

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY

12th APRIL 2018

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 12th April 2018 at Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap, Kings Langley.

Present: Kings Langley Parish Councillors: Anderson, Angiolini, Button (Chair), Collins, De Silva, Jackson, Johnson, McLean and Rogers

Also present: County Councillor Richard Roberts
PCSO Ian Martin
Mr John Addy
Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk, Kings Langley Parish Council,
Mrs Beverley Ross, Administrative Assistant, Kings Langley Parish Council
53 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Button welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 He then introduced those sitting at the top table.
- 1.3 He informed the meeting that generally he intended to take all reports as read, although allowing time for general questions at the end of each.
- 1.4 With regard to the Extraordinary Parish Meeting held at Kings Langley School, Cllr Button reported that the council had been overwhelmed by the number of people who had attended, nearly 800 in total.
- 1.5 He also asked if residents could please avoid parking on grass verges.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were recorded on behalf of Cllr Morrish; Mr Gary Lewis, Headteacher, Kings Langley School; Mrs Frances Stickley, Chair of Governors, Kings Langley School and Mr Eric Martin, Kings Langley Charities.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 It was proposed, seconded and resolved: -
That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2017 be adopted as a true record.
- 3.2 The Chair then signed the minutes.

4. Annual Report of the Council

- 4.1 Cllr Button introduced the report of which copies were available and stated that he would take the report as read.
- 4.2 Mrs MacKay pointed out that the parking in Red Lion Lane was appalling and said it was an accident waiting to happen. The landlady at The Red Lion was also worried and something must be done. Cllr Button informed Mrs MacKay that the Council

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was very aware of the problem and had raised the issue several times but pointed out that the canal was the Kings Langley Parish boundary with most of the problem occurring in Nash Mills. Cllr Roberts confirmed that meetings with Nash Mills Parish Council had taken place and that a solution would be sought with input from residents.

- 4.3 Mr Harold Taylor said, on a happier note, how inspiring it was to see three councillors labouring in the village garden and offered his thanks.

5. Financial Report

- 5.1 Cllr Anderson stated that the accounts for 2017/18 had not yet been audited.
- 5.2 Precept/Budget for 2018/19.
- 5.3 Cllr Anderson asked if there were any questions and Mr Sheldrake asked if he could highlight important aspects i.e. the campaign on Green Belt. Councillor Anderson explained that the Extraordinary Parish Meeting had not been budgeted for but the cost to advertise same had been estimated at around £1,000 and there had been underspend in other parts of the budget. Another major expenditure had been the refurbishment of the Pound and he invited everyone to the opening ceremony which was on the following Saturday at 11am.
- 5.4 Mrs MacKay thought that it was a reasonable amount to be spent on a meeting and had given a donation. Cllr Button pointed out that it was the Resident's Association who were asking for donations and this was a separate organisation.
- 5.5 Mr Carnaghan of Rectory Lane queried funds in the budget that had more than doubled. Cllr Anderson explained that money had been put aside for the fitting of solar panels at Charter Court but that the practicalities of the building being in a sensitive conservation area meant this was not a viable option although it would have reduced the electricity bill and pointed out that the landlord was Dacorum Borough Council.
- 5.6 Mrs Colquhoun asked about the giant sundial on the common, Cllr Johnson explained what it was and that there had been unexpected additional costs which had exceeded the cost of installing it by £12,000, the result being the project did not go ahead.
- 5.7 Mr Kircher asked about the revaluing of houses for council tax to which Cllr Anderson stated that it was outside the Parish Council's control. He would love to raise more revenue, however Dacorum Borough Council's tax level was set by Government and although the Parish Council's tax increase isn't capped, it is watched, so care had to be taken and the increase was kept to 2.2%.

6. Green Belt Development Report

- 6.1 Cllr McLean explained that although this was an Annual Parish Meeting, he would like to update residents on the Green Belt situation. Five months had passed from the meeting at the school and four months from the village poll which had shown a resounding 99% of residents were against building in the Green Belt. He stressed

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that no decisions had been made by Dacorum Borough Council, but Rectory Farm had already been sold to a developer for a reputed 8.5 million pounds.

