



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllr Angiolini.

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 9 recorded crimes for August 2020, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Theft from motor vehicle	1	Langley Hill – car window broken - laptop & cash taken
Theft of motor vehicle	2	Red Lion Lane – victim left car keys in PH and car taken. Since found. Chipperfield Road – black BMW - owner has both keys
Damage or destroy <£5k	1	Kings Langley School – damage to fence
Theft from shop	1	Texaco – 2 bottles of vodka
Theft - other	1	Texaco – drive off (£10)
Drug related	2	Red Lion PD – cannabis (2)
Other crimes	1	Osbourne Avenue – credit / debit card taken (delivery driver suspected)
Total	9	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 8 recorded crimes in the previous month (July).

4.1.3 Cllr Button commented that members of the public really do need to take more care, rather than, eg leaving valuables in their cars and on view.

4.1.4 The report was noted.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.



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5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

Cllr Roberts was not present

5.1 General Matters

5.1.1 None.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 Work has started at Rucklers Lane and Watford Road. Cllr Anderson asked for an item to appear on the next agenda for the erection of some signage on a “dodgy” bend in Rucklers Lane, to which Cllr Roberts had recently agreed to raise no objection.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 4th & 18th August 2020.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th & 18th August 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Cllr Hubberstey asked the Clerk if there was any background reading related to the CIL issue, to which he responded that he would complete and issue his CIL paper on which there were references to further reading.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July and 4th August 2020 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 The Clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) (2019-20) had been submitted to the External Auditors.

8.5 Village Warden’s Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 No Report.



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9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for August 2020.

9.1.1 The Chair asked why there was a payment of 60p to UK Fuels to which the Clerk responded that it related to a monthly payment card charge, and no fuel purchase.

9.1.2 It was then proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for August 2020 in the sum of £8,150.32 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 31st July 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:	£116,933.22
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47

9.3 Application for financial assistance – Kings Langley Guide Hut.

9.3.1 Cllr De Silva had been assisting the applicants in this and spoke in favour of agreeing to their request for a contribution of £250 towards the cost of re-furbishing the kitchen in the guide hut, and it was then proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That Kings Langley Guide Hut be granted £250 towards cost of their kitchen refurbishment.

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 reported that he had attended a Licencing Committee meeting, the main topic of which was to do with using part of a pavement for your business. He had also attended a briefing on the latest iteration of the Local Plan, which would be presented to the Strategic Planning and Environment Committee on 23rd September, which means it should be available of the Dacorum Borough Council website around the 16th. The intention was that the plan would be out for consultation in November.

10.1.3 Cllr Anderson reported that the Government will be announcing on Monday the 7th which counties and districts are to be subject to examination for becoming unitary authorities, adding that, in one recent example, this was going to result in there being 150 councillors in the new authority. He feared that once these were announced there would be no going back.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported the big topic at the moment is CIL and how it might change, so it was decided that a top 10 list of projects, which are considered to be of high value



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to the village, would be produced irrespective of funding, but those that look as if CIL money would be the appropriate source will be put into the Neighbourhood Plan. Once agreed the list would be presented to the residents for their support. He added that it will be necessary to be creative with finding sources of funding. The Neighbourhood Plan itself is progressing, although the future of these is not entirely clear at the moment, but the group had concluded that we were still better off having one than not.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button had nothing further to report.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that all was work in progress but hoped that by October he will be able to report. He raised an issue with the new path through the churchyard that it had been stopped at the old part, apparently on the request of Peter Sutcliffe. Whilst it was agreed that this was really an issue that Fr James should deal with directly with Peter / the PCC and Dacorum Borough Council, the Clerk undertook to speak to his contact there.

Cllr Button asked the Clerk if he would also ask whether the contractor would provide a quote for the village garden path. A discussion ensued regarding the materials to be used for this; whilst a resin type surface was preferred, it was very expensive, and although a tarmac surface may not be very attractive, it was felt that it was still worth obtaining a quote.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean reported that he was planning to set up a meeting for the group early next week.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini)

Cllr Angiolini was not present.

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

Nothing to report.

