



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at the Council Hall, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllr McLean.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 There were members of the public present but only to observe, in particular, items 11.3 (Parish Plan update) and 11.4.2 (The sundial proposal / village garden path).

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 PCSO Ian Martin reported on the 7 crimes recorded during February 2019, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Burglary (other)	1	Watford Road
Theft from motor vehicle	1	London Road – Shendish – expired passport taken from car, no sign of damage
Theft from shop	1	Post Office – soft drinks – offender caught
Theft (other)	3	Kings Langley Services Club – empty beer kegs (30) – offenders caught Rucklers Lane – parcel taken from doorstep Rucklers Lane – old car batteries – offender challenged by resident and items returned
Other crimes	1	No information
Total	7	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 14 recorded crimes in the previous month (January).

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

4.2.1 Nothing to report.

4.2.2 “OWL” Communications.

4.2.2.1 No further reports.

4.3 Other Matters.

4.3.1 None.



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5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

5.1 Highways Matters.

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts was not present.

5.1.2 The Chair and the Clerk had both contacted Cllr Roberts commenting on the recent four-way traffic lights at the bottom of Vicarage Lane during a utility company's works suggesting that it offered an insight of how it might be if there were permanent traffic lights there, albeit that any future lights there would hopefully be under some pedestrian control. Cllr Button had not received a reply. The Clerk had added that it would seem a good idea to move the loading bay to outside Spar (where the existing pedestrian crossing is). Cllr Roberts replied, "you raise a good point, if we find the funding for new lights and crossing then we should enhance visibility by moving the loading bay".

5.2 Grass verges

5.2.1 Cllr Button raised the issue of protection for grass verges, citing the verge in Love Lane adjacent to The Common. Cllr Anderson responded that the Parish Council had a reserve of £2000 in its project fund for a contribution to improving the parking areas and installing bollards, although Cllr Button was suggesting a "grasscrete" type of solution.

5.2.1.1 Cllr Angiolini commented that the football club was doing an excellent job protecting the grass verge opposite their ground with bollards on match days and felt that they should be thanked and congratulated. It was agreed that the Clerk would write accordingly.

5.2.1.2 Cllr Jackson added that the verges in Coniston Road were in an awful state.

5.2.1.3 Cllr Collins added that the verges at Taylors Tools were being damaged (despite high kerbs and a bay being recently built opposite).

5.2.1.4 The Clerk added that he believed that Hertfordshire County Council had powers to prosecute those who damaged grass verges - its property - but chose not to. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Roberts to see if these powers could be used in Kings Langley as a deterrent to help reduce grass verge damage. It was further agreed to post signs on notice boards.

5A.1 Parish Plan.

5A.1.1 Parish Plan Questionnaire Update

As the members of the public who were present were interested in this item, with the Members' permission, the Chair brought it forward from 11.3.

Cllr Morrish circulated an "Executive Summary of Quantitative Data", covering:

- the Character of the Village
- Attitudes to Development
- The High Street, and
- Traffic and Parking.

There was still a great deal of analysis to be done (qualitative, schools and businesses responses and Housing Needs), leading to formal recommendations by the summer.



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5A.2 The sundial proposal / village garden path.

5A.2.1 A member of the public present was also interested in this item, and with the Members' permission, the Chair brought it forward from 11.4.2.

Cllr Johnson reported that he and the Clerk had met with representatives of Osborne's, who had offered a "community contribution", to progress either the installation of a human sundial on The Common and / or the resurfacing of the village garden path. The former appeared to be the option preferred by Osborne's, but further issues arose, including, the need for planning permission, Osborne's wishing to do the work themselves (but only the base), the disposal of the spoil and a timetable that probably couldn't be met because the end of their contract may be imminent. These items would increase costs that the Council would have to fund. Consideration was then given to the type of new surface that could be applied to the village garden path. It was acknowledged that it should be improved to make it more accessible and that it should have a border, and, although it was felt that driveway-type brick-work as suggested by the Clerk might be too expensive, it was agreed that the resurfacing should be pursued. Despite the hurdles involved with the sundial initiative, there was still some support for it, particularly from Cllr Rogers, and it was agreed that planning permission should be sought and then to continue discussions with Osborne's subject to their contract continuing.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) held on 5th February 2019.

