

# WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Council meeting 7 January 2020

## **Operation London Bridge – note from the Clerk**

Operation London Bridge is the ‘codename’ for the procedures to be taken in the event of the Queen’s passing.

I understand we can expect some instructions on protocol to come from the County Council sometime in January, but meanwhile some Parish Councils are already making plans. Philip Peacock, the Town Clerk at Huntingdon represents the SLCC in some of the discussions at national level and he recently penned an article in the Clerk magazine which I will attach to this paper for Cllrs to see.

Councils come in all shapes and sizes and there is no one template that fits all. Many areas will not be relevant to the parish council. Issues of particular interest to WPC include:

- Follow the national timetable that will be communicated
- Communicate with the local clergy & what is planned
- During the period of mourning, any Councillor representing the Council to wear a black armband and (for gentlemen) a black tie;
- To publish a suitably worded statement on the Parish Council’s website and Facebook page from the Chairman of the Council;
- Set up a book of condolence
- Any scheduled meetings of the Parish to be cancelled
- Planting a commemorative tree

Following a recent presentation at an SLCC branch meeting I understand there are a whole raft of other factors that come into play should the death occur while the Queen is in residence at Sandringham, and that these potentially impact on our Parish owing to existence of the rail line/station linking Kings Lynn to London. I will see if I can find out any more about these.