

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 21 March 2019 at 7.30pm
The Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr Singleton, Cllr Rose, Cllr Gent, Cllr Toler
AVDC Cllr Ashley Bond, Noreen Shardlow (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk),
plus 2 members of the public

18.93 Apologies

BCC Cllr Netta Glover, Cllr I Schwab

18.94 Declarations of Interest

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

18.95 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

No report received.

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

Cllr Glover had emailed her report. Cllr Bond reported that the Planning Inspectorate had agreed AVDC's proposal to reduce housing numbers for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. With regard to the Unitary Council, the application for a Judicial Review had not been given permission to proceed.

Cllr Severn advised that all correspondence relating to the crematorium had been published to the public. The PC were still awaiting a response from Susan Kitchen regarding its FOI request which was due the following day. Cllr Bond was requested as a matter of urgency to speak to Susan Kitchen.

Cllr Bond

There was concern expressed about erosion of the bank next to path near to the nursing home. To be added to April 2019 agenda.

Item 18.100.7 was brought forward and discussed during the open forum. Cllr Schwab reported that, having spoken to a number of residents in Lark Vale, there were many who wished for the bollards to remain down. One of the reasons being this made journeys to school and back quicker and also meant that the children did not have to pass the crematorium and see funerals taking place. Cllrs discussed the possibility of undertaking a feasibility study whereby the PC took control of the bollards and residents have zappers. The traffic report was discussed which showed a 15% increase in traffic along Watermeadow during the time the bollards were down. It was agreed that the bollards are not fit for purpose. Cllr Bond suggested a barrier which could only be used by buses. He also advised that an ANPR camera would be needed to catch people illegally accessing while the bollards were not operational.

Having considered the residents' comments as presented by Cllr Schwab, the PC agreed that it was not a viable option to have the bollards left down due to the increase of traffic, safety and accessibility issues along an already narrow road with cars parked either side and the potential back up of traffic along Lark Vale. The Clerk to speak to Netta Glover about getting the bollards working properly and find out how the bollards are reset and whether the PC would be able to do themselves.

MVAS and Sentinel to be used again to monitor traffic flow whilst the bollards are down. Cllrs Gent and Singleton to assist Cllr Severn with the Sentinel.

Cllr Severn/
Cllr Gent/
Cllr Singleton

A parishioner queried whether there had been any feedback from residents since the opening of the crematorium. The Chair advised that there had been reports of smoke and noise overnight, which had been reported to AVDC. The Chair and the Clerk had been to see Enforcement who were aware that the EMP had not yet been approved. Westerleigh had 11 months to complete such works. The PC were trying to get everything hidden behind a high screen so that the site was not visible from

the roadside or the properties overlooking the lake. Discussions had also been held with local funeral directors. It was reported that the crematorium at Bierton would be opening in April.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

18.97 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 February 2019

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

18.98 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
– As circulated via email Buckinghamshire County Council has withdrawn their previous objections to this planning application. At time of report we are awaiting a committee date.

(3) 1401575/APP – Proposed Crematorium, The Riviera – to be removed from the agenda.

18.99 Finance & Administration

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

Payment Schedule		Mar-19			Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)	
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amour	
Mobile Mini	7001154466	R&M Land	£48.00	£9.60	£57.60	BACS
BALC GDPR Training	E800490193	GDPR Training	£76.64	£0.00	£76.64	BACS
Castle Water	TW0052007468	Allotments Water	£13.22	£2.64	£15.86	BACS
Eagle Graphics	25144	Village View Print Cost	£1,353.00	£0.00	£1,353.00	BACS
British Gas	600026660	Village Hall Gas Supply	£162.79	£8.13	£170.92	BACS
Ian Whittome	Mar-19	R&M Grass	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00	BACS
Michelle Jackson	Mar-19	Assistant Clerk	£230.52	£0.00	£230.52	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Mar-19	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,619.71	£0.00	£1,619.71	BACS
HMRC	Mar-19	PAYE & NI	£526.09	£0.00	£526.09	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Mar-19	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Celebration Management Service	Mar-19	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance	2209-2212	Litter, R&M & Grass	£1,414.00	£0.00	£1,414.00	BACS
Lock & Key Centre	INV-3392	New Allotment Lock	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00	BACS
Herts Supplies	H021906328	Village Hall Supplies	£51.96	£10.39	£62.35	BACS
SLCC Membership Renewal	2019 Renewal	Subscriptions - Admin	£196.00	£0.00	£196.00	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Routine Payments Total			£6,481.93	£55.76	£6,537.69	
Non Routine Payment						
Total			£6,481.93	£55.76	£6,537.69	
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 February 2019 - The Clerk had previously circulated the Accounts to end February 2019 which were approved.
3. To appoint Internal Auditor – The Clerk reported that Gus Orchard was moving away and this year would therefore be his last as Internal Auditor.
4. Process to renew the following Parish Council Policies:
 - Standing Orders (including Risk Assessment)
 - Financial & Procurement Regulations
 - Communications Policy
 - Asset Register

The Clerk to email the above policies for review at the April meeting.

