



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllr Johnson.

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 not present but had provided information on the 4 recorded crimes for June 2020, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Burglary – dwelling	1	Love Lane – messy search, high value watches and jewellery taken
Theft from motor vehicle	2	Alexandra Road – catalytic converter Rucklers Lane – tools taken from van
Other crimes	1	Hempstead Road (passing through) – “going equipped”
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 5 recorded crimes in the previous month (May).

4.1.3 The report was noted.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

4.2.1 No report.

4.2.2 “OWL” Communications.

4.2.2.1 Cllr McLean: Others may have seen that an elderly lady had been scammed for some work to her property.

4.3 Other Related Matters.

4.3.1 None



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

5.1 Cllr Roberts was not present at this stage.

5.1.1 Former Youth Club.

5.1.1.1 The Clerk had not received an update from Cllr Roberts, although he repeated his understanding was that the property was unusable.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 The Chair understood that some work was being done to resolve the bad sewers in the High Street / Vicarage Lane area. The Clerk added that he had heard that the latest schedule for this to start was tomorrow (although originally scheduled for early June).

## 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.

6.1 The note at Minute 11.2.8 that Cllr Rogers had left the meeting was incorrect. This was amended and initialled on the signed version and would be changed on the published version. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.2 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

## 7. Matters Arising.

7.1 With reference to Minute 10.1.4, the Clerk reported that he had received a response from Dacorum Borough Council regarding an issue with foxes and rats in the Ridgeway Close area, which he had passed to Cllr Hubberstey.

7.2 Cllr Rogers asked whether the Council had resolved the issue with the costs related “village clock” at All Saints church. The Clerk and Cllr Anderson reminded Members that the Council paid for the annual maintenance, although there had also been some large one-off costs lately. The Clerk added that there did not appear to be a formal agreement. Members were reminded that it had been agreed that the Clerk was to discuss the formalisation of the arrangement with the PCC, especially to avoid any more large one-off payments.

(Cllr Hubberstey joined the meeting.)

Cllr Anderson added that payment of this type of expenditure was one of the powers that the Council had, and that, the conversation with the PCC might also include the replacement of the mechanism with something more modern / robust.

(Cllr Roberts joined the meeting.)

The Chair returned to agenda item 5.



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## 7A.1 Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

7A.1.1 Cllr Roberts was asked if he had an update on the status of the former youth club. Cllr Roberts responded that he was expecting something from the Parish Council specifying a need. However, he reiterated his understanding that the building / land had been designated for re-use within the County Council, although he was somewhat irritated that there was an assumption that he and the Parish Council should not be informed what that use was, especially as it should be considered a community asset. He will chase again. Cllr Hubberstey responded that his (Leisure) group had identified that it needed to work on a definition of requirements and needs generally, across the parish. Cllr Morrish added that, having spent 30 years in the building, which had been scheduled for demolition in 1952, it was not safe and contained a lot of asbestos and certainly not a place that people should go into. Cllr Hubberstey acknowledged Cllr Morrish's concerns, but was only looking at short-term uses, Cllr Morrish reiterated that it was unsafe, that that is why the nursery had to leave, and that the safety issues were just as relevant for short-term use. Cllr Roberts undertook to get a response from County by the end of the week. Cllr Rogers added that once there is a response from County there should be an evaluation of whether it is usable, which may conclude that it needed to be demolished. Cllr Roberts confirmed that it had been condemned. Cllr Button added that in his experience the frames to these buildings were usually quite stable and strong; the cost of replacing the frames was often the major part. Removing the asbestos would also be a major cost.

7A1.2 Cllr Roberts continued with an update of other items:

- a) Watford Road flooding – the drains have been checked and these will be dealt with, the actual solution is yet to be determined.
- b) Works to resolve the flooding outside Miller and Carter's is scheduled.
- c) Thames Water will be undertaking works to deal with the bad sewers in the High Street / Vicarage Lane area.
- d) Repairs works to the bottom of Common Lane has been instigated.

7A1.3 Cllr Roberts also reported that the local hospital trust that runs Watford, Hemel and St Albans, has been awarded additional funding, taking it to over £500m, making it possible to build a new hospital, which would be nice. Cllr Anderson responded that his information was that, sadly, the extra funding (£190m) was to pay for planning for re-use of the existing buildings at Watford. Cllr Button added that he would be participating in a Q & A session with Sir Mike Penning, MP, and that he had already tabled a question seeking clarification.

7A1.4 Cllr Hubberstey asked whether Cllr Roberts had an update on the progress of the Rucklers Lane / Red Lion Lane reconfiguration works, to which he responded that because of the pandemic everything had slipped. He was hopeful that a new plan would be issued. Cllr Roberts asked whether the Council had seen the latest plans showing the additional double yellow lines in Rucklers Lane, Red Lion Lane and London Road. The Council had not, so he undertook to provide them.



