



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 6th October 2020.

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Angiolini (Vice Chair), 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 None.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 None.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 There was not a report from PCSO Ian Martin as he was on holiday.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.

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 The Chair noted that the works at Rucklers Lane appeared to be going well. Cllr Morrish advised that the other side of the road would be done next week and that the resurfacing of the whole junction will take place during half-term week. This will involve the complete closure of the road. Cllr Anderson added that he had submitted a strong objection to the removal of the traffic light column by the bridge on the Rucklers Lane side because it will cause a problem for those turning right into Rucklers Lane. He would be getting a response shortly.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 1st September 2020.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meetings held on 1st September 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.



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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 18th August and 1st September 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 No report.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Warden was currently on annual leave. Fortunately there had been plenty of rain during his absence, although, the Clerk added, that there had been so much of it that it appeared to have had an adverse effect on the begonias in the High Street troughs and that an early job on his return will probably be to salvage them.

8.5.2 Cllr Morrish wished to place on record his thanks to the Warden for helping with the market, which he does in his own time. Everyone agreed.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for September 2020.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for September 2020 in the sum of £13,444.17 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 August 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:	£165,404.54
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47



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9.3 Charter Court Solar Panels – Structural Survey (Cllr Anderson).

9.3.1 To agree payment for the above. The Council has received two quotes: £325 and £450. Cllr Anderson added that he has sent the detailed quotes to Members.

9.3.1.1 It was proposed seconded and RESOLVED that the lowest quote of £325 be accepted and that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with placing the order.

9.4 Rucklers Lane – Additional Road Safety / Speed Signs (Cllr Anderson).

9.4.1 To agree this purchase. The Council has received two quotes: £96 and £129.25. Cllr Anderson declared a Personal Interest in this item as one of the signs would be immediately outside his house. Members were happy to support this because of the regularity of dangerous incidents in the lane, in the hope that the signs will help.

9.4.1.1 It was proposed seconded and RESOLVED that the lowest quote of £96 be accepted and that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with placing the order.

10. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies.

10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and Members’ questions

10.1.2 Cllr Anderson advised that the Borough had heard no more from Government regarding restructuring local government, and that the New Chief Executive, Clare Hamilton would be starting at the end of the month. Cllr Johnson added that Covid-19 appeared to “sucking the life” out of virtually every activity that the Borough is involved in. Cllr Anderson added further that the shortfall for the current financial year due to Covid-19 had been revised from £5m to £3.5m.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Consideration of Project Priority Analysis Report.

Cllr Morrish introduced this item and thanked Members for contributing to the process of producing the report and trusted that everyone was happy with it, and shared a screen showing the results. He added that he planned to list the large projects in the Neighbourhood Plan under “Section 13” because they would seem to be eligible for CIL (but to still look for other sources of funding), to sort the list by group size and to consider that some of the smaller items might be eligible and appropriate for funding under the Parish Council own resources, which was quite timely as the budget process is about to start. The Clerk commented that there may not be much choice regarding notice boards, one of the items on the list, because many of them are in a poor state and will need to be replaced over the next couple of years. It was noted that this might be an opportunity to rationalise the number and siting of them. Cllr Anderson agreed that these and some other items should be dealt with through the Council’s normal budget and spending process. He added that the Government had changed the rules regarding the payment of CIL money, which was originally payable at the point when planning permission had been granted, to allowing the developers to delay payment.

The Neighbourhood Plan itself has reached a stage where there will be further consultation with residents and other parties. The website is almost ready, and it will contain some drone footage from the area around Wayside Farm. Cllr Anderson added that the Government’s recently announced proposals to change the planning process, would allow Neighbourhood Plans an increased role in respect of “design codes”



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which he and Cllr Morrish then explained. Cllr Morrish was pushing to complete the Neighbourhood Plan in time to have some influence on the Rectory Farm development relating to style and height etc, if needed.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button advised that this group would be meeting the next evening.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that the group had met the previous day, and that one of the items that came out was that perhaps not as much attention had been paid to consideration of what the community is doing for younger people (eg playgrounds), which was part of the Parish survey. He added that there would also be a focus on seeking sources of funding. It was noted that there would need to be further engagement with younger people to be sure their desires and needs are properly understood. Cllr Collins expressed his disappointment in the news that Hertfordshire County Council had decided that the old youth club building / site would not be made available as a community asset. Cllr Hubberstey added that amongst other activities the group was working with the Sunnyside Trust, which included looking at the village garden path.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean reported that this group had met the previous Tuesday where the following high-level objectives and actions were agreed:

OBJECTIVES

1. To implement the ARUP report in full over a two to five-year timeframe.
2. To implement the main recommendations from the Sustrans report.
3. To develop a projects matrix from these reports and some other short-term issues divided into short, medium and long-term goals.
4. To identify funding sources for projects ranging from Parish Council, Herts CC to major external funders
5. To immediately work on solutions for the High Street pinch point, parking issues and possibly Vicarage Lane / High Street junction due to the high level of accidents there.

ACTIONS

1. Review the Arup report and break into manageable smaller chunks
2. Review the Sustrans report and come back with the major recommendations
3. Review key movement routes for submission to the Neighbourhood Plan at a brief meeting on Thursday 8th at 8pm
4. Next group meeting will be Tuesday October 27th at 8pm.

Cllr Hubberstey added that the Leisure Group was also looking at paths etc including the Common and woodland paths and linked routes around the village, so would be keen to be kept in that loop.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Cllr Angiolini reported that Ringway had repaired a few pot-holes in Barnes Rise, which is very much appreciated.

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

Cllr Button reported that the road surface in Langley Hill is breaking up despite only recently being done.



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11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).

Cllr Collins' problem with the drainage outside Miller and Carter has still not been addressed. This had been an issue for such a long time and although some direct action was discussed, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Hertfordshire County Council portfolio holder responsible for Highways initially to express the Council unhappiness and frustration at the lack of action. Cllr Collins added that he was concerned that a large Winnebago had parked opposite Taylors Tools. It would be monitored.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported there had been some issues with the phasing of the traffic lights at Rucklers Lane and the pedestrian crossing aspect, but that overall, it appeared to be going well.

11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)

Cllr Johnson reported that the flooding problem in Watford Road appeared to have been resolved. The tarmacking of Watford Road also covered an inspection cover which will now have to be uncovered.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish reported that a stretch of the footpath opposite his house had been resurfaced. Unfortunately, some of the residents had driven over it and spread the tarmac on their drives and elsewhere. He added that he would continue to lobby for more stretches of the footpath to be treated.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

Nothing to report.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that he and the Warden had filled a skip with all the stuff that had been cut down and pulled up. The chair thanked and congratulated Cllr Johnson and everyone else involved in doing such a fantastic job in the garden.

11.4 Litter picks.

11.4.1 Cllr Johnson reported that there wasn't very much litter at the latest session. He had covered the High Street, Watford Road and Great Park. It was noted that a more recent phenomenon is the irresponsible discarding of face masks.

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 recent market was great: lovely weather, everyone sold out. There some discussion regarding the village garden could be the permanent home for the market but some concerns about whether the grass would be damaged. Cllr Morrish explained that the suggested solution to this would be to move the stalls to the edge. With the Council's permission, this would be piloted and reviewed.



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Cllr Roberts arrived at this point. He apologised for being late, but he had been at Chipperfield PC.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Little to report. Activities had restarted. The Clerk added that Everyone Active had switched two of its classes to there from the Parish Council hall.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 There will be a surgery alongside the market on the 17th October.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Remembrance Services

14.1.1 Remembrance Sunday (8th November)

The arrangements for the ceremony, which had had to be varied in accordance with government guidelines, had been noted. Cllr Button would represent the Council, and the wreaths had already arrived.

14.1.2 Remembrance Day (11th November (Wednesday))

The Clerk advised that some consideration had also been given to this and that it should perhaps be a lower-key ceremony than in recent years; a risk assessment and signage would have to be produced, and there would need to be a limit on numbers around the memorial. It was agreed for the Clerk to organise the ceremony on this basis.

