



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at the Council Hall, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley.

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Angiolini (Vice-Chair), Button (Chair), Collins, De Silva, Jackson, Johnson, McLean, Morrish and Rogers.

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council; County Councillor Richard Roberts; Mr Peter Bate, Sustrans

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 None. All Members were present.

A minute's silence was held to remember former Parish and Borough Councillor Douglas Walker who had recently passed away. Further, it was agreed that the Council would make a donation of £50 to his family's chosen charity, The Hospice of St Francis.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 There were no members of the public present for this item.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 PCSO Ian Martin was unable to be present but had provided details of the following 12 crimes recorded for July 2018 and 10 crimes recorded for August 2018:

Reported Crime (July 2018)	Incidence	Details
Burglary (other)	2	Red Lion Lane (Druglink) – window broken, unknown if anything taken Steiner School – shed broken into, nothing taken
Theft from motor vehicle	3	Coniston Road – tools from van Red Lion Lane - £4 in change Langley Hill – golf clubs taken from (suspected) unlocked car
Damage or Destroy <£5,000	2	Waterside – cat attacked Love Lane – car wing mirror damaged
Theft (from shop)	1	High Street (Spar)
Other crimes	4	Hempstead Road – car – window broken, nothing taken Langley Hill – skip loader taken from building site Rockliffe Avenue – attempted burglary – bamboo cane through letter box (2)
Total	12	



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Reported Crime (August 2018)	Incidence	Details
Burglary (dwelling)	2	Love Lane – patio glass broken Rucklers Lane – patio glass broken
Theft from motor vehicle	1	Rucklers Lane – theft of number plates
Damage or Destroy <£5,000	1	Red Lion Lane – car “keyed”
Other crimes	6	High Street – drink drive (3 x limit (not local)) Langley Hill – attempted burglary Palace Close – attempted burglary Coniston Road – attempted theft from motor vehicle (2) Watford Road – caravan stolen
Total	10	

- 4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.
- 4.1.2 There were 11 crimes reported in the previous month (June 2018)
- 4.1.3 The reports from PCSO Martin were noted.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

- 4.2.1 No report.
- 4.2.2 “OWL” Communications.
 - 4.2.2.1 No further reports

4.3 Other Matters.

- 4.3.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1)

5.1 Highways Matters

- 5.1.1 County Cllr Richard Roberts’ reports were heard later in the meeting.

5.2 The Draft South West Herts Growth and Transport Plan (GTP).

- 5.2.1 Members felt that the plan did not make much reference to Kings Langley nor deal with some of the issues it was facing, including the challenges relating to the Dacorum Development plan.
- 5.2.2 Cllr Roberts felt that the Council should however respond to the consultation as it did cover issues like increases in traffic, the strategic challenges of increased development. It was important that it addressed alternative modes of transport.
- 5.2.3 Cllrs Button and Anderson also noted that changes to Junction 20 of the M25, albeit unclear, were being considered, which the Parish Council had been seeking for several years.
- 5.2.4 It was agreed that Cllr Morrish would respond on the Council’s behalf.

5.3 Sustainable Transport report

- 5.3.1 The Council had commissioned a study by Sustrans and Members had been issued with a copy of the executive summary, which is appended to these minutes. The full version of the report was held by Cllr Morrish. Mr Peter Bate of Sustrans, the author of the report, presented a brief overview in which he highlighted what he considered



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to be the main issues being faced by Kings Langley and actions that the Council might wish to consider to alleviate them or make improvements.

5.3.2 Member offered the following observations, which should be viewed alongside the executive summary:

5.3.2.1 Cllr Anderson:

- a) Noted that there was no mention of a “bus-gate”
- b) There was a consultation in the 90’s to consider whether the village would like a Berkhamsted-style high street, but this had been opposed
- c) Some rural areas in Kings Langley don’t have access to public transport
- d) He was dubious about converting “Pelican” crossings to “Zebra” crossings

5.3.2.2 Cllr Button:

- a) Felt that replacing the Toovey’s bridge (which all agreed was inaccessible to many) would be complicated by the gas main on it, but that a new bridge from Rectory Farm which could be included in the likely development there should be given serious consideration.
- b) There were no charging points for electric vehicles in Kings Langley.
- c) He was also not keen on converting “Pelican” crossings to “Zebra” crossings

5.3.2.3 Cllr Jackson:

- a) Was concerned with the pedestrian vs cyclist issue when towpaths were improved and asked what width would be required to resolve this safety issue, to which Mr Bate responded that it should be at least three metres, acknowledging that this was not feasible on some stretches of the towpath through Kings Langley, especially under bridges.

