



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th December 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; Cllr Roberts, Hertfordshire County Council; Mr Hemant Mistry, Herts Equality Council.

Due to exceptional circumstances, this meeting was postponed from the 1st December 2020. Standing Order 1(c) was waived.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 None.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 Mr Mistry introduced himself. He stated that he felt that in two respects the Council has omitted important aspects relating to equality, namely, on its website and in the Neighbourhood Plan. He quoted the demographics from the last census of the those from black and minority ethnic groups, those with disabilities and the elderly, and he felt that the Neighbourhood Plan did not appear to address their needs. He added that he did not find anything on the website relating to equality, e.g. an Equality Impact Assessment. Also, that there was nothing on the website related to the impact of Covid on the community or anything related to Black Lives Matter, despite the large amount of work being done by the County. He added that an Equality Impact Assessment would help the Council a) when considering its activities, provide a better understanding of how it meets the needs of the whole community, and if not, what mitigations can be introduced to lessen any adverse impact, and b) cover the Council if challenged by any members of the community. Mr Mistry thanked the Council for allowing him to speak.

3.1.1 The Chair asked whether Cllr Morrish wished to respond regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Morrish stated that the Council had been guided by a very professional consultant in the production of the Plan and had been assured that it had complied with all the necessary requirements. He added that the Plan is more to do with planning issues, but that he will double check with the consultant to see if she feels there is anything missing in terms of equality, and report back.

3.1.2 The Chair asked the Clerk if he had what he needed in terms of producing the minutes, to which he responded that as the meeting was recorded, he should be fine. He thought it might be useful if Mr Mistry could provide a summary, which he agreed to do.

3.1.3 Mr Mistry responded to Cllr Morrish that should feel free to contact him if he needed any help.

3.1.4 Cllr Roberts also offered the County's help.



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4. Police Matters and Other Services.

- 4.1 PCSO Ian Martin was not present but had provided information on the 6 recorded crimes for November 2020, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Theft from motor vehicle	1	Red Lion Lane – number plates
Damage or destroy <£5k	2	Love Lane – windows broken Hempstead Road – RTC – offender didn't stop
Drug related	1	Love Lane - cannabis
Other crimes	2	Love Lane – attempted robbery (victim attacked in front garden) Theft of mail – credit card used to buy 3 iPhones
Total	6	

- 4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.
4.1.2 There had been 8 recorded crimes in the previous month (October).
4.1.3 The reports were noted

- 4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.
4.2.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

- 5.1 General Matters
- 5.1.1 Cllr Roberts stated that in respect of Covid infections across Hertfordshire, that although the numbers have not got any worse they have not got fantastically better and that there was still a strong need for caution. There was also nervousness about what might happen over the Christmas period and into January. However, the County is ready for a very large vaccination programme. He thought care home staff and residents and nursing staff will be the first to be vaccinated.
- 5.1.2 There are on-going conversations with the library service in Kings Langley.
- 5.2 Highways Matters.
- 5.2.1 Cllr Roberts was pleased to celebrate the success in resolving the flooding problem outside Miller & Carter. The bottom of Common Lane will be resurfaced shortly to resolve the poor road condition there. The footway between Common Lane and Miller & Carter will not now be resurfaced until, probably, 2022/23. In addition, £31,000 has been set aside for drainage schemes next year. Chipperfield PC has asked its part of Whippendell Bottom be changed to 30mph (from 40mph).
- 5.2.2 Cllr Morrish mentioned that there appeared to be a problem with the phasing of the new traffic lights at Rucklers Lane for south-bound traffic and asked if it could be looked at. The Clerk interjected that Cllr Hubberstey had already pressed Herts Highway on this matter and that an engineer was due to check it this week.
- 5.2.3 Cllr Button reported that the problem areas at the bottom of Langley Hill had recently been repaired and that it is looking a lot better.
- 5.2.4 Cllr Johnson thanked Cllr Roberts for his help in installing a path at the primary school, and also a big thank you to the local resident who installed the path (at his own cost).



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6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 10th November 2020.

