisher and queried what the next step would be. The PC advised that it was expected to go to the planning committee and that the PC intended speaking at that meeting.

With regard to the proposed crematorium, it was confirmed that the Judicial Review due to take place on 1 March in the High Court was a public hearing and parishioners were welcome to attend.

The PC advised that it had made representation to the homeowner who had cut down the trees as well as the AVDC Tree Officer. Ralph Branston, AVDC Trees had confirmed that they would not be carrying out a site visit at this time because it was

clear from the photos provided by the PC that the trees are now in such a condition that it would not be considered expedient, in the interest of public amenity, to place any of the trees under the protection of a TPO. He added that the type of work carried out is unlikely to result in the death of the trees and if appropriately maintained in the future, could live for many years, however they have lost all natural characteristics and form, which has had a significant and detrimental impact on their amenity value. It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm whether this included all of the trees on the site and that the PC should try and gain ownership of the land.

The Clerk

The PC had been advised that it would not be suitable to use the Christmas trees for the banks of the lake but that it would be a good project to create and protect the wildlife habitats over the winter. The Christmas trees had therefore been put inside the Copse area. The PC to find out whether the trees in the Copse, especially the willows, could have a TPO.

The Clerk

A parishioner reported that offerings of jewellery had been made by Hindus into the small lake and he expressed concern regarding contamination to the water and the effect on wildlife.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

### **Council Meeting**

#### **15.75. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 November 2015**

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

#### **15.76. Charity Event & The Watermead Inn Event Request**

Ruth Mayhew of Aylesbury Town Council, Graeme Catten, Watermead Resident and Kelvin Wong, the Watermead Inn – 2016 event request update as per December 2015 Working Group Meeting - The Clerk confirmed that the PC had accepted the proposal at the December working group meeting with a £1000 holding deposit and a £500 contribution to land.

#### **15.77 Planning Matters**

1. To update on household Planning Applications already submitted

2. 15/03542/APP – 7 Pintail Close, Watermead – Conversion of garage into living accommodation – No objections. Comments had been made re parking situation in the future due to all extensions. These had been passed onto the Planning Department.

3. 14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, The Riviera - Judicial Review to take place on 1 March 2016.

4. Aylesbury Vale District Council Restructure – The Clerk had circulated an organisation chart to Cllrs. Concern was again expressed at the difficulty in making telephone and email contact with AVDC.

#### **15.78. Finance**

1. To agree the cheque run for December 2015 and January 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the cheque runs which were approved. Three further cheques were approved: £25 for Watermead & Weedon WI for the mince pies at the Carol Concert, £286 to Schwab & Co for legal work on the crematorium and £259.01 for petty cash.

2. To agree the accounts to end December 2015 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts which were approved.

3. To agree the Budget for 2016/17– the budget was unanimously agreed.

4. To agree the Precept for 2016/17– an increase in the precept of 3.57% was unanimously agreed which equated to an increase of £2.53 pa on a band D house.

5. The future of External Audit for Smaller Authorities – the Audit Commission ceased to exist on the 1 April 2015 and a new company – Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd - has been created to take over the appointment of **external** auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. Mazars would therefore no longer be undertaking the external audits. More detailed information was awaited.

## **15.79. Councillors' Reports and Recommendations**

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

Land between The Osprey and Sandpiper – The Clerk to contact Ralph Branston, AVDC Trees regarding the other trees on this site.

The bandstand had now been repaired.

115 Christmas trees had been received.

Grants to be sought for repairs to the lake banks. An application bid to be drafted and circulated to all Cllrs.

The Clerk

### **2. Dog Control**

Cllr Rose advised that the law had changed in January 2015 and new information on a Public Space Protection Order was awaited. The Chair thanked Cllr Rose and the Clerk for the work undertaken so far.

### **3. To update on Allotments**

Nothing to report.

### **4. To report on Village View**

An editorial meeting had been held on Sunday. It was planned to make the magazine an all colour one and advertising costs were being revised to simplify them. The deadline for articles for the Spring edition was 26 January. Chris Cooling had offered to upload issues of the Village View onto the website and also to maintain the website. An article on the Watermead Inn Charity event in May would be included in the Spring issue.

### **5. To report on Village Hall**

Grants for flooring in the Village Hall to be sought. The PC had received information on a selection of proposed colour schemes for the piazza area.

The Clerk

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

The Clerk had circulated a letter from a parishioner to Redline regarding the declining standard of the drivers of the Water Rider bus service and Redline's response. The Clerk to advise that there had also been reports of the bus driver speeding.

The Clerk

**Bus Bollards on Lark Vale** – A call had originally been placed in November and the Clerk was advised in December just before the Christmas break that BCC were seeking quotes for the repair and that they would be repaired hopefully within three weeks. The bollards are still not working and the report has now been escalated by TFB. There had also been a near miss incident between a car and the bus which the police had reported to BCC.

**Water Rider** – Road markings for the Water Rider Stop. Works commenced Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Berryfields had agreed to share an MVAS with Watermead on a 2 week rota basis. Both PC's to try and obtain funding via the LAF.

### **7. To report on Christmas Events**

The Craft Fair had been a success and the Carol Concert well attended. The 2 events had raised £199.30 for CHAT.

### **8. The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacons**

It was agreed to advertise local events rather than purchase a gas beacon at £400

for Watermead.

**15.80 Date of next meeting**  
18 February 2016.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm and thanked people for their attendance.

**15.81** 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

Cricket Pitch Update – a course of action was unanimously agreed. Cllr I Schwab and Cllr A Schwab did not take part in the voting.