5.3.2.4 Cllr Roberts:

- a) Some of the “quick wins” in the report were worthy of further consideration

5.3.2.5 It was agreed that the report would be considered further at a later date.

5.4 Any other matters.

5.4.1 None.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) held on 10th July 2018.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 10th July 2018 be adopted as a true record.

6.2 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Cllr Johnson reminded the meeting that the “Green Belt” petitions would be formally handed to Sir Mike Penning after the next Planning and Licensing Committee meeting.

7.2 Minute 11.2.2. Cllr Jackson asked whether the newly planted trees in Coniston Road had been watered, to which Cllr McClean responded that he had received assurances that they had.



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Re item 5

5.1.1 The Chair returned to this item and Cllr Roberts reported that:

- a) He had commissioned a services report at the High Street “pinch point”
- b) Vicarage Lane would not be a priority – there was no money available
- c) The library volunteer arrangements were working ok. The service would be moving towards a charity arrangement.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 There were no minutes ready for adoption at this meeting.

8.2 Chair’s Reports

8.2.1 No report.

8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

8.3.1 None

8.4 Clerk’s Report / Action List

8.4.1 No report.

8.5 Village Warden’s Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 No report.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for July and August 2018.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedules for July and August 2018 in the sums of £8,870.45 and £8,798.84, respectively, be adopted, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

9.2 Examination of the Council’s Bank Account Statements.

9.2.1 The Chair examined the Council’s bank account statements and signed a statement to that effect on behalf of the Members that the balances as at 31st July 2018 were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£137,674.24
NS&I Investment Account:	£44,850.80

9.3 Examination and signing of the Council’s Bank Reconciliation Statement (as at 30th June 2018).

9.3.1 In accordance with Audit requirements and recommendations, the statement was examined by the Members and the Statement signed by the Chair.



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9.4 Replacement printer / copier

9.4.1 The Clerk had presented a statement of costs of the current printer / copier and proposals for a replacement. He explained that the current printer was now fairly old and that there were quality issues, especially as the Council was producing more colour and photographic output. He added further that most of the proposals included “buying out” the existing contractual arrangements. The Clerk indicated that his preferred solution offered more print quality options, in particular a photographic one. Although not the cheapest option it still offered an annual saving of over £400 against the current annual costs. It was, therefore

Proposed (Cllr Button), seconded (Cllr McLean) and RESOLVED:

That the Sharp MX-3060N from Clarity Copiers (High Wycombe) Ltd be selected.

10. Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

10.1.1 Cllr Anderson reported that the Government had changed the formula for the housebuilding targets and that the Borough was still working on more than one target figure depending on how this was interpreted. However, the Borough will be announcing its preferred option for consultation in the Autumn.

10.1.2 Public Space Protection Order Consultation (dog related)

10.1.2.1 The Council supported the proposals contained in the above consultation.

10.2 Hertfordshire County Council Matters (not requiring the presence of Cllr Roberts).

10.2.1 None.

11. Members Items / Reports and Questions (not included elsewhere).

11.1 Portfolios and Vision Group - Reports on the following:

Member	Vision	Geographical area
Cllr Anderson		
Cllr Angiolini		Abbots Rise area
Cllr Button	Transport / Highways	The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park
Cllr Collins	Business / Communications	Hempstead Road areas
Cllr De Silva		Blackwell Road area
Cllr Jackson	Communications	Coniston area
Cllr Johnson	Leisure / Village Garden / Allotments / Litter picks	Watford Road area
Cllr McLean		
Cllr Morrish	Local environment	Rucklers area
Cllr Rogers	Business	High Street area

11.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported that he had received a notice that the Watford Housing Trust (WHT) was planning to build some community housing on one of the garage sites in Rucklers Lane and that there was a meeting in the community centre the following evening at which these would be presented. Cllr Anderson clarified that WHT was doing a fair amount of work within Dacorum.



