

Watermead Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 21 October 2021 at 7.30pm
Held at the Village Hall, Watermead

Attendees: Cllr Severn (Chair), Cllr A Schwab, Cllr M Singleton, Cllr I Schwab, Cllr M Morgan, Cllr S Mackay
BC Cllr Ashley Bond, BC Cllr Diana Blamires, BC Cllr Peter Cooper
Noreen Shardlow (Clerk)

plus 14 members of the public:

Graham Severn, Marcia Lang, Maria Gessner, John Morgan, Mark Aldridge, Susan Browning, Mandy Pearce, Joseph Irwin, Lytham Davies, Peter Karmali, Vilma Williams, Denis Cassago & 2 guests

21.49 Apologies

Cllr E Rose, Michelle Jackson (Assistant Parish Clerk)

21.50 Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal or prejudicial interest regarding the agenda – Cllr I Schwab – item 21.32.1 Land at Watermead, Aylesbury (comprised within former freehold title number BM188000, BM9242 and BM92422) and in respect of any matters concerning legal advice for which she is retained
Cllr Morgan – item 21.57.4 – Memorial Bench

21.51 To Receive Police Report re Protection of Persons & Property

There had been an attempted travel incursion on the Cricket Pitch. Damage to the posts had been repaired immediately by Dave Lucas. Various people had responded to the PC's calls for help and somebody went to monitor the area every 15 minutes on Tuesday evening. Police have followed up and the caravan that was trying to get onto the cricket pitch had broken down and is now by the football ground. The entrance is now secured again.

21.52 Open Forum for Parishioner at 7.40pm-8.10pm followed by the Council Meeting

The PC had had a huge response to the planning application for flats in the piazza car park at the 2-day consultation days for the industrial units. The PC was also able to communicate information regarding the neighbourhood plan which proved useful. The PC has previously resolved to object to the planning application for flats and would continue to do so. The traffic survey would be updated and the WRLA have very kindly given the PC their car parking survey which is superb and would be included in the PC's report along with many photographs of the overcrowded car park and nearby roads provided by parishioners.

Mark Aldridge commented that he had not seen a draft of the minutes from the previous meeting as he was not on social media but had been requested by Donna Aldridge to enquire whether her objection to the minutes at the last month's meeting had been added as promised. **The Clerk** and **Cllr Severn** confirmed that it had been included.

Mark Aldridge asked if the PC knew how ownership of the cricket pitch had been managed in the past. **Cllr Severn** confirmed that the PC did know. Mark Aldridge understood that it had been registered in WPC's name under the primary contact of Michael Shrimpton. Was there any secondary name on the ownership of that land?

Cllr Severn responded that this information was not correct. **Cllr A Schwab** advised that ownership of the land is in 2 names – Michael Shrimpton and Jean-Paul Arama. WPC regrettably has no legal or beneficial interest in that land. The Chair offered to discuss in more detail with the parishioner outside of the meeting. A huge amount of work had been undertaken over the years to try and get the land back for the benefit of the community.

Mark Aldridge enquired whether residents can apply to take ownership of any of the land currently owned by The Crown that the PC is currently pursuing

ownership of.

Cllr Severn responded not at the moment. **Cllr I Schwab** advised that this question had been answered at length at the previous meeting. The Crown will not deal with individuals for the land the PC are pursuing.

Mark Aldridge responded that since Cllr Schwab's response to the question the first time round, some residents advised him that other land owned by The Crown had been purchased.

Cllr Severn queried which land.

Mark Aldridge asked if the PC's adamant response is no to the original question.

Cllr I Schwab advised that the Lakeside care home manager had asked to take over some land and The Crown had refused to deal with them. The PC were the only body The Crown were willing to deal with. She added that this had all been included in the previous minutes.

Mark Aldridge advised that he hadn't seen the minutes as he was not on social media. **The Clerk** and **Cllr Severn** advised that the minutes were not published on Facebook. **Cllr Singleton** added that they were also displayed on the parish noticeboards.

Cllr Severn added that a leaflet would be distributed to all properties within Watermead over the next few weeks concerning these pieces of land asking people if they do adjoin them for their view on it being handed to the PC as well as explaining the whole process. This was part of the required consultation process.