6.1 Cllr Rogers asserted that the current agenda item 9.6.1 regarding the Charter Court Solar Panels Project, “To consider the enclosed tender responses and determine which tender to accept” was not what was agreed at the meeting of 10th November. The Chair responded that the Council had agreed that it would go out to tender for this project two meetings ago. Cllr Anderson added that once the Council has started the tender process it has a legal obligation to see it through, but that this does not mean that the Council must accept any of the tenders. Cllr Hubberstey interjected that he was not aware that there was a legal process and that he felt that the Council was going to determine the next steps rather than as the agenda item appears and added that he felt that the Council was not ready for this because it had not carried out an Equality Impact Assessment yet. The Chair interjected that the meeting is currently considering the minutes of the previous meeting and that these discussions were not relevant. Cllr Hubberstey continued that he felt that more information was needed but was interrupted by Cllr Rogers that he could clear it up by referring to Cllr McLean’s comment that the meeting of 1st September that “going to tender does not commit the Council any further” (Minute 17.1.2). Cllr Anderson responded (again) that the Council is entitled to stop the tender process, and he felt that there were two Members who opposed this project and that if they were unhappy with the Minutes, they should propose an alternative to what the Minutes should say and then vote. Cllr Hubberstey responded that he was not opposed to the solar panel project but that he needed to be sure that it was the right thing to do in representing the residents and that due process had been followed accordingly. The Chair then asked if Members were now accepting the Minutes of the previous meeting. Cllr Rogers asked, “how do we go about the disparity between the Minutes of the last meeting and the agenda item that we are faced with this evening?” The Clerk suggested to the Chair that it is dealt with when he gets to the agenda item. The Chair agreed.

6.2 It was therefore proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meetings held on 10th November 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.2.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Community Centre Small Hall – Results of Assessment for Use as Council Offices.

7.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported on his visit as part of a small working group to the Community Centre with Cllr Hubberstey and the Council’s Clerk and Administrative Assistant, reiterating the contents of his previously circulated report that the small hall was totally unsuitable for use as council offices because there is no exclusivity, we can’t operate a council when there are shows going on and that his recommendation is that this idea should not be pursued because it just cannot work. Cllr Hubberstey stated that he echoed what Cllr Morrish had said; there were massive challenges with the Community Centre. The Chair then suggested that the item is closed. Cllr Rogers disagreed. He thanked Cllr Morrish for his report but stated that he was disappointed that there were absolutely no positives about it, and that in his view “what we should be deciding is, in terms of a council office, is what is best for our residents first, staff



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second and councillors third. He didn't feel that Charter Court was suitable mainly because of its location and lack of accessibility, and then presented arguments in support of the Community Centre, refuting some of the points that Cllr Morrish had included in his report. Cllr Hubberstey added that it was part of the Leisure Group's remit to look after the wellbeing of the residents, feeding into the public sector equality duty in everything that the Council does and that it needed to really study what its obligations are. Cllr Anderson responded that he heard what was being said but that "we can only agree to disagree", adding that he knows the Community Centre very well and that it was not an appropriate venue for the Council's office space for the reasons already stated. He added that, although a Part II item, there is a measure in the budget to help deal with issues some Members are concerned about, and that, under previous disability legislation, the Council has ensured provision to take service closer to those that needed it, e.g. holding part of the Council meeting downstairs and having regular meetings in the Waterside Centre in the past. The Chair added that during the pandemic, Council meetings had been facilitated via Zoom, which are therefore open to all members of the public, irrespective of abilities, but that other than tonight, no-one had attended. There was no reason why this should not continue in whatever form might be appropriate. The Chair added that in his opinion the proposal to go down to the Community Centre was totally unacceptable. He was particularly concerned with the security of information in what would be shared accommodation and, therefore, the Council's liability under data protection.

Cllr Hubberstey asked to formally introduce Hemant Mistry which he was unable to do earlier because of issues with his IT, and to ask him to give some specific guidance pertinent to this matter. The Chair was unhappy with this as he had expressly asked that this was not to be included in this meeting, except for there to be an executive summary. Cllr Anderson responded to Cllr Hubberstey, stating that in terms of premises responsibilities under equality legislation lay with Dacorum Borough Council. Having had discussions with their officers relating to alterations to the staircase and the installation of a lift, the Borough agreed that the Parish Council had an "exemption" because it was still able to make its meetings accessible.

The Chair agreed to allow Mr Mistry to speak, subject to Members agreement. Mr Mistry thanked the Chair, and felt that matters could be clarified very quickly:

Firstly, the Equality Act 2010 propounds three general duties, namely, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- advance equal opportunity; and
- foster good relationships,

and a specific responsibility for public sector organisations: "to remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by people due to their protected characteristics, meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, and to encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or other activities."