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## 8. Reports.

### 8.1 Standing Committees.

#### 8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 were adopted as a true record.

### 8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair was pleased to note that the High Street was looking busy once again None.

### 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 all the summer planting had been completed and that the village garden was looking remarkably clear of weeds. The Chair added that the churchyard was also looking very good as a result of work of the Borough teams, and he thanked everyone involved in helping to make this happen.

## 9. Finance Matters

### 9.1 Schedule of Payments for June 2020.

9.1.1 Cllr Mclean asked the Clerk whether "Replacement of damaged infant defibrillator pads" (payment reference 5790) was a result of them being used or misused, to which the Clerk responded that he had damaged them when replacing them previously by incorrectly unsealing the packaging.

9.1.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for June 2020 in the sum of £12,786.07 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.3 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

### 9.2 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020).

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 the above date were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£187,187.19
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47

### 9.3 Donation to Age Concern (Dacorum)

9.3.1 This item was requested and introduced by Cllr Angiolini, especially because of the personal care that he had experienced. Age Concern (Dacorum) is separately funded from the national organisation and provides care locally. Members wished to ensure



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that the amount determined would still allow further groups to be helped, within the Council's budget, which also found themselves short of funds in the current climate. The Clerk reminded Members that they had also agreed to make £50 donations to Dementia UK and The Peace Hospice in respect of Cllr Collins' wife.

9.3.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That a donation of £350 be made to Age Concern (Dacorum).

9.3.3 Cllr Roberts agreed to match the Council's donation to Age Concern and also expressed a wish to match any similar donations that it made.

## 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

10.1.2 Cllr Johnson's report was noted.

10.1.3 Cllr Anderson reported on the following:

- a) All Saints churchyard. It should be made clear that, as the churchyard was "closed" it was Dacorum Borough Council's responsibility to cut the grass. The reason it was not cut was that there was major subsidence and ground movement with tombs opening and monuments collapsing. The Borough is spending many thousands of pounds in resolving the problems. This will take a while and it is probably too early to be contemplating a "friends" group starting soon. In response a question from the Chair, Cllr Anderson confirmed that the Borough would have to pay for all the repairs. Cllr Hubberstey suggested that the graves were probably in a very poor state when the "closure" was enacted, adding that he was very much aware that a friends group would not do any work until the Borough was happy for it to do so, the idea of which was to work with a church group to complement Dacorum Borough Council's work. He felt that everyone was appreciative of the work the Borough was now doing and the large amount of money it was having to spend.
- b) The Covid crisis is going to cost Dacorum Borough Council £5m, mainly in lost revenue, and there is a potential concern regarding council tax arrears.
- c) The Chief Executive, Sally Marshall, is standing down. He and Cllrs Johnson and Rogers may be involved in the latter parts of the recruitment process.
- d) The government appears to be using the planning process to force councils to issue joint local plans, by rejecting all those that are not. In the autumn, the government will be issuing a White Paper which will include more directly elected mayors and more unitary authorities; the fear here is that Hertfordshire may be forced into fewer, much larger authorities. He added that it seemed somewhat ironic that the government is pushing the building of new homes but at the same time rejecting local plans. Cllr Rogers added further that more pressure is being created by Watford BC trying to off-load 1000 homes on its neighbouring authorities and St Albans trying to off-load 3000 on to Watford. Several issues were raised regarding Dacorum Borough Council's failings in communicating news and issues to the general public, including the above item, the 11,000 homes proposed as part of the Hemel Garden Community's scheme and many other matters.



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10.1.4 Hertfordshire Year of Culture (enclosed papers from Dacorum Borough Council).  
The Chair was surprised that, under the current circumstances, this project was being pursued. It was agreed that this item be noted. Cllr Mclean recalled that when this item was previously discussed it was agreed that it would be pushed via the carnival committee.

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

### 11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported that there was a very helpful and constructive steering group meeting recently and the comments had been passed to the consultant.

#### 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button advised that he wouldn't have time to organise a meeting of this group before next week's follow-up meeting of the steering group, where project priorities were to be discussed.

#### 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey was very pleased with the steering group meeting and felt far more engaged within the overall Neighbourhood Plan. The group was looking at supporting more friends' groups, including one for the churchyard as previously mentioned, and another for the common woodlands, which Cllr Collins would be leading. The group had submitted about 20 projects to the steering group as part of a 25-year vision and would be looking at sources of funding other than CIL money.