6.1 It was the proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2019 be adopted as a true record.

6.2 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 None.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January and 5th February 2019 were adopted as a true record.

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 Nothing significant to report.



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8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the warden's recent activity had included "repainting" the "hitching rail" with preservative and fixing and replacing a bench on The Common.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for February 2019.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for February 2019 in the sum of £8,968.93 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 statements had not been received from the bank.

9.3 Council land - tree safety / condition survey (Village Garden and Sunderland's Yard Allotments).

9.3.1 Members were asked to approve expenditure on additional safety investigation works on the tulip tree in the village garden, which had been identified in the original survey and report (see meeting of 5th February 2019) for which a quote had been received and enclosed with the agenda. This work was described as "Tree Health & Structural Integrity Report with Internal Decay Testing". The Clerk added that the previous investigation was carried out in February 2006 which included a recommendation that the tree should be subject to containment pruning and a safety inspection every 3-5 years.

9.3.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That Bartlett Consulting's quote for this work be accepted at a cost of £595. It was further agreed that they would be asked to carry out the work in 2019-20.

9.3.2 Next stages.

9.3.2.1 The agenda had included a quote for the other work identified for other work identified in the survey report for the village garden which was for the sum of £4,560. At this point this was for indicative purposes only. The Clerk added that further quotes would need to be sought in due course.

9.4 Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Control Systems.

9.4.1 Members considered the requirements of the above after the Clerk had provided background information, in particular the regular reporting of financial / control reports.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

- a) The review of the effectiveness of the Council's Internal Auditor had been satisfactorily carried out:
- b) The review of the Council's control systems had been satisfactorily carried out and that it was adequate, robust and efficient.



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- 9.5 Request for Financial Assistance – Kings Langley Bowls Club.
- 9.5.1 A copy of this request, which was for an umpire’s kit and bowls gatherers, had been included with the agenda.
- 9.5.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

Kings Langley Bowls Club be granted £250.

10. Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

- 10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.
 - 10.1.1 Nothing to report or raised.
- 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 Angiolini reported that there were still issues with potholes on the Bury Estate.
- 11.1.2 Cllr Collins reported that he was not getting very far with resolving the issue with the with the builder’s rubble at the junction of Havelock Road and Belham Road. It was agreed that this now be reported directly to Dacorum Borough Council as a fly-tip or as a problem with cutting the grass. The Clerk undertook to take a photograph and inform the appropriate people at the Borough.
- 11.1.3 It was reported that the notice board at the junction of Church Lane and Belham Road was too high. The Clerk responded that he had already contacted the Borough on this but had not had a reply.
- 11.1.4 The Village News features litter picking on its front page.
- 11.1.5 The allotments association did not want any publicity in respect of signing the latest new agreement.
- 11.1.6 Cllr Morrish reported that Rucklers Lane was not being resurfaced after all.



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11.2 Litter picks (Cllr Johnson).

11.2.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the litter pick on the 24th February had attracted 13 people which identified that we needed more Hi-Viz vests and pickers. The Clerk was asked to contact Clean, Safe and Green because it was understood that they were loaning them and would also provide bags. Cllr Johnson added that he had registered the litter pick on the 31st March as part of the Great British Spring Clean 20219.

11.3 Parish Plan.

11.3.1 Parish Plan Questionnaire Update.
See above at 5A.

11.4 Other items.

11.4.1 Tree planting, planning and Tree Preservation Orders in the village.

Cllr Johnson reported that there had been an exchange of information with Dacorum Borough Council's tree officer regarding the tree planting programme for the village and representations from several groups and individuals that had expressed an interest in and helping with better management of the village's trees, including affording them greater protection and a replacement / planting programme. It was understood that only two trees were to be planted in Kings Langley in 2019, that trees on verges had to be planted under Dacorum Borough Council's control and that if one wished to have one planted the charge would be £550. Members did not feel that this was satisfactory. Cllr Johnson felt that for the Council to generate a change it should, initially, carry out a survey covering:

- a) trees that had been removed and not been replaced (updating a survey carried out by former Parish Councillor, Peter McDonnell), and
- b) significant trees that should be protected by a Preservation Order,

which he undertook to organise by coordinating the various interested parties.