He repeated that the arguments regarding the suitability of Charter Court can be addressed by carrying out a proper Equality Impact Assessment, and it could also address the suitability of the alternative suggestion, and in a wider sense how best to meet the needs of the community (within the financial constraints that exist).

The Chair responded that he felt the Council was already meeting its obligations: the Council does minimise inconvenience, all meetings during the pandemic have been available to all via Zoom, and that the it was planning to put a "relay" service downstairs. Cllr Angiolini confirmed that the foyer, where he was currently sitting, would be suitable if necessary. The Chair added that if there was a specific issue, the



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Council could hold meetings at an alternative venue, as it has done in the past (and still does at Rucklers Lane Hall). He did agree, though, that the Council should consider its responsibilities under the Equalities Act; the Council can continue to hold meetings via Zoom and that when physical meetings resume could have “blended” meetings. Cllr Anderson confirmed that under Part II of the meeting the Council would be considering a budget item regarding “hybrid” meetings.

Cllr Hubberstey was very concerned that Dacorum Borough Council would not be able to renew the Council’s lease on Charter Court because the Borough can’t meet its public sector duties under the Equality Act. The Chair allowed Mr Mistry to respond and he suggested that the Parish Council approaches Dacorum Borough Council to carry out its own Equality Impact Assessment on Charter Court. Cllr Anderson responded that he thought an Assessment already exists, so that Mr Mistry’s suggestion would mean that the Borough may want to update it. He added that the Borough has already confirmed that the Parish Council is legally entitled to a renewal of its lease, and that as a senior member of its Cabinet he did not share the fears that the lease would not be renewed because of issues related to the Equality Act.

However, Cllr Hubberstey felt that the Council should accept the advice of Mr Mistry and PROPOSED that it requested that the Borough should carry out a review. Cllr Rogers SECONDED the proposal, adding that he still believed that the continued use of Charter Court was “disenfranchising” residents and councillors and “probably most importantly, cutting out the potential to employ people within our village in the role of parish clerk”. He stated further “I think that the staff have had a little too much influence on the production of the negative report from Cllr Morrish which I find unbelievable in terms of the lack of positivity”. He added that he could also not understand the problem with data security raised earlier by the Chair. He added further that Dacorum Borough Council has recognised that it has problems with equality and diversity and have appointed an officer to look at that, who starts in January.

The Chair put Cllr Hubberstey’s proposal to the vote:

Those in favour:	3 (Cllrs Hubberstey, Rogers, Collins)
Those against:	6 (Cllrs Button, Angiolini, Anderson, De Silva, Morrish, Johnson)
Abstained	1 (Cllr McLean)

The proposal was lost.

Cllr Rogers requested that the voting be recorded, as above.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October and 10th November 2020 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair’s Reports.

8.2.1 No report.



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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 was just keeping on top of things at the moment. The Chair added that he had done a good job clearing up outside the care home, to which the Clerk responded that he did so on a regular basis until all the fallen leaves had gone.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for November 2020.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for November 2020 in the sum of £17,475.77 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 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 30th October 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:	£138,141.39
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47

9.3 Application for financial assistance – Christ Church Baptist.

9.3.1 Cllr Johnson introduced this item where the church sought £200 assistance in the purchase of IT equipment (iPads / Tablets) for its elderly visitors.

9.3.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That Christ Church Baptist be granted £200 towards the purchase of IT equipment for its elderly visitors.

9.4 Application for financial assistance – The Abbeyfield Kings Langley Society.

9.4.1 This request was for £450 towards the redecoration of an unused bedroom which is separate from the rest of the property and in so doing allow them to show prospective residents the living arrangement more safely whilst shielding the existing residents.

9.4.2 The Clerk pointed out that the Council's rules under this scheme limited the amount granted to £250.

9.4.3 It was therefore proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Abbeyfield Kings Langley Society be granted £250 towards the cost of their redecoration project.