5. Insurance Renewal - All insurance renewal documents sent via email 18th March 2019. It was proposed and agreed in principle to accept the quote from Hiscox subject to the Clerk obtaining a revised price to cover legal expenses cover up to £500k. Cllrs to ratify by email.

The Clerk

18.100 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 Update on Routine Land Work

Watermead Small Lake – Floating Islands

6th March 2019 - Two new floating islands have now been installed. Andy Killingbeck from the EA attempted to repair one of our existing ones but unfortunately the frame had corroded. Andy has removed this frame but kept the cage and this has been attached underneath one of the new ones (good for the fish).

River Thame Trust Update

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.

Replacement Dog Waste Bin

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

Lake Clearance/Islands

Works now deferred due to high water levels.

Ducks Signs

Once locations have been determined, installation will be imminent.

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

Update: The below 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.

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.

CCTV has now been installed at a couple of sites around the gatehouse.

2 To update on Florence Nightingale Run 80's Charity Run

March 2019 Update: Event management plan, risk assessment and insurance received. All documents for approval sent via email, 19th March 2019. Agreed by the PC.

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.

3 Updates received from the Events Committee – The committee was working hard organising Larks by the Lake to be held on Sunday 26 May 2019.

4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

5 To report on Village View

Cllr Singleton reported that the Summer issue would be published in June and an editorial meeting would be arranged imminently.

6 To update on Village Hall

Village Hall redecoration confirmed Easter Holidays 2019.

British Gas Contract Renewal

Our current fixed term contract with British Gas has just expired. We have been offered the below.

Gas- 5007860610	Standing charge (pence per day)	Unit Rate (pence per kwh)
	104.907	7.493

We would like to offer you the following prices for a fixed term contract

Gas- 5007860610	Standing charge (pence per day)	Unit Rate (pence per kwh)
12 months contract	31.180	4.590
24 months contract	31.180	4.580
36 months contract	31.180	4.570

It was agreed to accept the 3 year fixed term contract.

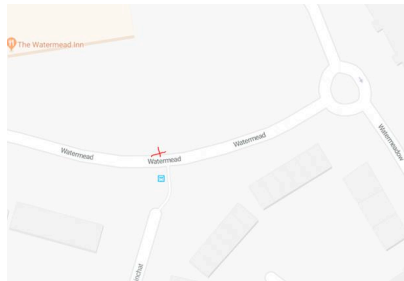
7 To update on Transport/Highways Issues including Lark Vale Bollards Change of Bus Stop Location

Update March 2019 – Paul Goodwin, from Buckinghamshire County Council, Passenger and Transport Team carried out the requested visit to Watermead. He attended in his van and parked where they are proposing to put the new bus stop. Paul advised that he parked the van "badly" so it stuck out about the same distance

as the bus would use on the route. Paul advised via email that the road is still wide enough at that point for 2 cars to pass if they are driving at an appropriate speed! Visibility on approach to the stopped bus is satisfactory and although the other direction bus stop is directly opposite with the timetable buses should not arrive in both directions at the same time. They should not need to wait longer than necessary to pick up/set down. From the Roundabout to Lark Vale Bollards that part of the route would become fully Hail and Ride stopping anywhere it is safe to do so. Current passengers on Watermeadow and Lark Vale would be able to board the bus at the same place they do now or if close to roundabout use the new stop.

The Clerk to request further information about the current locations along Watermeadow and to request or seek relevant permission for a hard-standing area at the proposed new location.

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.



**** 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.

Update information received from Buckinghamshire County Council, following the failure of the newly installed system. The bollard system has been operational since reset 13th March 2019.

“Unfortunately we had issues with bus drivers pulling up too close to the safety loop before the bollards, causing the safety mechanism to trip out and lower them. We have now informed the bus drivers to stop before getting too close and this has resolved this issue.

Additionally we have asked ATG to investigate to see, if it is a similar problem to that we had with the bollards at Fairford Leys, where ATG had to reset the controller in order for the bollards to stop failing.

I can confirm that one of my team members’ has reset the bollard yesterday.

Please note the target cost we submitted for the installation works was £49,892.00 and extended warranty for a year was £4155.00. The figure of £45k was an initial estimate we put together before the actual quotes came in. I am not sure I can justify value for money in monetary terms but in terms of safety, we have had numerous complaints regarding near misses and one accident, due to vehicles ‘rat running’ through the estate. These bollards stop these vehicles from ‘rat running’.

Regarding the reporting of failure, ATG have installed an ‘i-Host’ system which is a monitoring system that will send an email to the ITS Team on any current faults. There is also a CCTV that we monitor on a daily basis. Additionally, we are procuring a GSM telecom unit, that will allow for users on site to Call the ‘ITS’ team so that we can either lower/raise the bollards from our control room, therefore minimising the need for someone to go to site for any emergencies.

I trust you find the above in order.

Thank you again,

*Best regards
Despina Archak*

*Executive Assistant to:
Mark Shaw, Deputy Leader for BCC and Portfolio Holder for Transportation
Roger Goodes, Director of Transformation
John Reed, Director of Property and Assets”*

8 To update on Outdoor Gym Area

Update March 2019 – Grant applications had been made to replace/enhance the existing equipment at the outdoor gym.

18.101 Date of meetings

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

18.102 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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52pm and thanked people for their attendance.