

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

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

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr Rose, Cllr A Schwab, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr Singleton Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk), AVDC and BCC Cllr Netta Glover, AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond plus 6 members of the public

16.34 Apologies

Cllr Toler.

16.35 Declarations of Interest

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

16.36 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

To discuss any Neighbourhood Watch matters – TVP
No police report received.

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

Ronald Pordage commented on the works which had commenced on the crematorium. The PC advised that enabling works were being undertaken and the PC was still awaiting a decision from the High Court as to whether it could appeal.

Marcia Lang queried whether it made Westerleigh's case stronger if works had already commenced. The PC believed that it did not and that works had been initiated at Westerleigh's own risk.

Ronald Pordage questioned what would happen if Westerleigh continue works to completion before a decision was heard from the High Court. Should the PC be granted the right to appeal and was successful, then all works would have to cease. Westerleigh had applied for permission to appeal against the Berton site.

There had been issues with fishermen and the model boat club parking on the spine road and grass verges. It was agreed that the model yacht people should be reminded of the terms of the agreement for them to use the area by the stepping-stones. Access to Len Bone's land had been agreed for parking for all except disabled members. It was agreed to obtain polite notice letters which would be placed on windscreens of offending cars. The PC were trying to organise a meeting with the new Thames Valley police commissioner to discuss various issues including speeding and parking. The PC to consider double yellow lines on the road under general powers of competence. In the interim it was agreed to put cones out over the summer holiday period.

Ronald Pordage commented that the Millennium tree had died and questioned whether it was to be removed or replaced. The tree had been donated free of charge from BCC. Julian Gent commented that Wyevale had a tree scheme. Mr Pordage also questioned who was responsible for cutting back overgrown shrubbery blocking the footpaths. In many cases it was the house owner's responsibility. The PC advised of the process where it would write to the house owner and they would be given 14 days to action, if it were not done a second letter would be issued giving a further 14 days. If it still weren't done then the PC would inform BCC. The PC advised that land walks were undertaken regularly but if Mr Pordage was aware of any specific problem areas he should report them to the PC.

Marcia Lang queried the PC's progress on land erosion works needed on the banks of the large lake. The PC had been advised that it was not possible to use sandbags as a short-term solution. A formal quotation was awaited from Environments for

People. Cllr Severn/The Clerk would be meeting with Community Impact Bucks to discuss available funding grants.

Marcia Lang commented on the weeds between the road and the pavement around Watermead. The Clerk advised that BCC would not be undertaking the work and that this issue would be discussed under 16.41.8

Marcia Lang commented on the grounds people cutting back a willow on the small lake and she believed it was the wrong time of year for this to be cut back. The Clerk advised that the self-seeded willow bush had been maintained twice a year for many years and grew back each time.

Cllr Bond reported on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and Cllr Netta Glover's report would be circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Bond to provide the Parish Council with a hard copy of the draft plan.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

16.38 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 June 2016

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

16.39 Planning Matters

1. To update on any Planning Applications submitted - 16/00552/APP – 16/01658/APP 7 Owl Close - Removal and replacement of existing conservatory roof with the addition of three roof-lights had been approved on 10 July.

Cllr Netta Glover advised that an enforcement case had been opened on 18 Kingfisher.

2. 13/03534/AOP – Land East of Watermead Update – Still with the Secretary of State.

3. 14/01575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, Riviera Site – the PC were still awaiting a decision on whether it could appeal.

4. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan – To consider the Parish Council's response to the draft plan consultation. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the public exhibition/review documents on AVDC's website using the following link:

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan>

Public exhibitions are being held until September 2016 (use link above for dates).

The Clerk

In the event that Cllr Ashley Bond was not able to provide it was agreed to purchase a copy of the plan for the PC's use. Cllrs to forward their comments to the Clerk for her to collate a response.

16.40 Finance

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

Cheque run		Jul-16		Net		Gross	
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Amount	VAT	Amount	Cheque	
BALC - Good Councillor Guides	GCG 14-16	Training Village Hall	£23.50	£0.00	£23.50	2635	
Hertfordshire Supplies	H061605621	Cleaning Sup.	£117.21	£23.45	£140.66	2636	
Ian Whittome	208	GPC-R&M	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	2637	
CLC Grounds Maintenance	1544, 1543, 1578 & 1577	Grass, R&M, Litter & Allotments	£1,257.00	£0.00	£1,257.00	2638	
Burgess Office Equipment	87595	Office Ink & Envelopes	£12.72	£2.54	£15.26	2639	
E.ON Electricity	011469595940 - 013519464970 - 010750983470	Gatehouse, Land & Village Hall Electricity Supply	£138.80	£6.76	£145.56	2640	
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£42.30	£2.22	£44.52	2641	
ERS Environmental (Final Invoice)	10633	Litter Hanging Baskets	£1,020.00	£204.00	£1,224.00	2642	
Windowflowers Ltd	4694	R&M	£1,855.00	£371.00	£2,226.00	2643	
M. Jackson	Jul-16	Assistant Clerk	£212.00	£0.00	£212.00	2644	
N. Shardlow	Jul-16	The Clerk	£1,436.72	£0.00	£1,436.72	2645	
HMRC PAYE	Jul-16	PAYE & NI	£463.78	£0.00	£463.78	2646	
Celebration Managements Services	266	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	2647	
G M Hall & Co.	635	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	2648	

2. To agree the accounts to end June 2016 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end June 2016 which were approved.

3. Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy– the Clerk reported that an application had been received from Julian Gent and circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Julian Gent was in attendance for questions. The PC resolved they would make their decision following the meeting under closed session.

4. Bank Signatories & Electronics Banking

The Clerk to be added to the mandate to enable her to set up online banking and update signatories.

16.41. Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

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

Refuse/Litter Bin Collections

Notification was received from Craig Nickless that he has sold his business ERS Environmental Services. ERS are our litter/refuse bins contractor. Craig has confirmed that the acquisition does not include any of his litter contracts. During the handover the purchasers will require Craig for a three-month period. Craig has offered to carry on his duties/service under his own name (he will rearrange new public liability etc), however during his three-month hand over period he will only be able to attend site in the evenings. Following the above email that I had previously sent I have met with Craig to discuss.

During the Summer collection period Craig has agreed to attend the litter on a Thursday evening, we both felt this was better as in the summer holidays many people do attend on a Friday afternoon. On Monday our collection would be between 2:30pm-6pm. Craig is more than happy to do a trial period.

The Clerk has also discussed this matter with Darren Adamson of CLC Grounds Maintenance (whom knows Craig well) and we can put into place back measures. Darren from CLC Grounds Maintenance who does all our grass & tree work has agreed that in the event of holiday cover for Craig or an emergency he will be able to attend as he has just taken on two new full time members of staff. Craig will charge the same price as the existing contractor and Darren should he be needed will also charge the same rate per collection. Darren knows the system well as he has covered for Craig previously when on holiday. PC agreed.

Model Boat Club

As per Open Forum - Sunday 10th July 2016 Watermead Model Boat Club started their newly arranged parking system. There were some teething problems, mainly our drop section being used and blocking access to our land. The Clerk met with their Chairman Tony Taylor to explain these concerns and he has agreed to speak to their members to ensure they use Len's land. Sunday 17th July 2016 they parked further down the spine road. This situation to be monitored.

Alison Lambert Bench Request

Alison has been around with her family to identify potential sites. Her favoured position was the Riviera land but confirmed she will not proceed with this route. We walked the small lake and Balloon Meadow and she liked three areas for the PC to consider.

The PC preferred the small Lake positioned between highway hedging and small lake low hedging.

The Clerk

67 Kestrel Way Site Visit Request: Waiting resident to provide a convenient meet up time with Cllr Rose and Clerk – No response received

Small Lake Bandstand – the Clerk to obtain 3 new quotes for painting.

Routine works are progressing well.

Land between Sandpiper and The Osprey: Still awaiting to hear from Ralph Branston. Cllr Glover now involved.

Land Adoption – Cllr A Schwab updated that communication had been received from Burges Salmon in respect of one of the Title Deeds. Cllr I Schwab and The Clerk to look into this further.

2 To update on Bank erosion & Land Project

Cllr Severn/The Clerk had met with Environments for People and a full plan of their proposals was expected the following week. They proposed using recycled plastic (as had been used for the walkway) at a ballpark figure of £25-35k. Funding grants would be discussed with Community Impact Bucks the following week.

As there were a growing number of children in Watermead, Cllr Severn suggested installing a MUGA (multi use games area), park and fitness trail on the fisherman's meadow. It was agreed that Cllr Severn should apply for a micro grant to pay for an architect to draw up a vision plan of the area. This would then go to public consultation and grants sought.

Cllr Severn

Cllr Rose raised the urgency of the bank erosion works and it was agreed that this must be the priority with any other plans being secondary.

3 Watermead Piscatorials & EA Site Update

A proposal had been received from Andy Killingbeck, EA Fisheries Department to build a barrier across the entrance to the small lake. The PC agreed that the Piscatorials could proceed with the proposal should they feel this would resolve the issue of fish stocks in the small lake. Need to determine who is responsible for

costs.

4 Tree Survey Update

Cllr Rose and the Clerk had undertaken a land walk with groundsman Darren Adamson. The willows had been discussed as part of the walk and the need for cutting back. It was commented that it was better to have done under controlled conditions rather than residents taking action themselves (as had been the case with a silver birch tree).

Where the trees had been cut down by the houses by the lake entrance at Kestrel Way, it had been recommended that the logs be left.

Along the spine road the trees had grown significantly and were covering the street lamps. A quote of £570 had been received. There were dead branches in the tree arch over the path around the large lake which could be a danger in high winds. A quote of £675 had been received to remove the dead and dangerous branches. A quote to remove the dead wood over the pathway around the small lake of £475 had been received. The PC unanimously agreed to proceed with all three areas of work at a total cost of approximately £1720.

5 To Update on Allotments

Awaiting price to move Stone Boulder to block access.

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.