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- 9.4.4 Cllr Roberts agreed that if the Abbeyfield wished to contact him direct, he would be able to consider making up the difference of £200 from his 2021-22 locality budget.
- 9.5 Village Garden Path Resurfacing
- 9.5.1 Members were being asked to agree a single quote for this work which would entail the suspension of Standing Orders (Financial Regulation 8.3 (relating to procurement)).
- 9.5.2 The Chair introduced this item, explaining that there had been a great deal of difficulty obtaining quotes for this work, indeed, finding any other contractors to show much interest at all. He added that in his opinion the quote on the table was a very good one. The Clerk and Cllr Hubberstey stated that they were unable to obtain any other quotes and had evidence of this. The Chair added that he had received reassurances from the CEO of the company quoting that the staff member had considerable experience in this work, and that it will make a massive improvement for people with mobility issues and those with prams or strollers..
- 9.5.3 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Council suspends Standing Orders (Financial Regulation 8.3) and accepts the quote for £6,700 to relay the village garden path using self-binding path gravel.
- 9.534 Cllr Hubberstey added that this work was likely to be done in late spring. He had also carried out an Equality Impact Assessment which he would send to the Clerk.

Cllr Roberts gave his apologies at this point and thanked everybody and was likewise thanked for his attendance and contributions.

- 9.6 Charter Court Solar Panels Project
- 9.6.1 As this item contained confidential information, Cllr Anderson MOVED that it be deferred to Part II of the agenda, which was agreed.

Mr Mistry left the meeting at this point and was thanked for his attendance and contributions.

- 9.7 External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2020.
- 9.7.1 The Clerk explained the “except for matter” in the report.
- 9.7.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the external auditor’s letter, report and certificate be accepted.

- 9.7.3 Cllr Anderson proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for getting the Council through the audits, having been made aware of the amount of work that it requires.

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 Johnson reported that the Borough had a balanced budget this year but only by taking money from Reserves; if the current situation continues there is concern regarding re-building the Reserves. Cllr Anderson added that the big unknown is how deep and how long a recession there may be. It was a testament as to how good James Deane, the current Chief Financial Officer, is at his job that the Borough is still in a relatively sound financial position.



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10.1.3 Cllr Anderson added that in general terms, the workforce within his portfolio is doing a very good job under the circumstances.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Morrish reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing well; there had been a very positive response to the recent consultation and the plan will be submitted to Dacorum Borough Council for a formal review in January. They will have 5-6 weeks to comment. However, there shouldn't be any surprises as the respective teams had been working closely together.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button reported that there had not been a meeting

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that the “Links” website was now live and that hopefully activities would be posted shortly; a meeting was to be arranged with the architect for the Repair Shed and there is an expectation that the costs will be slashed. He had had a meeting with Loretta Anderson (CAD) regarding funding; he would like to discuss the projects list with Loretta in January so that this could be progressed. Members were happy for Cllr Hubberstey to do this.

On a separate note, having looked at accessibility on the Links website, he had noticed that it appeared that the Council's website was not compliant. Cllr Anderson responded that the Council had received a quote for this work from its current website provider and that it was on the to do list.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean reported that the next meeting had been deferred to the new year.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Nothing to report.

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

As mentioned earlier, there had been some road repairs at the bottom of Langley Hill. The usual litter on the Common and Vicarage Lane is as busy as ever.

11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).

Cllr Collins was happy to mention again that the flooding issue had been resolved. He had been in touch with Clean, Safe and Green regarding clearing the leaves and the edges of the footpath from the Premier Inn onwards.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing further to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey).

Nothing further to report.

11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)

Cllr Johnson reported that the Borough would be planting six cherry trees in Coniston Road by the end of March.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Nothing to report.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

Cllr Rogers reported that a new retailer has opened in the High Street, which was good news. It looked like the High Street is up and running again, albeit with a few



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queues, for example, outside the barbers. The Chair added that it looked really busy on Saturday.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that there was very little being done at this time of year apart from clearing leaves. The Clerk added that the Warden will cut the grass multiple times to mulch the leaves. The Chair added that the Warden had built a path to the noticeboard.

11.3.2 Use of the garden by church groups.

Cllr Johnson introduced this item. The Council had received a request from the church to be able to incorporate the village garden into some of its outside activities. There was also a more recent request from Fr James to hold a carol concert in the garden on either the 19th or 20th December. The Council had no objections to either of these requests. Cllr Johnson added that Fr James had invited Members of the Council to attend and would especially appreciate any help that could be given to ensure social distancing.