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11.1.2 Cllr Morrish reported that he was still working on obtaining funding for the canal towpath and that the update on the canal path tidy was that there would be a reclassification of ownership of the land by Hertfordshire County Council, so that the work could proceed. Cllr Anderson commented that he hoped that Cllr Morrish's relationship with the CRT had resulted in the fly-tip adjacent to Home Park Link Road being cleared and that it would continue to do so.

11.2 Litter picks (Cllr Johnson).

11.2.1 Cllr Johnson suggested that the litter pick scheduled for the 28th October be converted to a tidy up of the village garden in preparation for the Remembrance Day commemorations. All agreed.

11.3 Other items

11.3.1 Parish Plan. Cllr Morrish reported that work was ongoing on redoing the village appraisal by way of a questionnaire. Cllr Morrish proposed a timetable for this but was reminded that with the elections coming up next May he would need to reconsider it.

12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 Transition in Kings (TIK).

12.1.1 No update.

12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).

12.2.1 No update.

12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.3.1 The centre would be undergoing some refurbishment work, particularly the small hall. Members asked whether there had been any discussion regarding a decent PA system. Cllr Rogers agreed to raise this.

12.4 Others.

12.4.1 None.

13. High Street Surgeries

13.1 The next surgery was scheduled for 20th October. Cllr Johnson would not be available on this day and suggested that the surgery be postponed until the 17th November, which was agreed.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Commemorating the end of WW1 / Armistice Day / Remembrance Service.

14.1.1 Cllrs Johnson, McLean and Jackson provided an update. The commemorative church service would be at 10am followed by the Act of Remembrance / two minutes silence at the war memorial at 11. This would be followed by the unveiling of the plaque on the commemorative tree in the village garden. Refreshments would then be available running alongside the exhibition.



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14.1.2 Roll of Honour.

Members had been provided with a copy of the latest update of the Roll of Honour which had been produced after many hours of research by the Council's Administrative Assistant, Beverley. She was in the process of agreeing this with Denis Miles of the History Society with a view to it being put into a booklet for the ceremonies. She was also discussing the Council's input to the exhibition.

14.1.3 Proposal for commemorative tree.

As had been requested by the Council, Cllr Johnson had sought advice and a proposal for a suitable tree to place in the village garden, and his findings had been presented with the agenda. Members supported this, and it was

Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

A half standard Liquidamber 'Worplsdon' be purchased from and planted by Majestic Trees at a cost of £493.86 (inc. VAT).

There was a further discussion about the placement of the tree. The Clerk expressed his concerns with the suggestion that the tree be planted in the flower bed. It was agreed that Cllr Johnson and the Clerk would discuss this "off-line".

14.1.4 Commemorative Silhouettes.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Council had been granted ten silhouettes.

14.2 Sunderland's Yard Allotments – change of rules

14.2.1 Cllr Johnson sought clarification regarding the use of glass in and the size of buildings allowed under the agreement and subsequent decisions., especially as it appeared that the current Kings Langley Allotments and Gardens Association (KLAGA) officers were unsure / had not been informed. The Clerk assured the meeting that he had informed members of the association of the current position, including some of the current incumbents. For clarification, the Council agreed that:

- a) A 6' x 8' shed / greenhouse would be allowed on full-size plots with a 6' x 4' construction remaining the limit on half-size plots
- b) A plastic film would be permitted to cover any glass on existing structures, but that this would not be permitted on any future structures.

Cllr Johnson added that the KLAGA AGM would be in November and that he make-up of the committee could change yet again.

14.3 Gardens Competition Presentation Evening, 12th October

14.3.1 Cllr Angiolini updated Members with the arrangements, adding that this year's charity would be Christian Aid, celebrating its 50th year in Kings Langley.

14.4 New Website.

14.4.1 The Clerk reminded the meeting that the new website was virtually ready to go live, except for some minor items, with which he sought Cllr Anderson's help. However, he was disappointed that he had not received many comments on it. It was agreed that the Clerk would re-send the link and that the live date would be set for early October.