Cllr Morgan suggested it would be useful for the PC to know who the individual(s) was/were who had thought the position was different as it would be good to have a conversation with them. **Mark Aldridge** agreed to provide names to The Clerk.

Mark Aldridge asked if it was possible to find out how much had been spent on fighting the crematorium and whether it had any effect on the precept.

Cllr Severn advised that nothing had been spent as costs had been received back in full from AVDC. The Clerk and Cllr Severn had undertaken paralegal work free of charge and Cllr I Schwab had done a huge amount of legal work for free. The precept had not been affected.

Mark Aldridge asked whether there were any plans to put money aside for the next legal battle with the planning application for the industrial units.

Cllr Severn advised that the PC had already had extensive amounts of legal opinion and also consultants and other opinion taken from the crematorium document. There is also the issue of the PC's opinion that the garden centre should never have been permitted in the first place due to the section 52 covering that land. The PC was also concerned about the speed of response of the validation of the application and prejudicial comment by the economic development officer in his consultation and the applicant's lack of sequential test. Cllr Mackay had undertaken sequential testing at no cost. There is budget in legal but the PC would never go to Court if it went to Judicial Review without prior public consultation, as had also been the case with the crematorium.

Mark Aldridge asked how confident the PC is that its case is stronger than the one against the crematorium.

Cllr A Schwab responded that the PC have an arguable case. Cllr Severn added that the PC had been very confident with the crematorium and had won but had been let down by the local planning authority.

Maria Gessner asked if the EA could help with regards to the flooding around lake

Cllr Severn advised that it couldn't and the more concrete that is put down the more water will come up. PC using as representation against any other building applications.

John Morgan asked if it was possible to scrape out the River Thame once in a while?

Cllr Severn responded that clearing parts of the river would actually allow the river to flow faster and would flood Watermead more quickly.

Cllr Morgan commented that if there is a significant blockage somewhere, as had been the case with Holman's Bridge, the EA will action.

John Morgan – it's a downstream issue and perhaps Watermead need to discuss with the next parish

Cllr Severn requested Bucks Cllrs allocate some of the funds set aside for drain clearance to be used to assist with the flooding issue.

The Clerk to make contact with the Canal Trust. **John Morgan** would be interested in having a small dredging operation run by Steve, Baliff of the Watermead Piscatorials who has done work on the small lake. **Cllr Severn** agreed that he had done a fantastic job and a formal vote of thanks was recorded. **John Morgan** commented that reinvigorating the small lake would be of great value to the community. There is a build up of silt at the bottom of the lake.

The Clerk

Maria Gessner suggested that the lake be cleared every 10 years.

Cllr Severn responded that is not the advice that has previously been given to the PC but it was agreed that further advice would be taken up with water consultants.

BC Cllrs

Cllr Cooper commented that the PC's funding application for a walkway was looking very promising which would resolve the issue of walking around the large lake in the immediate future.

He reported on the cabinet meeting which had taken place that week. One of the issues discussed had been climate change. Although not a hydrologist he knew quite a fair bit on Thistle Brook and the River Thame. There is a whole series of floodplain back up to Wingrave/Rowsham with a sluice which holds up a lot of water and prevents Watermead flooding and the same further south. The lake at Watermead was originally intended to replace the floodplain. Going west towards Thame there is also a series of floodplains. He did not believe that dredging the lake would help. BC has realised along with many others that the situation with flooding is likely to change. Although situation is more or less under control we need to be aware of what is likely to come in the future.

Cllr Severn added that in Bucks there is plenty of land that is not flood plain, greenbelt or of particular value which is available for building.

Cllr Cooper commented that BC were having numbers imposed on them and if the Oxford/Cambridge arc development goes ahead, they won't have any say in housing numbers.

Cllr Severn referred to the adopted VALP which states 1147 extra houses.

Cllr Cooper reported on his survey on 20mph limits and zones to which WPC had already responded. He had written to all parish councils in Bucks to get their opinion as to whether they should have 20mph zones. Half have responded so far but waiting for other parish councils to meet and report back. So far total support had been received apart from one council.

Cllr Singleton questioned the management of traffic for 20mph as this was not managed at 30mph.

Cllr Cooper responded that the level of speed management is poor in all limits and unlikely to be any different which is a shame. He sees 20mph not just a way of slowing people down but change the nature of the way an area feels.