11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins)

Cllr Collins reported that the overgrowth on the footpath between Miller & Carter and Whitlars Drive had been cut back, but during the recent heavy rain a lot of mud etc had been washed down into Hempstead Road and blocking the drain on the path. Two trees had been cut down in the common area in Whitlars, for seemingly good reasons and Cllr Collins wondered if there would be any replacements. Cllr Anderson responded that the Parish Council could ask Dacorum Borough Council if they could be replaced. Returning to the blocked drain on the path, Cllr Collins asked again why it can't be cleared. Cllr Johnson responded that he had been in contact with Cllr Roberts who had stated that he would be chasing works to drainage here as soon as those in Watford Road have been completed, which should be the 3rd. Cllr Johnson added that he had also asked Cllr Roberts if there was any more news on the status / future of the former youth club, but that there was none.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva)

Nothing to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey)

Cllr Hubberstey reported that he had placed the news of the upgrade to the Rucklers Lane junction on Kings Langley Matters, and that there was generally a favourable response. The hedge at West One had been cut back.



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- 11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)
Nothing further to report, other than the drainage work that has started.
- 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish)
Footpath resurfacing was due to start on the 7th.
- 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers)
Cllr Rogers mentioned that there had been several comments regarding the colour (pink) of the newly reopened premises. The Clerk had not received anything back from Dacorum Borough Council regarding the complaint relating to it.

- 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).
 - 11.3.1 Cllr Johnson commented that the weather had been very good (rain and sunshine) for the recent addition of a further 200 plants.

- 11.4 Litter picks.
 - 11.4.1 There had been a smaller number of volunteers at the latest pick.

- 11.5 Other items.
 - 11.5.1 Human Sundial.
Cllr Johnson suggested that it was unlikely that there would be any change until the spring.

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 the farm had moved out of the brownfield area and James Good had provided a container to store all the equipment. The last market was a little damp weather-wise, but there were more stalls plus the return of others. The next Market is scheduled for 19th September; Cllr Morrish was hoping that this and the October one would be in the village garden, and to then decide whether to return to the High Street, to avoid damaging the grass, and also considering any changes associated with Covid guidelines or rules.

- 12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).
 - 12.2.1 The Council had received notification that the PPP had ceased to operate and therefore the annual grant of £1000 would no longer be available. The item can now be removed from future agendas. Anything related to this is now under the wing of the Leisure Group and Cllr Hubberstey has already been in touch with Lee Tyson who is overseeing this within the Hertfordshire Plan.

- 12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.
 - 12.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that Centre had re-opened today, but that they were being faced with the same issued discussed earlier in the evening to do with cleaning, but on a much larger scale compared with the Parish Council hall.

- 12.4 Others.
 - 12.4.1 Dacorum Environmental Forum.
No update.



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13. High Street Surgeries.

13.1 There will be a surgery alongside the market on the 19th September.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Christmas Lights Event update.

14.1.1 The Clerk reported that the licence for erecting the lights had been approved by Hertfordshire County Council. It had been previously agreed that this meeting would be the one at which Members would consider whether it would be feasible to stage the usual full event given the current circumstances, and decided that it would not be safe to do so.

14.1.2 Cllr Collins asked whether the Parish Council would be helping the various charities that raise money at the event. The Clerk responded that it was Community Action Dacorum (CAD) which organised the stalls for the charities, and it had made several suggestions to help support those that would suffer (and which are already suffering) because of the event not running. However, Members felt that these were not practicable. The Clerk added that the performers at the event were given donations, from the event sponsorship fund, but he felt that they were unlikely to be unduly impacted. He added further that CAD also received grants for their contribution towards organising the event (from the abovementioned fund), a general grant and one for Radio Dacorum for compering, and would also lose all the stall and fairground fees etc. It was agreed that this situation would be considered in more detail once all the associated costs and savings are better understood.

14.1.3 Cllr Anderson suggested that in addition to continuing to run the best decorated business premises, as usual, as previously agreed, would the Council support having a similar competition for all residential properties, which he would be happy to organise and judge. The idea of this was to involve the whole village in helping to celebrate Christmas more. All were in favour.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 None.

16 Exclusion of the Public – the following resolution was passed:

That, in accordance with Kings Langley Parish Council Standing Order 17(q), under schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended to schedule 12(A) by the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in the view of the special and/or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.



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PART 2

17. Charter Court Solar Panels.

17.1 Cllr Anderson had provided papers for inclusion with the agenda, which included up-to-date quotes for the above and the advice from Dacorum Borough Council (the landlord) that the Council was entitled to renew its lease for at least 15 years.