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14.5 “Lifetime Achievement Award”

14.5.1 Members had received a suggestion from Mr Harold Taylor regarding the above with the agenda. The meeting was reminded that Cllr Morrish had agreed to update the criteria for the Community Awards for consideration by the Council and it was agreed that this suggestion would be considered at the same time.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr McLean circulated a poster for the tenth anniversary concert by the Kings Langley Community Choir, encouraging other members to attend.

15.2 It was noted that the Mayor’s office had been asking for the Mayor to come on the annual tour of the village. The Clerk had suggested to the Mayor’s office that the tour could be combined with the usual Mayoral attendance at the Christmas Lights event. There would be more on this later.

15.3 Cllr Johnson reported that he had received an offer to construct a circular bench around the tulip tree in the village garden, a suggestion that had been mooted several times in recent years because of the difficulties of growing plants around the tree. Members looked forward to further information on this.

15.4 Cllr Angiolini reported that he had secured a grant for Waterways Experience from the Kings Langley Carnival Committee.

Meeting closed at 21:43.



APPENDICES

A1. Sustrans Study

1. Executive Summary

Kings Langley is experiencing traffic congestion issues which are becoming increasingly commonplace. To help tackle congestion and pollution, it is widely recognised that there is a need to increase levels of active and sustainable travel in Kings Langley.

This report was commissioned, by Kings Langley Parish Council, to research options for increasing walking and cycling opportunities within the village of Kings Langley and propose routes which could form the core of a network. The aim of this network is to improve connectivity throughout the town and enable people to see walking & cycling to key destinations such as schools, employment areas and the town centre as a convenient, pleasant and safe way to travel. Following this report the proposed routes can then be taken forward for more detailed feasibility studies.

The potential positive outcomes of enhancing the walking and cycling environment in Kings Langley are wide ranging and include an improved urban realm, improved health of citizens, reduced congestion and air pollution. However there are significant steps required in order to enable this to happen.

1.1 Report findings

Existing walking and cycling provision.

Although Kings Langley is no more than 1 ½ miles across in any direction, there are a number of factors that reduce the desire to walk or cycle in the town:

- A constrained historical street layout with adaptations as the town has grown. Priority has been given to motorised traffic therefore creating a less favourable environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Limited connectivity and permeability across the town - part of the reason for this is the severance effect created by the canal and the A4251
- Insufficient and unconnected cycle routes - mean that cyclists mostly use the same routes as cars, HGVs & buses. Fear of motor traffic is a significant factor in leading people to avoid cycling.
- Narrow alleyways and lack of cut-throughs – many alleyways are of inadequate width for reasonable use by cyclists, child buggies, mobility scooters & wheelchairs.
- Lack of signage, mapping and promotion of routes – good maps that are readily available, accurate and comprehensive are essential to promoting increased walking & cycling.
- Inadequate cycle parking provision – cycle parking needs to be well located and secure.

1.2 Key proposals

Changes to the road environment

- 20 mph zone
- Zebra crossings
- Apply the principles used in Berkhamsted to the High St

Route Proposals

• Towpath enhancements – The towpath has the potential to be the flagship route in Kings Langley but to achieve this adequate width is required to accommodate the likely number of users. A good width is a minimum of 2 metres & preferably 3 metres but it is recognised that this may not be possible in all locations.

- Improved access to the towpath.
- Upgraded traffic free routes through public open spaces.
- Links to the railway station

• All routes need to be well supported - by signage, maps, good quality cycle parking & promotion.



Quick Wins

These are improvements to walking and cycling provision that can be achieved easily, quickly and at low cost:

- Mapping and promotion
- Additional signage

Next steps

Next steps will require partnership working, enthusiasm and sustained commitment to set in motion:

- targeting of priorities
- feasibility studies
- funding and allocation of resource

1.3 Conclusion

It is clear that the current solutions to getting around Kings Langley are leading to congestion.

There is the danger of air quality problems as seen further north on the A4251 in Apsley.

If things are left to grow organically, then it is likely that the current problems will simply get worse.

The long term goal is to enhance the environment so that walking & cycling are accepted as viable and desirable ways of getting around within the urban area.

This will require a mixture of infrastructure and behaviour change.

This report makes practical proposals to achieve that change.