John Morgan echoed sympathy for life lost on the road, whether it be a person or animal he would feel very sorry.

With regards to Maria's question, not just about dredging the lake to make less flooding. **John Morgan** to provide scientific data.

John Morgan

Marcia Lang and **Denis Cassago** had been undertaking car park studies in

respect of the application for flats and would continue to do so for another week. **Cllr Severn** agreed with Marcia that the application was a callous and ridiculous application purely for increasing the value of the freehold and puts in danger the value of properties. The PC was working on its objection letter and a draft would be sent to Marcia for circulation to the piazza residents.

A parishioner asked if the planning application would be closed or remain open. **Cllr Severn** replied that the planning application would stay extant for 3 years. Cllr Severn to discuss with Cllr Blamires the following day (as both Cllr Bond and Cllr Peters were both on the planning committee and could not comment).

Cllr Severn

Cllr Severn/Cllr Cooper were saddened to hear of the news regarding Mrs Martin Tett who had passed away yesterday.

It was agreed to extend the public session

Cllr Bond reported that the community board would, in the next few months, be running community champion awards and nominations were welcomed from parish councils.

Mandy Pearce asked when the drains were likely to be cleared in this area. **Cllr Cooper** responded that it would be within this financial year but BC Cllrs would try and find out an actual date.

Cllr Cooper

Mandy Pearce reported on the issue of sewage drains coming up in Waxwing and Thames Water advising residents not to flush toilets, use washing machines, bath or shower. This has occurred 3 times in the last 2 years. **Cllr Bond** to request drains are looked at again.

Cllr Bond

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their attendance.

Council Meeting

21.53 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 16 September 2021

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

21.54 Planning Matters

- (1) Planning Matters** - To update on any Planning Applications submitted.
- (2)** 21/03659/AOP - Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except for landscape for change of use from garden centre to Industrial/Storage Unit – an objection response (as agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting 14th October 2021) had been submitted and the PC would continue to monitor. Cllr Bond has requested that it be called in.
- (3) 17/00881/APP** – Piazza Car Park Proposed Development – will update original objection with current information

21.55 Finance & Administration

Payment Schedule		Oct-21				Payment Method (if Chq provide Number)
Company	Invoice No	Allocation	Net Amount VAT		Gross Amount	
Mobile Mini	7002169298	R&M Land	£53.00	£10.60	£63.60	BACS
Buckinghamshire Council	522397	Village Hall	£40.80	£0.00	£40.80	DD
Buckinghamshire Council	522397	Land Bins	£86.20	£0.00	£86.20	DD
Ian Whittome	Sep & Oct 2021	Grass	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	BACS
Castle Water Allotments	2258070	Allotments	£1,205.12	£241.05	£1,446.17	BACS
	2778-2781	Litter, R&M, Grass, Allotment & Heron Hedging	£1,768.00	£0.00	£1,768.00	BACS
CLC Grounds Maintenance						
Michelle Jackson	Oct-21	Assistant Clerk	£246.28	£0.00	£246.28	BACS
Noreen Shardlow	Oct-21	Clerk & Office/Expenses	£1,646.31	£0.00	£1,646.31	BACS
HMRC	Oct-21	PAYE & NI	£520.61	£0.00	£520.61	BACS
G. M. Hall & Co	Oct-21	PAYE	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	BACS
Village Hall Management	Oct-21	Hall Management	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	BACS
E.ON Electricity	A-4A9A8D6C	Village Hall Supply	£184.41	£36.88	£221.29	BACS
Aviva - Michelle Jackson	N/A	Pensions Annual	£582.72	£0.00	£582.72	BACS
Vale Countryside Volunteers	95	Land R&M	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	BACS
CLlr Rose	N/A	Photography Exhibition	£91.35	£0.00	£91.35	BACS
		R&M Bridge Mat & Bollards				
D. J. Lucas	Oct-21		£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	BACS
		Village Hall Cleaning Supplies				
Herts Supplies	H092106927		£64.26	£12.85	£77.11	BACS
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Routine Payments Total			£7,759.06	£301.38	£8,060.44	
Non Routine Payment						
Buckinghamshire Council Election	2205034923	Election Cost to Parish	£2,360.75	£0.00	£2,360.75	BACS
Longman Planning Consultancy	00147 - 2141	Review of Planning Docs.	£570.00	£0.00	£570.00	
Total			£10,689.81	£301.38	£10,991.19	
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:			

1. To agree the payment schedules for October 2021 – the Clerk had previously circulated the payment schedule for October 2021, which was approved.
2. To agree the accounts to the end of September 2021 - The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts to the end of September 2021, which were approved.

