



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020** at the Council Hall, Charter Court, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council; County Cllr Richard Roberts.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllrs Collins, Johnson and McLean.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 None.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 PCSO Ian Martin was unable to attend the meeting but had provided information on the 11 crimes recorded in February 2020 (to 27<sup>th</sup>), as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Burglary - dwelling	4	Love Lane – patio door smashed Friars Mead – patio door smashed Vicarage Lane – patio door smashed Watford Road – patio door smashed
Theft from motor vehicle	3	Rucklers Lane – cash taken from unlocked vehicle Havelock Road – convertible car had roof lowered and bottle of rum taken Coniston Road – number plates taken
Damage or Destroy < £5k	3	Tylers Close – heavy plant pot broken Ridgeway Close – gate damaged Rose & Crown – picture frame damaged
Other crimes	1	High Street (Sweet as a Button) – public order offence
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 16 recorded crimes in the previous month (January).

4.1.3 The report was noted.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

4.2.1 No report.

4.2.2 “OWL” Communications.



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4.2.2.1 No further reports.

4.3 Other Related Matters.

4.3.1 The Clerk expressed his concerns that there appeared to be a fair number of crimes that don't get reported to the police, although they are posted on social media sites, and that, the false picture that this might create could lead to the loss of police coverage in Kings Langley. Cllr Hubberstey undertook to seek ways to raise the profile.

## 5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

5.1 General Matters

5.1.1 No update.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 Cllr Roberts provided an update on the following matters:

- a) Shendish Edge – residents' parking scheme  
This had the support of Cllrs Anderson and Johnson and Andrew Williams. He had initiated informal consultations and would cover the cost.
- b) Shendish Edge (towards Moore's) footpath repairs.  
This was now back on the plan.
- c) London Road east path (Red Lion to roundabout).  
It was pleasing to note that this had been cleared, but clearly this is only a short-term solution and he would be working on a longer term one which would probably involve moving or removing the hedge. He would also ask that yellow lines for this stretch of the road to be added to the Rucklers Lane junction improvement scheme.
- d) Tooveys Mill Close  
He had been discussing improvement here to generally improve access etc.
- e) The Highways Integrated Works Programme.  
This would be published shortly, and he would pass a copy to the Parish Council.
- f) Coronavirus guidance.  
Hertfordshire County Council's Director of Public Health had issued an update which he would pass to the Parish Council.
- g) Drainage problem outside Miller and Carter  
Works to remedy this issue have been budgeted in 2020/21. Cllr Button felt that the solution to this had always been to raise the path above the level of the main road, although Cllr Roberts responded that that didn't appear to be the answer according to the Highways team.

5.2.2 Cllr Roberts advised the meeting that the County planned a 2% increase in its budget, this included £12.5m for care in the community, his portfolio.

5.2.2.1 Cllr Roberts' Locality Budget remained at £10k and his Highways Locality Budget at £90k, of which £73k had already been allocated. He added that he would add the High Street hitching rail to this.

5.2.2.2 The Clerk asked whether Kings Langley would see any of the money allocated for providing wildflower verges, to which Cllr Roberts responded that the first tranche had been allocated to North Herts, but that he would consider any suggestions that the Parish Council presented to him. Cllr Anderson added that under his Dacorum



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Borough Council portfolio, there were plans to do this throughout Dacorum and his team were working with the County.

- 5.2.2.3 Cllr Hubberstey advised that he had requested that the bus stop outside Shendish Edge be moved to a wider, safer section of the footpath. Cllr Roberts supported the suggestion.
- 5.2.2.4 Shendish Edge (1-10) – dangerous overgrowth. Cllr Hubberstey had raised this safety issue several times with Herts Highways, but no action was taken. He now requested that the Parish Council writes to the occupiers to request that they cut their hedges. Members were not too happy with the Parish Council doing this as it had no means or powers to follow it through as enforcement of this was a County responsibility. Cllr Roberts undertook to contact the residents (which he had on his contact list for the parking permit scheme) to request they did so.
- 5.2.3 Verge hardening
  - 5.2.3.1 On his visit to Tooveys Mill Close (see above) Cllr Roberts became aware that part of the grass verge in Mill Lane (by the road hump) was in a poor state due to vehicles parking there to visit Willow Edge and / or driving on it to avoid the hump. He proposed that this area of verge be “grass-creted”, which was agreed.
  - 5.2.3.2 Cllr Roberts had also asked the Clerk to add this item the agenda, to broaden the “grass-creting” debate. This appeared in conjunction with a notification from Dacorum Borough Council regarding the extension of its initiative for verge hardening. Cllr Anderson expanded on this explaining that the scheme, initially confined to residential areas, would be extended to other, including Highways land, and that he had already had a site meeting. Cllr Button hoped that attention would now be given to parts Hempstead Road.
  - 5.2.3.3 Mr Hunt of Beechfield stated that to verge from The Rose and Crown towards Montagues was in a very poor state. It was hoped that the ARUP High Street / Transport study would address this (at least in terms of its recommendations).

## 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 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 21<sup>st</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair’s Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair suggested that there should be a separate meeting to discuss verge hardening for Coniston Road and Hempstead Road in particular. It would be worth looking to see how that in Beechfield had fared. It was noted that this cost £15,000.



