



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at the Council Hall, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council; Cllr Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council; PCSOs Ian Martin and Louise Lester.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllr Collins. The Clerk reported that Mrs Collins was unwell and currently in hospital.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 Mr Doug Stack of Phasels Wood was present to raise his concern with road safety in Rucklers Lane. He cited that the speed of vehicles was dangerously high, and that signage was very poor. He was particularly concerned for walkers: groups still used the Rucklers Lane entrance to the scout camp, although the main vehicular entrance was on the A41. Rucklers Lane has also, recently, become a route for groups of cyclists.

3.1.1 Cllr Anderson declared a Personal Interest in this item as he lived within the section of Rucklers Lane affected by it and had also, very recently, witnessed an accident immediately outside his house. In preparation for this item he had approached a sign-making company to provide some appropriate signage.

3.1.1.1 Cllr Button was concerned that the Council would be acting illegally in putting up such signage.

3.1.2 Cllr McLean also declared a Personal Interest in this item as he lived within the section of Rucklers Lane affected by it but stated that he would support anything that could be done to improve the situation.

3.1.3 Cllr Roberts responded that he recognised there were safety issues in this part of Rucklers Lane and undertook to review it which would include meeting Mr Stack and Cllrs Anderson and McLean on site.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 PCSO Ian Martin was pleased to report on the 3 crimes recorded for December 2019 – this brought the total for the calendar year to 100, the lowest for many years - as follows:



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Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Damage or Destroy < £5k	1	Church Lane (Kings Tyres) – window broken
Theft – other	1	Sunderland’s Yard (Chris Eames) – truck batteries stolen
Other crimes	1	Rucklers Lane (rural) – assault following a road rage incident
Total	3	

- 4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.
- 4.1.2 There had been 8 recorded crimes in the previous month (November).
- 4.1.3 Cllr Anderson enquired whether there was an update on the accident that occurred outside his house, in which a car had overturned, and the driver had run off. PCSO Martin was able to respond that the driver had been identified.
- 4.1.4 PCSO Martin also reported on recent crimes in the area in view of a spate of car thefts and break-ins, although the majority were “over the border” in Abbots Langley. In Kings Langley, these included three cars (including a Maserati) on the Bury Estate. He was also dealing with inappropriate parking on London Road. Those actually causing an obstruction would receive warnings followed by fines if not heeded. He was also working with the facilities manager in the adjacent offices to notify people working there.
- 4.1.5 PCSO Martin also announced that he had a new sergeant, Sarah Bunyan.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

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

4.3 Other Related Matters.

- 4.3.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

5.1 General Matters

- 5.1.1 Cllr Roberts reported that the County was currently going through its budgeting cycle and was happy to add that the funding for Social Care was good for this and next year, although there may be some issues thereafter.

5.2 Highways Matters.

- 5.2.1 It was agreed that the Clerk would write formally to Cllr Roberts regarding the long-running issue of flooding at the entrance to Miller & Carter.
- 5.2.2 Cllr McLean reported that there were three large potholes on Watford Road opposite the entrance to Avenue Approach. Cllr Roberts responded that he believed the road was due to be resurfaced. He undertook to check this. Cllr Anderson reiterated that there were multiple potholes on London Road towards Apsley. Cllr Morrish suggested that both areas should be patched even if they are to be resurfaced before the potholes became more dangerous.
- 5.2.3 Cllr Hubberstey raised the issue of the Westside pavement again. Cllr Anderson undertook to discuss the possibility of clearing the general detritus from the path with the Clean, Safe and Green team at Dacorum Borough Council.



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6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) held on 3rd December 2019.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019 be adopted as a true record.

6.2 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 The Clerk reported that Dacorum Borough Council had responded to the Council's enquiry regarding a new notice board at Shendish Edge, that there was no budget for one. This was Cllr Hubberstey's initiative and he asked what other routes he might take to progress this. This was deferred to Part II of the meeting.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November and 3rd December 2019 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair expressed his concerns regarding the recent spate of break-ins and whether the otherwise relatively low crime rate would mean that PCSO Martin would not be replaced after his retirement (within the next 18 months), and questioned whether the cost of a PCSO could be funded by the four parish councils on his "beat". Cllr Anderson undertook to check whether the Council would have the powers to do this.