6 To report on Village View

Articles to be submitted by 23 July as the issue would be going to print a week earlier due to holiday commitments. It would include details for the Christmas Fair and Carol Concert. The best decorated house competition would run again this year. Cllr Singleton requested having a do for volunteers in the Spring. Funds would need to be allocated in the budget set in December.

7 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. Ongoing - the Clerk to meet Jean Jones when visiting next week.

8 To update on Transport/Highways Issues

Parking on our land – polite notice letters to be used.

Weeds in Roadways

After several attempts to arrange Buckinghamshire County Council to attend Watermead the weeds in the roadways, the Clerk reported that Donna Boardman Business Improvement Senior Officer for the Parish Devolution project whom arranged these works for us last year (following several complaints) has unfortunately left the Devolution Team.

The Clerk had managed to make contact with a Calvin Richardson who is our Area Manager for Buckinghamshire County Council, Transport for Buckinghamshire. Calvin has advised that last year the weed treatment in rural areas (not Watermead) was stopped due to budget cuts. This financial year their department has received further budget cuts and will only deal with road weed issues in October and only if there is any monies left over.

The PC was advised late last summer that this situation would not return this year as the roadways were treated after removal. Obviously this is not the case, as all roads on Watermead need attention and is highlighted even more so when our

groundsmen attend to the grass verges.

We therefore need to discuss how we move on. I have made contact with both a Bradley Ford and Hannah Battye in the Devolution Team as to the possibility of some extra funding towards these works as this is outside the scope of the devolved services agreement. See response below:

First, my apologies for the delay in responding to your email. As Donna mentioned, I was on annual leave last week and am still working through my email backlog! Thank you for your patience.

As per your discussion with Calvin, TfB have no budget for spraying non-noxious weeds this year. In order to meet required cost savings for 2016/17 they will be treating noxious weeds only. This being the case, and given that the spraying of non-noxious, non-injurious weeds is out of the scope of the devolution agreement, we are unable to provide additional funding for these works, but we cannot see any reason we would stop this activity by the local council, providing appropriate guidelines were followed.

Should your parish be willing to address the non-noxious weed issue described through its own funds, please refer to the weed-killing section within the First Schedule for required qualifications and employer responsibilities. Please also see the method statement available online at the BCC devolution

I hope this clarifies the situation. If you have any further questions or concerns, please let me know.

Bradley Ford
Commercial Development Officer

The Clerk had obtained two quotes from the PC's contractors, CLC Grounds Maintenance, pricing is as follows.

To treat all weeds (takes about 10 days to complete course) £600

Following the weed kill treatment follow up and remove by hand all weeds £1200 approximately

The above price covers all roads in Watermead and the price is high due to the amount and growth size Buckinghamshire County Council has left us with. In the event that the PC decides to take this on routinely then the costs would not be this high, due to prevention treatment being applied before the problems arises.

The PC agreed to seek another quote for comparison purposes.

Bus Bollards on Lark Vale – STILL NOT WORKING

Call out was originally placed in November 2015.

Communication received 14th June 2016 reported at our June meeting

Dear Noreen

Update on the bollards the Engineers turned up today to assess the problem and write a report for TFB. My wife spoke to the Engineers they told her it was a case of replacing a seal to stop the leak of oil, That it was a simple job, They just needed to order and replace the seal. Apart from this they are in good working order. It would appear that there is no major part or fault and to say this is a major fault after all this time is an excuse to not repair the problem. The Engineers also told her that TFB have a number of bollards across the county that they are also assessing and writing reports on. If the problem is not sorted out there should be a time limit to do the repairs if this is not met the gap should be blocked off and the bus rerouted, We have had to put up with this for far to long.

Many thanks

Phillip

An update had been received from James Hales Buckinghamshire County Council TFB

The engineers referred to are from the manufacturers and have been appointed to survey all of the rising bollards within Bucks so we can say with confidence exactly what is required at each site.

I have yet to receive the reports back, but once I do I will review and we can speak again.

Regards

James

Cllr Rose

Cllr Rose to put together a press release.

9 To update on MVAS

The MVAS equipment was currently with Berryfields and would be moved to Watermead once the ground screws had been installed. Buckinghamshire County Council's Technician had not signed off plan which is required by ground screw contractor. This has now been done.

10 To update on Website

Updates ongoing.

16.42 Date of meetings

18 August (Finance Committee), 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December (Budget)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting to the public at 9.45 pm and thanked people for their attendance. Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it will be necessary for the Council to close the meeting to the press and public under Section 1 (2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Land Adoption – Cllr A Schwab updated that communication had been received from Burges Salmon in respect of one of the Title Deeds. Cllr I Schwab and The Clerk to look into further/identify BM and report and ensuing meeting.

16.40 (3) Casual Vacancy – It was proposed by Cllr Rose, seconded by Cllr Severn and unanimously agreed to co-opt Julian Gent as Cllr. The Clerk to meet and arrange the signing of the declaration of acceptance of office, Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Code of Conduct) & application for dispensation by the ensuing Parish Council meeting (September 2016).

Meeting closed 10:10pm