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The Clerk added that the black plastic outside Parameter's School appeared to far better than the weaker looking green plastic in Kindersley Way in Abbots Langley. Cllr Morrish suggested that some expert advice was needed.

Cllr Angiolini suggested that we could use the Annual Parish Meeting to raise the profile of this issue.

## 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 The Clerk reported that the warden would be painting the white posts in the High Street as soon as the weather improved. He had, with Cllr Johnson's help, moved the notice board from the war memorial to the village garden. It would now be used for news about the Council's activities, the village garden, local history and walks etc. It will need some paving in front of it. He had also replaced the old wooden border around the tulip tree with a more robust octagonal frame.

## 9. Finance Matters

### 9.1 Schedule of Payments for February 2020.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for February 2020 in the sum of £10,439.77 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

### 9.2 Internal Audit Fee Letter for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

9.2.1 This letter was noted.

### 9.3 Request for Financial Assistance – Kings Langley Community Choir / Electric Umbrella

9.3.1 This request was for assistance with the costs of tickets and promotional expenses for a concert organised by Kings Langley Community Choir in aid of Electric Umbrella, which supports people with learning difficulties. The costs were estimated to be £500.

9.3.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Kings Langley Community Choir be granted £250, but that payment be made in the next financial year.

## 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  
Cllr Johnson had provided an update report which was noted.

10.1.2 Notice boards.

The Clerk had provided a condition report on the notice boards in the Parish.



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Cllr Anderson explained that the Borough no longer looks after notice boards and that if the Parish wished to continue with their provision it would have to find the resources to do so. The Clerk expanded on his report and advised that the board at the junction of Great Park and Friars Way had now been taken down as it was a danger to the public, and, that unfortunately the ground around it was concrete and it would not be possible to add a separate supporting stay. He suggested that with a bit of work it could be erected on the other side of the road near the bench. It was agreed that this should be pursued. It was also agreed that the most important notice board was the one in the High Street and should be considered next.

Cllr Hubberstey also undertook to obtain a quote for replacement notice boards from the Repair Shed.

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 on various activities and that the outcome of some housing needs analysis was that there was a demand for smaller units.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

No update.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that it appeared that a home had been found “The Repair Shed” in Primrose Hill (the former changing rooms, and furthermore, Abbots Langley Parish Council had offered £2,000 towards its start-up costs.

The “organisations” website will need funding of approximately £135 for email addresses and domain costs. This would be presented formally at the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr Hubberstey was also like to see some work done in identifying and the use of community land.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> March.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports.

11.2.1 Bury Estate. Cllr Angiolini reported a fly-tip in the garages in Barnes Rise.

11.2.2 The status of the overgrown hedges in London McLean (Cllr Hubberstey) would be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

11.2.3 Rucklers Lane (Cllr Morrish). A meeting to consider the proposed works to the junction was scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

11.2.4 High Street (Cllr Rogers). The community toilets are still being organised and “water refill stations” are opening up in some shops. Cllr Button reported that he had received an email from Peter Faulkner complaining about parking in the High Street. It was agreed that this should be referred to Steve Barnes at Dacorum Borough Council. The Clerk was reminded to check that he had received a response from him to his recent email on the same subject vis a vis parking enforcement in Home Park Link Road.

11.2.5 Watford and Coniston Road areas. Cllr Johnson had provided a report, which Members noted.



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

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson had provided a report, which Members noted

11.4 Litter picks.

11.4.1 Cllr Johnson had provided a report, which Members noted. The next is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

11.5 Other items.

11.5.1 Human Sundial – no update.

## 12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 The Kings Langley Community Benefit Society (KLCBS) (Cllr Morrish).

12.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported that there had been discussions with the James Good, the developer of Rectory Farm, the movement of the soil from the allotment plots, water supply, the proposed lock-up and access.

12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).

12.2.1 No update.

12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.3.1 No report.

12.4 Others.

12.4.1 Dacorum Environmental Forum

The notes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated with the agenda. These were noted. It was also noted that the Chair was retiring.

## 13. High Street Surgeries.

13.1 Cllr Johnson had provided a report, which Members noted. The next is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## 14. Other Matters.

14.1 VE Day - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

14.1.1 No update.

14.2 Palm Sunday parade

14.2.1 Cllr Johnson had provided a report, which Members noted.

## 15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Rectory Farm S106 Agreement Working Group. Members felt that it was important to begin the process of agreeing the requirements of this matter as quickly as possible, and that, although not on the agenda, to nominate members to it. Therefore, it was agreed that the Chair plus Cllrs Anderson, McLean and Morrish should be on the group and that Cllr Johnson should also be asked.



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- 15.2 Cllr Anderson outlined the current position regarding the release of Dacorum Borough Council's Local Plan. The date was now going to be further delayed because St Albans' submission (which was in a similar format to Dacorum Borough Council's) had been heavily criticised. There was further discussion including housing numbers, how much of the Rectory Farm development would be included in the numbers, and concerns, as ever, about the infrastructure.

Meeting closed at 9.47pm.