- 6.2 He pointed out that there were seven areas of potential building sites that could seriously affect Kings Langley. Residents were advised to look at the various options on the Dacorum Borough Council's website. Option 1c, 280 dwellings; option 2c, 380 dwellings and option 3, 950 dwellings. Option 3 was of major concern. The four areas currently identified were: Hillside Farm, Wayside Farm (residential and commercial), Rectory Farm and Shendish Manor.
- 6.3 Mrs MacKay asked how many of new dwellings built would be council houses to which she was informed that a developer would have to provide a percentage, but the amount was not known. Cllr McLean stressed that no decisions had yet been made. She then asked if it was taken into account that schools were already full, Cllr McLean replied that this would be tackled as and when it was relevant to do so.
- 6.4 Cllr McLean outlined the next steps. In May, Sir Mike Penning MP will be presenting his petition to the House of Commons. There are in excess of 2,000 online signatories and a further large number of written ones.
- 6.5 Cllr McLean finished by saying he would like to thank the residents of Kings Langley for their magnificent support throughout the campaign to date. He also thanked members and the committee of the Kings Langley Residents Association for their massive support in fighting to protect the Green Belt and the village life enjoyed by us all.
- 6.6 Mrs MacKay thanked Cllrs McLean and Anderson for their passionate belief in Kings Langley and believed they were honest men.

7. Police Report

- 7.1 Crime figures for Kings Langley for the period 1st January to 31st December 2017 were attached to the agenda. There were 148 crimes recorded in total, down from the 2016 total of 168.
- 7.2 Mr Carnaghan asked if Hemel Hempstead crime affected Kings Langley to which PCSO Ian Martin replied that Kings Langley was an affluent area and somewhat in a bubble and crime was very low in the village.

8. Trustees of Kings Langley Charities Report

- 8.1 Cllr Johnson introduced the report, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. He thanked the Henry Smith Foundation, the primary source of funding and Kings Langley Carnival for their donation of £200. The charity exists for the relief of poverty, sickness and disability amongst the population of the parish of Kings Langley.

9. Kings Langley School Report

- 9.1 Mr Gary Lewis, Headteacher of Kings Langley School was absent from the meeting but had issued a report which was attached to the agenda.

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10. Borough Council Report

- 10.1 Cllr Anderson presented this report.
- 10.2 He stated that if the Government kept its 40% cap on the increase in housebuilding targets and we are left in Dacorum with the target of 602 dwellings per year, then the Green Belt would not be under so much pressure as feared by the 756 dwellings per year consultation option.
- 10.3 He also reported that the new owner of Rectory Farm may submit a planning application for 120 dwellings and is looking to get it through quickly, however the Borough Council may refuse permission on Green Belt grounds.
- 10.4 Cllr Anderson reported on the takeover of Sportspace by Sports & Leisure Management, (Everyone Active) which was more cost effective and would improve services. All frontline staff were to be transferred, however there had been a backlash from some against the takeover and some unacceptable emails had been received.
- 10.5 Mrs MacKay asked about doctors' provision for occupants of all the new houses to be built. She was informed that plans come first and the infrastructure dealt with later.
- 10.6 Shelley Hannaway of Willow Edge had a query about the sheltered accommodation which was now homing more younger people to which Cllr Anderson replied that it was somewhat out of fashion now and there were not enough elderly people wanting the accommodation. There was a long-term plan to develop and improve Willow Edge but it was not viable at the moment. However, there were plans to develop the garage site in Rucklers Lane for four community houses.

There followed a ten-minute break.