8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

8.3.1 None

8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.

8.4.1 The Clerk reported that the Council's staff had all been struck down with a virus.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 No reports.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for December 2019.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for December 2019 for £25,987.98 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedules of payments.

9.2 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 31st December 2019).



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9.2.1 It was noted that the statements had not yet been received.

10. Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and members’ questions
No report. There had not been any meetings.

10.1.2 Car Parking Penalty Tickets Home Park Mill Link Road vs Kings Langley High Street
Cllr Rogers had requested this item. He had been provided with figures relating to parking warden enforcement activity at the above sites. After a brief discussion it was concluded and agreed that enforcement in the High Street was more beneficial to the village than visiting Home Park - whilst not neglecting it because residents of the lock cottage and houseboats were sometimes blocked in or out. The Clerk undertook to write to accordingly to Dacorum Borough Council to ask that the “focus be adjusted”.

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 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported that proceedings were all going well and that the group would be meeting again the following Tuesday.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).
No further report.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).
Cllr McLean thanked Cllr Morrish for stepping in whilst he was incapacitated, adding that the ARUP study was underway, and reiterating that its results would be reported to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).
Cllr Hubberstey reported that he was continuing to pursue the “community toilets” initiative and had several volunteers.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports.

11.2.1 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)
Cllr Johnson reported that there were some issues with parking at school run times at the top of Coniston Road where residents and others are being blocked in. Also, the footpath on Havelock Road had been levelled and resurfaced.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 No report.

11.4 Litter picks.

11.4.1 No report.

11.5 Other items.

11.5.1 Cllr Johnson reported that Fr. James was planning to parade along the High Street to All Saints on Palm Sunday and was checking the practicalities of so doing.



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12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 Transition in Kings (TIK).

12.1.1 Nothing to report.

12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).

12.2.1 Nothing to report.

12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.3.1 Nothing to report.

12.4 Others.

12.4.1 Dacorum Environmental Forum

Nothing to report.

13. High Street Surgeries.

13.1 The next surgery was scheduled for 15th February. The usual Members would be present.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 VE Day - 75th Anniversary Celebrations

14.1.1 No update.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 None.

16 Exclusion of the Public.

16.1 There were no members of the public present.

PART 2

17. Budget 2020-21 – 3rd Draft.

17.1 Cllr Rogers questioned items that had been in funds budgets for several years, in particular that for solar panels at Charter Court. Cllr Anderson responded that the Charter Court fund was now sufficient to pay for solar panels, but that, because the lease was due to end in December 2021, it would not be spent until the lease is resolved. After some discussion, it was agreed there would be no change to the funds budget in this respect. It was, however, agreed that a £2,000 provision would be made for a notice board at Shendish Edge. (see 7.1 above).

17.2 It was further agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for replacing the heating and lighting in Charter Court.

17.3 It was also agreed that the Council would send flowers to Mrs Collins, to be paid for from the Chair's Allowance.



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- 17.4 Cllr Rogers asked whether the Council would be considering alternative premises for its offices, especially as the current ones are not very fit-for-purpose. Cllr Hubberstey added that new disability requirements were being introduced, and the Council does not have access to its meetings for the disabled, It was noted that Dacorum Borough Council would be responsible for making the appropriate alterations to the building if it was required to provide disabled access (this had almost happened several years ago). No-one was able to suggest any alternative premises.
- 17.4.1 Cllr McLean asked what the trigger for would be for discussing the lease. Cllr Anderson suggested that Dacorum Borough Council might need to be nudged. It was noted that the Council's rent was less than a commercial rate. It remained to be seen whether the Borough will wish to impose a commercial rate.
- 18 Hertfordshire Pension Fund – Local Government Pension Scheme
- 18.1 2019 Triennial Valuation Employer Results for Town and Parish Council – Actuarial Report / Results
- 18.1.1 Members noted the report and considered and agreed the actions shown on the associated documentation dated 19th December 2019. See appendix A, Letter 1. It was noted that the Employers contribution had been reduced to 22.15% with effect from 1st April 2020 (from 23.8%).
- 18.2 Town and Parish Council Pooling Agreements
- 18.2.1 Members considered and agreed to continue the pooling arrangements and to the other the actions shown on the associated documentation dated 19th December 2019. See appendix A, Letter 2.