21.56 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Morgan reported that the key activity had been meeting with the planning consultant, Sally Chapman. During the 2 consultation sessions for Industrial Units approximately 400/500 residents had attended and many had taken a strong interest in the neighbourhood plan. The PC had taken the opportunity to talk residents through the process of where we are and the survey, all of which had been well received and demonstrates the restrictions over the last 18 months due to Covid. The more engagement with residents the more information and opinion can be gathered. Volunteers had also come forward and ideas for the next stage. Sally identified the critical next stage and will work with the group on the key aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. She will also assist in formulating the history and vision for Watermead. Parallel to this, the group needs to complete a land assessment survey which will be undertaken by The Clerk. Red/Amber/Green report to be undertaken which will enable the group to identify areas which cannot

The Clerk

or should not be developed. Will then re-engage with residents and business stakeholders.

21.57 Councillors' Reports and Recommendations

1 To update on Land Registry Matters

Cllr I Schwab had given her report during the Open Forum session.

2 To update on Litter, Land and Routine Land Work

Litter Bins Balloon Meadow

Purple bins to be monitored and possibly removed after half term until the Spring. Discussed securing them to the container next year.

Memorial Bench Request

A location has now been determined (see below) and agreed at the July 2021 PC Meeting. The bench would flow the same direction as the existing benches.



Works agreed and awaiting completion:

Walkway Brackets D. Lucas

Existing Benches Ground Works D. Lucas

3 Communication Received from Mr Pardis

Dear Noreen,

In response to your email, I will ask and state the following:

What is the agenda for this meeting? If it is regarding the debris in the gully then beforehand, please cut/trim your trees back and clear your debris from my lake. I have been contacting the parish council for eight years about this and after seven years, the parish council came back to me to lecture me that the trees in the water are good for nature. I can point out that the trees and their cumulative debris are damaging the water and are not beneficial to the wildlife.

The barriers/bollards need to be removed to allow me access to my own lake. Once the Parish Council does this then we can certainly have a proper conversation. If the agenda of the suggested meeting is for something else, then please do let me know.

There will be no point in a meeting when the Parish Council refuses to uphold their responsibilities.

I have grown tired with the lack of action from the Parish Council. I have been trying to communicate with yourselves over the years, writing letters, delivering some of these by hand and emailing the Parish Council to try and get a response.

Previously, the clerk Glenn Thomas asked me if you could block the area for 6 months so you could put plants in, but you never added anything. Instead, we have weeds and overgrown trees & growth. This original request of 6 months has turned into 8 years and so now I demand to have access to my lake.

I have grown fed up with the lack of action on the Parish Council's behalf. Once the

trees have been dealt with; the debris/rubbish removed and the bollards taken down, then this will show me you are serious about having a meeting to discuss a plan going forward.

Regards, Mr Pardis

Update:

The Clerk had that evening received communication from Mr Javed Khan:

"Dear Noreen

As an update for tonight's PC meeting on this subject, I had further communications with Hamid Pardis after his last email. As a result he has now agreed to attend such a meeting. However he is currently unable to do so as a result of major knee surgery that he is recovering from. So there is hope. Please convey this to the PC meeting tonight.

Best regards

Javid Khan

4

Memorial Bench Request

I am writing to enquire if it would be possible to have a bench installed at the lake in memory of my late parents.

My Mum sadly passed away in January of this year at the incredible age of 98 years. My Dad passed away in April 1992 at the age of 75 years. They met in 1944 whilst both serving in the RAF and married in 1945. We chose Aylesbury Vale Crematorium for her service and final journey as my parents loved to spend time at the lake.