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 were five food stalls at the last market and that it was inundated with people, and that despite some queuing everyone was very patient and observed social distancing. It was hoped that the next market would have a full complement of stalls with the addition of some choir singing.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Little to report. The Association had not met.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 Cllr Johnson stated that it was planned to have a surgery alongside the village market later this month.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Public Sector Equality Duties

14.1.1 Cllr Hubberstey commented that as the Council had received legal advice from Mr Mistry it needs to make a decision on how it should go forward as he is concerned that the Council may be leaving itself open to prosecution. Cllr Morrish responded that he felt that in the discussions earlier in the meeting there was confusion between a suggestion to move the offices to the Community Centre and the broader need to consider the Council's equality responsibilities. It was important to separate the two issues. Cllr Johnson responded that he did not want to get involved in the earlier discussions, but was more than happy to do a short briefing on this issue with a recommendation based on his experience of being in a senior position in the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Metropolitan Police between 1993 and 1997, the Head of HR Policies in the Metropolitan Police to 2000 and then Head of Human Resources and Professional Standards for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, which included Equalities, from 2000 to 2013. All agreed that this would be very helpful and thanked Cllr Johnson for his offer. Cllr Johnson also agreed to send a copy to Mr



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Mistry. It was further agreed that this would be included on the Full Council agenda for the meeting of 26th January, which is primarily for approving the budget.

14.2 Memorial bench for John North / Circular Tree Bench in Village Garden – update.

14.2.1 After some discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate that one of the Council’s standard benches be installed in the garden. Cllr Angiolini added that he had approached Fr James who had said he would be delighted to perform a brief memorial service. Whilst Members were happy to fund the bench, it was agreed it was understood that there was a collection in the village for a memorial and that those involved, and his family should be consulted before this is taken any further, which Cllr Johnson undertook. The Council would go ahead with the small plaque outside the sandwich bar, as was agreed at the previous meeting.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Rogers asked whether there had been any outcome regarding a request for assistance from the Waterways Experience to do with their desire to extend their quay. The Clerk responded that it was not an item presented to the Council, more, he felt, a request for help from individual Councillors by email. It was agreed that this would not be taken any further unless a formal approach is made directly to the Council.

15.2 Cllr Morrish reported that he had learnt that the Steiner school would not be re-opening in Kings Langley and that this could have major implications with what could happen to the site. He added that the Neighbourhood Plan team were looking at whether any protection of the site could be included in the plan, but it is a prime brownfield site. Cllr Anderson added that it is not quite “prime” because it is still a site of ancient monument and that it has a Grade III listed building, the Dominican Priory.

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

17.1 Charter Court Solar Panels Project (deferred from item 9.6, Part 1 of the agenda).

17.1.1 To consider the enclosed tender responses and determine which tender to accept (previously issued and deferred from the meeting of 10th November 2020). (Cllr Anderson).

17.1.2 The Chair asked Members how they wished to take this forward after the previous debate on the subject and talk of moving offices, to which Cllr Anderson responded that he would like to PROPOSE that the Council accepts the bid from Chiltern Solar, without the battery (he felt that both bids with the battery were too expensive), but that the additional £2,400 in the



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Chiltern Solar bid gave the Council 60% more benefit. He was also concerned that the other bidder declined to attend for a site visit despite it being a requirement of the tender. Cllr Angiolini **SECONDED** Cllr Anderson's proposal.

Cllr Hubberstey responded that he had no objection to the Council wishing to implement these kinds of environmental improvements but was still concerned that he felt that the status of Charter Court was not certain and that if a decision is hurried now the Council is then committed for 9 years after the lease expires, again in the light of its duties under the Equalities Act. He therefore **PROPOSED** that the decision be deferred until the Council's tenure is secured. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Rogers.

Cllr Rogers asked, "why are we doing this?" The Chair responded that it was environmentally the responsible thing to do for the village, adding that the Environmental Group is 100% behind it. Cllr Rogers followed up by asking whether the Council had considered any other measure, to which the Chair responded that it had, including a heat pump, which would be impractical, especially because of the expense of installing underground pipes, as would a wind turbine because of space. He was unaware of any other options. Cllr Rogers suggested better insulation and green cladding as options, although the Chair replied that that would not reduce the carbon footprint.