17.1.1 Members were being asked to agree to moving to the next stage of inviting formal tenders for their installation in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

17.1.2 Cllr McLean spoke in favour of this proposal, which he felt was an opportunity to see the totality of costs and benefits presented, including the cost of the structural survey, any legal costs and the return on investment, adding that money for this had been in the budget for a very long time and it needed to be sorted.

Cllr Collins felt that the structural survey should be done first to ensure that the project is viable, although Cllr McLean responded that he would rather see all the costs in one go. Cllr Anderson responded that some of the cost mentioned by Cllr McLean related to renewing the lease rather than the project, but he felt that it was crucial that a structural survey is completed, otherwise the project can't proceed, adding that going to tender does not commit the Council any further. He added further that, should the proposal to go to tender be agreed, he would not expect to have all the information ready for the October meeting, but that he planned to have the quotes for the structural survey ready by then.

17.1.3 Cllr Collins queried that there were differing rates of VAT quoted but was reassured that this was not an issue because the Council gets all VAT back.

17.1.4 Cllr Hubberstey interjected that this item was in the Neighbourhood Plan chapter 13 priorities list and that steering group had not decided yet whether it wanted to bring this item forward, and therefore, should this wait. Cllr Anderson asserted that it was included in the in the chapter 13 list in case CIL funding was required to make it happen, but that this is no longer the case as there is enough money already in the budget. Cllr Hubberstey felt there were further considerations including that the Environmental Group was going to look at this, that the whole viability of solar panels had changed, and he questioned the security of tenure. Cllr Anderson responded that, having delayed the project because of costs over a number of years, the quotes presented show that the costs of installation has halved and the financial modelling he has carried out show that the Council would save about £960 pa. Cllr Hubberstey accepted Cllr Anderson's comments, but maintained that the steering group had not decided on this project yet. Cllr McLean felt that this was irrelevant and believed it was important to go out to tender now to get the information needed to decide whether to proceed with the project anyway. Cllr Morrish stated that he was in broad agreement with Cllr McLean in that what was being debated was not that the Council goes ahead with the project, but to get the information needed to make that decision. Cllr Johnson stated that he agreed with Cllr Morrish, that we all want to know what the costs and savings are going to be. He did though have two concerns: 1. the Council needs to be absolutely sure when and for how long the lease is to be renewed, and 2. that if money is spent on this project it might mean that the Council would not be able to afford projects that it felt more strongly about once the current analysis and prioritisation exercise has been completed. He felt that the latter was the point that Cllr Hubberstey was going to make. The Chair pointed out that the paperwork provided included a statement from Dacorum Borough Council that the Council has a protected tenancy and is entitled to an extension of its lease for a period of 15 years. Cllr Hubberstey sought clarification of whether this exercise was about going out to tender or a whole feasibility study and Cllr Collins asked why the quotes already received were not sufficient to make the decision now. Cllr Anderson responded to Cllr Collins that because



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the quotes were for over £5000, the Council is required under its Standing Orders to go out to tender. He then explained further the costs and payback of what he was now proposing.

- 17.1.5 Cllr Rogers interjected that having seen this item in the budget for several years he didn't understand where the need for it came from; it certainly wasn't from any members of the public that had approached him and he felt that the wool had been pulled over his eyes somewhat in the whole process of having a "solar panel fund" in the budget, despite him querying it on occasions. He questioned whether the real reason was to make money for the Council, and why are we doing it if not. Cllr McLean responded that one of the things he wanted to see was the expected return on investment. Cllr Johnson interjected that the Council had passed a motion a year ago that it was going to reduce its carbon footprint and produce a strategy and action plan, and that if it went down this route it would have the effect of so doing to very little at all, and that, if nothing else, is the reason the Council is doing it.
- 17.1.6 Cllr Collins felt that if the Council is going to do it, it might as well be now, but also wondered whether, as it was Dacorum Borough Council's property, should it not contribute? to which Cllr Anderson responded that the Borough would construe that the Parish Council had enough money in the bank and that it would also be the main beneficiary.
- 17.1.7 Cllr Anderson added, in response to Cllr Rogers' comment that he did not feel that this item had been hidden or disguised during the budget process over the years, and restated that in proposing this motion he was not seeking a decision to go ahead with the project, but to move towards obtaining all the appropriate information so that Members are properly informed to make it.
- 17.1.8 At this point, with the motion (see 17.1.1), having been proposed, seconded and well debated, the Chair put it to the vote, and it was carried by 7 votes in favour and 2 against.

Meeting closed at 9.27pm.