Our family home was in Cannock Road on Elmhurst from 1965 and they lived there until 1991 only moving to Meadowcroft when my dad became unwell and they needed to downsize. In the years before Watermead was developed we would walk our dog across the fields and once the lake was established, Mum and Dad loved to walk there from home, spending many happy hours sitting at the waters' edge or wandering round the lake. Their favourite place to sit and watch the birds was at 'the beach' and they would often be found there with a sandwich and a flask of coffee just enjoying the peace and quiet. As Dad's health deteriorated I would take him out in his wheelchair and his choice would always be "how about we go to the lake?". We would take some lunch and enjoy just being there.

My Mum was an amazing lady and remained healthy and active, enjoying the outdoor life for all but the last year of her life. The lake remained one of her favourite places and right up until her mid 90's she was able to enjoy a walk right round the lake and a pub lunch! We'd always stop at 'the beach' and reflect on the happy times spent there with Dad.

With all of the above in mind, Watermead was the obvious choice for her 'farewell' and we would love to be able to have a memorial at the lakeside for Mum and Dad. I live in Aylesbury and my children and grandchildren live in Waddesdon and Risborough so it would be perfect to have such a beautiful place to visit to reflect and remember. My brother and his children and grandchildren live in Essex, and a bench at the lakeside will give them the same chance to remember Mum and Dad.

We have walked round the lake recently and have seen the benches already in situ. Our perfect spot would be to have one installed at 'the beach'.

I very much hope the Parish Council will be able to grant permission for our request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Barbara Phillips

Cllr Severn proposed and it was agreed that the PC accept the offer of a bench. Cllr Morgan did not take part in the voting. The Clerk to order alongside the Jubilee Bench.

The Clerk

Cllr Cooper added that the community board are currently funding friendship benches. WPC to make an application.

The Clerk

5

Watermead Piscatorials

Working Group days commenced Sunday 17th October 2021

Good afternoon Noreen,

Thank you for letting me know, however we won't be requiring the key for Sunday, and will be going ahead with the new swim as well as cutting back some of the overhanging trees around the lake, but due to the high water level we won't be cutting down the two trees as previously discussed, this work will be rescheduled for spring next year.

I will be taking some picture and write an article for inclusion in the next Parish magazine, which should include contact details for the fishing club (if Don is happy with this).

Myself and Steve (Bailiff) visited the Lake this morning and went over the future works required, also discussing that fact that the lake would benefit from having some Lilly's planted in it, so maybe that's something for the environment agency? Also the fish seem to be coming back into the lake now that the netting has been removed.

Anyway the colour has changed back now, so the algae has died back.

Best regards,
Martin

The Clerk to contact the Piscatorial committee.

The Clerk

6

Large Lake Footways Project Update

Applications have now been submitted to FCC Communities Fund and the Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board.

Westerleigh have given permission for access across their land for contractors to undertake the work.

7

Vale Countryside Volunteers Working Group Day/s

Scheduled days for 2021 now complete.

Cllr Mackay reported that an article with photos would be included in the Village View.

Cllr Mackay

VCV have asked to return next year and also assist the PC tend to the wildflower meadow area. The PC agreed.

8

Report received from Roman Park Community Trust

Berryfields Buddies includes Berryfields, Buckingham Park and Watermead. A Buddies Christmas tea has been organised for Wednesday 15 December and all

are welcome. The community store is available to people in need and members are able to purchase 25 items of groceries etc for £5. Volunteers are still delivering as needed.

9 To Update on Allotments including AGM

Scheduled to take place Wednesday 27th October 2021. Two years of prize giving to take place. The Clerk thanked the committee for all their work on the allotment maintenance days.

10 To report on Village View

Deadline for articles is 26 October. The editorial meeting had taken place on the previous Sunday. Cllr Morgan to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

11 To update on Village Hall & COVID-19 Measures including return of groups

The philatelist group had returned to the Village Hall on reduced numbers.

The Clerk was awaiting a quote for the Village Hall wall from Kieran at ACC.

From: Noreen Shardlow <noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk>

Subject: Village Hall Rear Wall

Date: 1 September 2021 at 15:19:56 BST

To: Sue Severn <sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk>, "awschwab@me.com" <awschwab@me.com>, Mary Singleton <marysingleton07@gmail.com>, "ericrosewpc@aol.com" <ericrosewpc@aol.com>, "irinaschwablegal@gmail.com" <irinaschwablegal@gmail.com>, Mick Morgan <mick.morgan@watermead-pc.gov.uk>, Stuart Mackay <stuart.mackay@watermead-pc.gov.uk>
Cc: Michelle Jackson <michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk>

Dear Cllrs,

re: **Village Hall Rear Wall**

Over the past couple of weeks some of the final stages including works to balcony over the Village Hall have taken place in the Piazza.