Meeting closed at 9.53pm.



APPENDIX A

Letter 1

Hertfordshire Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

2019 Triennial Valuation Employer Results for Town and Parish Councils Pool

The attached actuarial report contains your results for the 2019 Valuation. The report contains information relating to your funding position at 31 March 2019 and sets out your employer contribution rates which are payable from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.

Results for the whole Fund have been positive with an increase in the funding level from 91% in 2016 to **98%** in 2019 with a reduction in the overall deficit from £336m in 2016 to **£87m** in 2019.

Following the consultation on the Parish and Town Council Pool earlier this year, Parish and Town Councils will continue to be pooled together for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the 2019 Valuation. The employer contribution rate payable from 1 April 2020, as per the attached results schedule, is **22.15%**.

A copy of the Pooling policy, which provides information about the management of the Pool and terms and conditions for participation, is available [here](#).

As outlined in the Pooling Policy, Pool members' assets and liabilities are tracked individually for accounting purposes so that their individual funding position can be monitored in the event that a Pool Member subsequently leaves the Pool or ceases in the Pension Fund.

An individual results schedule shows your employer contribution rate split between a primary and secondary rate. The primary rate is the estimated cost of ongoing benefits being accrued and as required in the regulations, has been calculated on a consistent basis for all employers in the Fund. The secondary rate has therefore been adjusted so that the overall rate payable is reflective of the agreed stabilised rate. This results schedule will be for information only and will display the Academy's individual funding position.

Actions for you, as an Employer:

- Please acknowledge receipt of this information by replying to this email and if necessary, forward it on to relevant authorised personnel.
- If you have any further questions about this information or the attached reports please email these to: Pensions.Team@hertfordshire.gov.uk by **31 January 2020**.
- Update your payroll system or advise your payroll provider of the revised employer contribution rates that will take effect from 1 April 2020.
- Book your place on the annual Employer Forum on **15 January 2020** following this [link](#).
- Respond to the consultation on the draft 2016 Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). The FSS sets out the framework within which the actuary has carried out the triennial valuation and funding decisions have been made. The consultation document is available from the following [link](#). The consultation will close on **31 January 2020** and any comments should be sent to Pensions.Team@hertfordshire.gov.uk.



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Letter 2

Hertfordshire Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Town and Parish Council Pooling Agreement

The 2019 Triennial actuarial valuation is currently underway for the Hertfordshire Pension Fund. The Kings Langley Parish Council is part of a Pension Fund pooling arrangement for parish and town councils. As outlined in the pooling policy, pooling arrangements provide mechanism for grouping together Scheme employers that have similar characteristics for the purposes of setting a common contribution rate. That contribution rate for the will be revised as part of the 2019 valuation.

We have revised the Pooling Policy to include guidance for Parish and Town Councils who wish to close to new entrants.

Individual results schedules for Parish & Town Councils will be provided following the Actuary's valuation. These results schedules will be for information only and will display the Council's individual funding position. More information will be included when these schedules are issued

The pooling arrangement is also reviewed and revised at each subsequent valuation of the Pension Fund. As part of that review, below are some actions for you as an employer:

- Please acknowledge receipt of this information by replying to this email and if necessary, forward it on to relevant authorised personnel.
- Confirm whether the council wishes to remain part of the pooling arrangement with other Parish and Town Councils.
- If you have any further questions about this information or the attached reports, please email these to: Pensions.Team@hertfordshire.gov.uk by **31 January 2020**.

Please note that if you do not return the confirmation form attached or if no response is received by **31 January 2020**, we will assume that the council has opted to remain as part of the pooling arrangement. It will also serve as confirmation that the Parish Council understands its responsibilities as an employer and will abide by the policies and procedures of the Pension Fund alongside the Scheme regulations.

The Hertfordshire Pension Fund

**Hertfordshire County Council
Herts Finance**