14.2 Christmas Lights update

14.2.1 Best Christmas Lights Display

In an update to Minute 14.1.3 of the meeting of 1st September, Cllr Anderson introduced this item having proved some documents to be issued with the agenda. Cllr Angiolini volunteered to help and suggested that the Administrative Assistant is asked to be involved too. Members also confirmed that they were happy with the prizes being offered and with Mrs Anderson being involved with the judging. Cllr Hubberstey undertook to promote the competition on social media and the Clerk would place it on the Council's website.

It was noted that some members of Kings Langley Matters were organising a village-wide switch-on of lights, probably on the 6th December.

14.2.2 Any other matters.

The Clerk explained that in terms of the Christmas Lights in the High Street that, although they have been installed, the Council now has to obtain the second part of the Hertfordshire County Council licence which involves an electrical check in-situ. Further, as Members had expressed a wish to switch the lights on early, that permission would be needed from Hertfordshire County Council, as the licence covers the period starting the 28th, as would permission from the electricity suppliers and the agreement of the contractors. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed accordingly.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Roberts was asked to comment on two items that had been discussed previously:

- Firstly, the future use of the former youth club, which the Council would like to see retained for community use: Cllr Roberts responded that, after much prompting, he



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had been informed that “adult care wanted to use it” and he has asked for what purpose. He would inform the Council once he has an answer. He would also be asking why there is an apparent lack of openness.

- Secondly, the blocked drain outside Miller and Carter. Cllr Roberts was able to inform the Council that this has been scheduled for the last week in November. The Clerk would delay his email as previously discussed in 11.2.3.

15.1.1 Cllr Roberts also reported:

- That although work had been carried out on the Watford Road, there was further investigative and, therefore, other work to be done.
- Work and discussions to resolve access issues at Toovey’s Mill were continuing.
- The Hospital Trust has decided that it wants to refurbish Watford General, and improve Hemel Hempstead and St Albans, finally quashing any suggestion of building in Kings Langley. Although this was not what was wanted, he felt that it was important that the project progressed as soon as possible to provide the much-needed improvements in health care in this area. Cllr Anderson felt that the decision was wrong for many reasons which he outlined. Cllr Roberts agreed with most of Cllr Anderson’s comments and also could not understand why a new hospital didn’t even appear to be on the table for discussion. Members were disappointed with the decision and with the lack of action from local Members of Parliament et al, and a concern that with Dacorum expecting another £10,000 plus dwellings, it will not be very well served.
- The debate regarding unitary authorities appears to have been put to one side by the Government.

15.2 Cllr Anderson reported that the Rucklers Lane village hall would be re-opening the following week, and he thanked everyone involved, especially Mrs McLean

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.



PART 2

17. Budget 2021-22
- 17.1 Initial Considerations (Cllr Anderson)
- 17.1.1 Cllr Anderson introduced the item by stating that he was aware that there was a desire to resurface the village garden path as soon as possible, subject to quotes etc, and asked whether Members had any other immediate requests. Cllr Button responded that he was keen to see sponsorship of the Repair Shed being considered. It was noted (Cllr Hubberstey) that the Repair Shed being in Primrose Hill was only meant to be a temporary solution and that the longer-term plan was to site it in Rectory Farm, but also that there could be a “Repair Shed” for many other community needs. The expected contribution for the current project was £3.5k.
- 17.1.2 Cllr Hubberstey felt that there was an opportunity to turn the vision set out by all the work that is going on at the moment into something that could attract National Lottery funding similar to that which the Sunnyside Trust had achieved for the cemetery project in Berkhamsted.
- 17.1.3 Cllr Anderson added that the projects that can be achieved in the short-term need to be identified and costed as soon as possible to see whether they can be met from the Council’s resources. Cllr Button added that it is important to seek other funding.
- 17.1.4 There was some discussion regarding how much money the Council normally spends on projects and how much might be available next year. Cllr Anderson responded that once he had had received some estimates it should become clear as part of the normal budget process, adding that this year’s process has been complicated by the fall-out from the pandemic.
- 17.1.5 It was agreed that the groups would provide as much information on project costs as soon as possible with the first opportunity to see what the budget looks like being the November meeting, and further opportunities to fine-tune the numbers at the December and January meetings. The final agreement of the budget will take place at a special public meeting mid-January.

Meeting closed at 10:05pm.