11.4.2 The sundial proposal / village garden path (Cllr Johnson).
See above at 5A.

11.4.3 Land at Home Park Mill Link Road.

Cllr Button raised the issue of fly-tipping and vehicle access on land by the canal where the Canal and River Trust had a skip. The skip was regularly overflowing and / or suffering fly-tipping next to it and it appeared that those responsible were driving down the bank where there were no barriers.

Cllr Anderson and the Clerk responded that they were attempting to establish the ownership of the land via Land Registry records, Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council, in order to then determine who is responsible for clearing fly-tips there and who might be persuaded to extend the bollards to stop unauthorised vehicles. Updates will follow when the position becomes clearer.

Cllr Rogers gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

11.4.4 Update from the Community Award Working Group.

Cllr Morrish presented a report showing the outcomes of the deliberations of the Community Awards working group with the qualification categories and the numbers of points awarded, concluding that all of those nominated would receive an award.



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Cllr Button gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point. Cllr Angiolini assumed the Chair.

- 11.4.5 To agree an award / presentation to Gary Lewis, Head of Kings Langley School.
It was agreed that this be delegated to Cllr Johnson and the Clerk.

12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 Transition in Kings (TIK).

- 12.1.1 Planning permission for the poly-tunnel for the Rectory Farm site had been submitted.

12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).

- 12.2.1 The two new lecterns had arrived, and the planned locations were at the Methodist church and by the village of the year pole in front of the village garden.
- 12.2.2 Next years' projects now needed to be considered. Cllr Jackson had suggested that some improvements should be made to the pathways through the woods. However, the Clerk was asked if he would contact Dacorum Borough Council's Rights of Way Officer to see whether that was something he could do.

12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.

- 12.3.1 Cllr Collins reported that the Association was looking for a new secretary.
- 12.3.2 Cllr Anderson added that Dacorum Borough Council would probably be carrying out its review of car parking charges again soon and queried whether the Association was still adamant in its enforcement of the covenant under which parking in The Nap car park should remain free.

12.4 Others.

- 12.4.1 None.

13. High Street Surgeries.

- 13.1 It was agreed that because of its closeness to the Annual Parish Meeting on the 11th April, the surgery scheduled for the 16th April should be moved to the 16th March.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Annual Parish Meeting 11th April 2019.

- 14.1.1 Cllr Jackson apologised that she would not be present at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 14.1.2 It was agreed that the meeting should start at 7:30 pm. The format of the invite was agreed subject to some minor changes and with the addition of notice of the Council's "Great British Spring Clean 2019" community litter pick on the 31st March. The agenda was agreed with some minor changes.

14.2 Christmas Lighting Displays.

- 14.2.1 The Clerk reported that he had recently attended a Festive Lighting Seminar organised by Hertfordshire County Council at which it was recommended that during March, Operators (Councils) should have determined what they are going to do and what infrastructure would be needed, have identified a suitably qualified contractor and a "test house" for the structural testing.



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The date for submitting the application has been brought forward to the end of July and would require the use of an on-line facility (although not written yet).

The issuing of the license is in two stages, the first being basically all the paperwork, structural surveys etc, and the second, a post-installation electrical test.

The County is also considering introducing a license fee at some stage.

14.3 Parish Council Elections – 2nd May 2019 - Nomination Forms / Timetable etc.

14.3.1 Members had been provided with the above documents with the agenda, mainly for information, although there was a brief discussion and advice from Cllr Anderson.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Jackson mentioned that there had been several events welcoming the new vicar of All Saints' Church, the Rev. James McDonald and his wife Rachel, including a quarter peal of the church bells. Cllr Jackson was also pleased to note that the new vicar was a bell-ringer.

15.2 Cllr Anderson reminded Members that the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were due to be reviewed and updated. He proposed that, because of the size of the documents, they should not be printed, but that Members would be asked to view them in electronic form.

15.3 Cllr Anderson reported that there was a proposal to build a three-storey car park on land at the Red Lion PH.

Meeting closed at 9:47pm.