Joseph Irwin who lives above the hall initially made contact with me to advise that the works scheduled for his balcony were now complete. August 7th following a heavy rainstorm both Joseph and I checked the wall the following day and all appeared well.

The last storm that hit Watermead at 4am one morning did effect the hall wall. However, it was different and the rear wall was not effected, the area effected is just to the right of the window wall by the shed. I made contact with Comptons (unfortunately Christopher Evans was on three week leave) but Joseph and Marcia advised that a site visit was scheduled on his first day of return and that she would call me when they arrive.

Today both Christopher and their Surveyor Charles Mallard were on site and came to inspect the hall. Where the latest water has seeped in is where the outflow pipe for the balcony is situated so Charles has agreed today that he will instruct ACC to treat this area.

Once the above works have taken place Charles is very hopeful we should be in a position of no more rain damage to our walls.

Update: Contractors have now returned to site.

As advised in a recent email, the rear wall of the Village Hall has again been subject to water damage. I provided Christopher Evans of Compton Property Management the before and after photographs that I sent to all and he immediately passed them onto Charles Mallard, Surveyor/Project Manager for the Piazza Development.

Charles Mallard visited the hall last week to inspect the damage to our wall and has

agreed when ACC Facilities Management (appointed contractor for the Piazza) return they will inspect and report back the findings and Charles will provide us with an update/course of action.

12 To update on Highways, Transport & MVAS

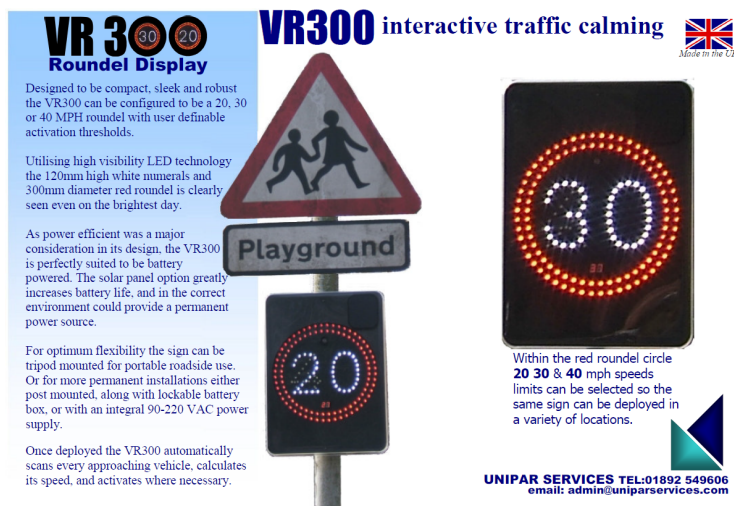
The image is below: This is for the roundel, mobile use and placing on the pole (existing) with spare battery pack since it can't be mains-operated here I think. You can also use the included tripod to move it round and it's lightweight. Berryfields is buying one and given the modest cost I thought we should consider replacing our broken one with this? Obviously Berryfields will share, but this would be our own and possibly a more cost-effective solution we're down for the new battery at c£400ish following the flood in any case.

Many thanks,

Sue

The cost for the mini-roundel is £1561.00 +VAT each. This includes the roundel, battery pack, charger & tripod. This is for the portable version where the sign is mounted on the tripod and the battery pack sits on the ground next to it.

If you wanted the additional option to mount the sign on a post and have a post mounted battery box that sits behind the sign. The cost of the battery box with spare battery and post mount clips is £310+VAT.



13 To update on Christmas Carol Concert

To be held on the Saturday 11 December and everything had been booked. Cllr Morgan to contact Barbara Phillips regarding a small choir for the Carol Concert. Best decorated house competition to be repeated. It was proposed and agreed to purchase a pre-lit Christmas tree (number 3) at a cost of up to £1k including securing and extra LED lights. The Clerk to organise.

Cllr Morgan

The Clerk

21.58 Date of meetings

18 November – (Cllr Morgan gave his apologies in advance), 16 December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked people for their attendance.