11. County Council Report

- 11.1 Cllr Roberts introduced his report.
- 11.2 He was humbled by the amount of support he had received at the ballot box and had a great working relationship with the Parish Council.
- 11.3 He listed repairs that had been carried out to improve Vicarage Lane, Love Lane, The Nap and the London Road (Hempstead Road) pavement with Whitlars and that Marwood Close and two Rucklers Lane cul-de-sacs are to be done shortly, plus the top part of Rucklers Lane, being due to be thin-dressed after being pre-patched.
- 11.4 Cllr Roberts robustly stated that he would not support any development on Wayside Farm.
- 11.5 He asked that organisations apply for a grant from his locality budget. Recent support had been given to the library, the carnival, the guide hut, Kings Langley in Transition and the Allotments Society.
- 11.6 Mrs MacKay stated that she thought Mr Gary Lewis should be made a Sir after the tremendous work he had done in turning the school around to which Cllr Roberts replied that she should write to Sir Mike Penning and make that point but pointed out that Mr Lewis was very well rewarded for his efforts and that Mrs Stickley had also been instrumental in changing the fortunes of the school.

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- 11.7 Mr Ansell said it was good to hear that Cllr Roberts robustly objected to any development of Wayside Farm and that he had written to John Wood at Hertfordshire County Council but asked how one might know if letters would even be looked at to which Cllr Roberts asked that a copy be sent to him also. He reiterated his view that the infrastructure was too fragile to cope with large amounts of building in the area.
- 11.8 Mr Coad asked about the car park at the Rose & Crown public house and did it belong to the brewery or was it a public car park. The council's information is that it belongs to the brewery however there had long been questions about the rightful owner.
- 11.9 Mr Harold Taylor asked if we were in for a crime wave in leafy Hertfordshire as the police budget had gone up 7.9%. Cllr Roberts replied that there were concerns that crime could spill over the borders to which Mr Taylor said he was not convinced. Cllr Anderson confirmed that the police precept had been held at 0% for years but now an increase was needed. Cllr Jackson added that Norfolk County Council had scrapped all its PCSO's and that she was happy to pay the extra amount.

12. The Village Newspaper

- 12.1 Mr John Addy reported that the village newspaper was produced by an enthusiastic group and that the work put in was immense. He gave thanks to Cllr Jackson for her support and stated that there were now 50 members. They had received a grant from Cllr Roberts, and he thanked everyone who voluntarily delivered the paper. In all nearly 80 people were involved. However, the hard part was the need to sustain the effort and help was wanted to attract more advertisers. A round of applause was given.
- 12.2 Cheryl Hall echoed what Mr Addy had said and thanked Cllrs Collins and Jackson for their support. As not everyone in the village used computers it was a local forum that was not advertisement led and said it was an honour to be involved.

13. Resolutions

- 13.1 To consider any resolutions received. No written resolutions had been received.

14. Community Awards 2018

- 14.1 The nominees for the Kings Langley Community Awards 2018 were read out:

Name:	Nominated By:	
Tony Burnell	Alan Johnson	For service and commitment to Kings Langley Cricket Club over many years
Simon Lloyd	Alan Johnson	For service and commitment to Kings Langley Cricket Club over many years
Chris Pettit	Anonymous	For service and commitment to Kings Langley Good Neighbours and Christian Aid

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Anna Sapte	Cheryl Hall	For her work on Kings Langley Matters Facebook page, and volunteer work with Riding for the Disabled and Kings Langley Good Neighbours Association
Cheryl Hall	Alan Johnson	For setting up and administrating the Kings Langley Matters Facebook page informing residents on things that matter to them
John Addy Harold Taylor Susan Simpole Joyce Gray Barry Kemp Carolyn Andrews	Sandra Jackson	For setting up and administering the new Village Newspaper

15. Questions/Any Other Business

- 15.1 Cllr Anderson reported that the Beating the Bounds would take place on Sunday 6th May, the walk was 9 miles long and started at 11am. He asked that anyone wishing to attend should inform the office.
- 15.2 Mr Harold Taylor thanked Beverley Ross, the Council's Administrative Assistant for her research work carried out to honour our WW1 heroes.
- 15.3 Mrs Pamela MacKay asked about parking in The Nap car park which she believed was being used by people using the station to avoid paying parking charges to which Cllr Button said the only way to regulate use was to charge, however her comments were noted, as was the fact that the spaces were of an inadequate size for larger vehicles.
- 15.4 The Councillors were thanked for their efforts and Cllr Button pointed out that the Councillors were not paid and worked voluntarily for the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.