#### 11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean found it gratifying that the Neighbourhood Plan presented at the steering group was very much in line with the ARUP. He confirmed that the ARUP report would be presented on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> July. The Chair asked whether there would be a possibility of understanding any outline costs. Cllr McLean responded that although it was not part of the brief given to ARUP, he would ask. Cllr Morrish added that he had asked this question to which the response was that this stage was at a very high level, although, he felt, that they may be able to suggest some ball-park figures.

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

### 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

#### 11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini)

Cllr Angiolini reported that a duvet had been dumped in the wooded area which the Warden got rid of.

#### 11.2.2 The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park (Cllr Button)

Lots of litter in the Common area, but otherwise all ok.

#### 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins)

Work had started on the pathway on the north side of Havelock Road. The steps from Hempstead Road to Havelock / Belham Road, which were overgrown and had lots of loose gravel on had been cleared of both, which seemed to be a very quick response to his email. The graffiti had been removed from the dog litter bin in the garden, although the sun has bleached the area on the bin. Taylors Tools are encroaching the verges around the entrance to their premises. Generally, the area is looking very good.



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## 11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva)

All ok.

## 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey)

The car wash owner is still parking on double yellow lines opposite, and he can't understand why it is not being dealt with. The sequencing of Traffic lights at Holiday Inn are not good. The hedges on London Road are a problem again.

## 11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)

All ok.

## 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish)

Cllr Morrish was pleased with the planting of the garden at the bottom of Rucklers Lane by Dacorum Borough Council. Cllr Hubberstey noted that the paths in the rural part of Rucklers Lane were very overgrown and people were walking in the road. Although there may be an element of social distances, there may be a case for Dacorum Borough Council to do some cutting back, although Cllr Anderson and McLean, who live there, didn't feel it was different from normal.

## 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers)

Not a lot to report. More will be known now that most of the shops are re-opening. It was noted that Christies Beauty Salon was not reopening, although a new one is opening next to the Parish office. There was also work on the former upholsterers and Kinloch chemists. The Haverfield surgery was for sale. There was a debate regarding a possible covenant on the car park behind (in Langley Hill) which prohibited charging, but Cllr Anderson dispelled it.

## 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

### 11.3.1 Cllr Collins asked whether the tulip tree that had recently been cut back would recover but was reassured by the Clerk that it had recovered extremely well from the same treatment several years ago. Cllr Hubberstey explained that it had been pollarded for safety reasons and to help the tree live longer, because with the partly decayed trunk, it would not be able to support its branches.

## 11.4 Litter picks.

### 11.4.1 There would be another litter pick at the end of the month. Cllr Hubberstey reported that the last one had been very successful with new people joining. It was being publicised more on social media.

## 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 reminded Members that the market would be held in the village garden this month; publicity had been issued. He would appreciate any volunteer marshals.

### 12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).

#### 12.2.1 Cllr Morrish had been discussing with Cllr Hubberstey some projects coming out of the Leisure Group, with a view to the possibility of funding from the PPP.



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12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.3.1 No further news. The new guidance that came out yesterday would be looked at.

12.4 Others.

12.4.1 Dacorum Environmental Forum

The chairman is trying to retire. There had not been a meeting since the last report, and it was felt unlikely it will be meeting until social distancing is over.

13. High Street Surgeries.

13.1 There is an opportunity, if anyone is so inclined, to have a table at the upcoming market in the village garden.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Christmas Lights Event update.

14.1.1 The Clerk reported that, despite being reminded, Hertfordshire County Council had still not sent the requirements and application documents for the licences for erecting the displays. The Clerk had instructed the contractors to go ahead with erecting the displays when the time comes, and to carry out all the appropriate checks. The application for use of electricity for the lights had been successfully made.

14.1.2 An email from Community Action Dacorum regarding the event had been included with the agenda concerning its position, loss of funds etc. It was agreed that any response to this be deferred until the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> September when a decision on the staging of the event will be made.

14.1.3 Cllr Anderson asked whether there had been any contact with the main sponsor of the event, to which Cllr Angiolini responded that he would be contacting him shortly. The Clerk added that Cllr Angiolini suggested that we could also run the best decorated window competition, even if the main event doesn't run. There is a fear that the event might not get support anyway, either from the public or local traders in the form of sponsorship, advertising, etc, for obvious reason.

14.2. VJ Day 75 – 15<sup>th</sup> August.

14.2.1 Cllr McLean advised that this is normally commemorated in Hemel Hempstead where the Burma Star Memorial is located. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not do anything locally. Cllr Hubberstey would publicise this on social media.

14.3 “Kingsfest” July 2021.

14.3.1 This item was to ensure Members were aware of a proposed music festival next year. Cllr Rogers had attended the first meeting; the organisation was at its early stage. Members were concerned with parking.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 To encourage members of the public to participate, Cllr Hubberstey would publicise meetings on social media.

15.2 It was decided that the Council would meet in August.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.