Cllr Johnson responded that, whilst not being a fan of solar panels or wind turbines, he had been on a number of courses with the Local Government Association on the issue of climate change and had asked on each occasion how the Parish Council could reduce its carbon footprint to net zero. He was told that there were two ways: 1, install solar panels and 2, replace the van with an electric one. Other than that, the Parish Council's options are limited. He added that in September 2019 the Council made a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint to net zero in 10 years and that the only way the Council will do this is to put solar panels on the building that it occupies. The Chair added that he agreed with Cllr Johnson as did the Environment Group, and that the Council had signed up to the environment crisis "charter" and is doing nothing.

The Chair asked that Cllr Hubberstey's proposal to defer the decision on this item be put to the vote. Cllr Rogers argued against as he felt that there hadn't been a discussion about alternative proposals, the pros and cons, and that the Council had not seen information about the amount of electricity that would be generated and what the return on the investment would be, to which the Chair responded that that this information had previously been provided.

The Chair then put Cllr Hubberstey's proposal to the vote and it was recorded as follows:

Those in favour:	3 (Cllrs Hubberstey, Rogers, Collins)
Those against:	7 (Cllrs Button, Angiolini, Anderson, De Silva, McLean, Morrish, Johnson)

The proposal was lost.

Cllr Hubberstey requested that the voting be recorded, as above.

The Chair now put Cllr Anderson's original proposal to the vote, that the Council accepts the tendered quote from Chiltern Solar. Cllr Rogers argued against this. He waved a quote (for the same amount) from an alternative supplier in front of his screen. Cllr Anderson said that you can't introduce a new tender once the process has closed. Cllr Rogers continued to argue that he was unhappy with the whole process and that he believed it was being "railroaded". The Clerk responded that other companies had the opportunity to respond to



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the tender. Cllrs Rogers and Hubberstey continued to comment, but the Chair said he would put the issue to the vote.

The Chair then put Cllr Anderson's proposal to the vote, and it was recorded as follows:

Those in favour: 7 (Cllrs Button, Angiolini, Anderson, De Silva, McLean, Morrish, Johnson)

Those against: 3 (Cllrs Hubberstey, Rogers, Collins)

The proposal was carried.

17.1.3 Cllr Anderson added that he would like to suggest that he asked the Borough Council to provide training on procurement as he felt it would be very helpful for all.

18. Budget 2021-22

18.1 Cllr Anderson presented this item. Firstly, he shared on his screen the summary of savings and growth and explained the changes from the previous draft. These had reduced the precept by some £200. He then explained further changes in the main body of the budget and asked if there were any questions.

18.1.2 Cllr Rogers asked why there was an allocation of £1,500 to the warden's van. Cllr Anderson responded that the Council is saving £1,500 every year to build up towards replacing the van. Cllr Rogers then asked how often the Council replaced the van. Cllr Anderson responded that it would be when the Council could afford it or when it became necessary, but, as it appeared to be the Council's will to buy an electric van, it may take longer than originally planned. The Clerk added that he anticipated that the van would not need to be replaced for at least another 5 or 6 years. The Chair asked whether it would be worth leasing a vehicle. This idea was supported. Cllr Rogers responded that the cost of an electric vehicle could be in the region of £32,000 to £36,000 and that would mean it would take 20 to 22 years to pay for a new van, he also asked whether it would reduce the Council's carbon footprint to which the Chair responded that by that time with the government banning the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles, the Council would have to buy electric anyway. Cllr Rogers argued that the Council should have looked at whether an electric vehicle would reduce its carbon footprint, to which the Chair responded that it wasn't being looked at for at least 5 years, but he insisted that whilst he remains Chair, the Council would be buying or leasing an electric vehicle when the time came. It was agreed that £1,500 pa probably wasn't enough, however, increasing that amount would raise the precept. The Clerk suggested that the Council uses the amount in the fund to pay a large deposit against a lease.

18.1.3 Cllr Anderson asked that if anyone felt strongly against what he was proposing in this budget that they proposed an alternative.

18.1.4 The Chair was concerned that given the current climate the Council will need to be very transparent in its justification of the increase, albeit it was small. Cllr Hubberstey added that, having been on the budget and finance training courses, he felt it was very thorough and was happy with it, Cllr Anderson added that there is still an outstanding factor which is the number of taxpayers, which Dacorum Borough Council has not announced yet. He also hoped that there would be a clearer statement on pay.

Meeting closed at 10:30pm.