



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2021.

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; Mr Tony Pearson, Love Lane.

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 PCSO Ian Martin was not present but had provided information on the 2 recorded crimes for December 2020, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Damage or destroy <£5k	1	Chipperfield Road – damage to lawn caused by car turning around
Theft - other	1	Chipperfield Road – theft of 3 sinks from rear garden (garden backs onto allotments)
Total	2	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 6 recorded crimes in the previous month (November).

4.1.3 The reports were noted, and that they were the lowest numbers reported.

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 None - Cllr Roberts was not present.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 Cllr Roberts was not present. Cllr Button reported that there were roadworks at the (southern) end of the High Street related to a power failure. There were traffic lights, but traffic seemed to be flowing fairly well.



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6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 8th December 2020.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th December 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Cllr Angiolini reminded Members that the Abbeyfield had requested a grant of £450 towards its redecoration project, but that the Council was only able to contribute £250. However, he had approached Barry Denmead, of Wilden Serves and he had agreed to make up the difference.

7.2 Cllr Johnson reported that he had spoken to some of the residents who had been involved in the memorial considerations for the late John North. There had been a collection and he sought clarification whether the Council felt that this could be a contribution towards the cost of a memorial bench that it had already agreed to provide. Cllr Anderson responded that (having looked again), he would like to see the bench placed in Rucklers Lane near to where John lived, at a spot where there is quite a wide verge. There was support for this suggestion, rather than one in the village garden as was previously mooted. It was re-confirmed that a plaque would be placed on the hitching rail outside the sandwich bar in the High Street. Cllr Johnson would now go back to the residents with this suggestion. It was further agreed that if they wanted to contribute towards the cost, the Council would underwrite the total cost, which would be acknowledged on the plaque on the bench, and also that Fr James would still be asked to perform a brief ceremony there. It was noted that this wouldn't happen until we were clear of Covid and the building works at the garages had been completed (because of the risk of damage by contractors' vehicles).

7.3 Cllr McLean (ref. Minute 3.1.1) felt that there had been some criticism of the Council by Mr Mistry (of the Herts Equality Council) related to its Equality duties and reminded Members that Cllr Morrish had agreed to check with the Council's consultant where these might be relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Morrish responded that the consultant's views remained that these were national issues rather than those that should appear in a Neighbourhood Plan. He added that the Clerk had also been making enquiries and trying to find some examples of other local councils that had implemented Equality policies and put these in Neighbourhood Plans but had found none in Hertfordshire. He added further that he had made arrangements for Mr Mistry to meet the consultant, but that the meeting hadn't happened yet.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November and 8th December 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 The Clerk reported that he and the Warden had been examining the condition of the main notice board in the High Street and that whilst it is not an immediate danger to the public, it needs more serious consideration. The Clerk added that he had been investigating the cost of buying a new one and that prices for one of similar design but $\frac{3}{4}$ of the size start at £1,500 and that is without legs and a top (showing the council name) and installation. He added that, given that the frame is in very good condition, he and the Warden felt that together they could repair it, which would include attaching concrete spurs to the legs for no more than £150 for materials. Cllr Hubberstey confirmed that the "Repair Shed" would not be able to do it as there was no-one to contact at the moment. Members were happy to proceed according to the Clerk's suggestion. The Clerk added that he would not expect to do it until the weather warmed up.

8.4.2 Cllr Rogers asked the Clerk whether he was any closer to being able to issue draft minutes sooner, because it was sometimes difficult for Members to remember what had happened. The Clerk responded that the latest set of Minutes had been very difficult to produce, as could be indicated by how long they were, and especially as he felt that it was very important that he represented everybody's points of view fairly. He added that the minutes of the current meeting would not be quite so difficult except that there will be only 3 weeks to do them and that there is an additional meeting in between. The Clerk added further that he should be in a better position with the minutes of the February meeting. It was noted that Zoom and Word have options to transcribe speech into text, but the Clerk was unsure that they would help, but might be something to consider in the future.

8.4.3 Cllr Hubberstey asked whether it might be appropriate for the Council to purchase its own Zoom licence so that it could be used for all Council and Group meetings. The Chair added that the licence wasn't expensive, approximately £150 pa, but would check.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden had swept the whole of the west side of the High Street and had removed the accumulation of moss on the top of the bus stop shelters.

8.5.2 Cllr Hubberstey asked whether it was true that the Warden would be leaving shortly. The Clerk responded that he had intended reporting this later in the meeting but confirmed that the Warden had given notice to leave at the end of April, which does, fortunately give the Council a good amount of time to find a replacement. All agreed that he would be a great loss. It was also agreed that a Personnel Committee meeting would be convened as soon as practicably possible.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for December 2020.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for December 2020 in the sum of £11,706.31 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.



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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 31st December 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:	£110,396.37
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47

9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2020-21.

9.3.1 Members considered and noted the reports as at 31st December 2020, which had been provided with the agenda, and the statement to that effect, was signed by the Chair.

9.4 Internal Audit Fee Letter for the Year Ending 31st March 2021.

9.4.1 The Clerk stated that the Council's current internal auditor was very good and immensely helpful in ensuring that the Council's accounts are correct and will pass the external audit. He therefore recommended that Members accepted this letter and retained his services. This was agreed.

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 there had not been any Borough meetings since the last Parish Council meeting, adding that Covid and the Local Plan were the two big issues currently.

10.1.3 Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) Emerging Strategy for Growth – Consultation. This item had been referred by the Planning and Licencing Committee meeting of 12th December 2020. A summary had been re-printed and re-issued with the agenda. The Chair pointed out that Kings Langley's allocation for the period was 274, which he felt did not seem too bad. It was noted that Hemel Hempstead and Tring seemed to be fairing far worse.

There were several observations, comments, clarifications and exchanges of information, particularly relating to the sites and numbers that were included. In response to a question from Cllr McLean, Cllr Anderson confirmed that the builds considered in the Planning and Licencing Committee meeting earlier and any other so called "windfall" developments were included in Kings Langley's 274 allocation. Cllr Anderson added that he hoped that colleagues would be able to support his desire to stop Sunderland's Yard from being awarded General Employment Area Protected Status because he felt that its uses were inappropriate for many reasons and he regularly received complaints from nearby residents about the anti-social nature of the various activities on the site. He would like to see it developed for residential purposes. Other Members were concerned with the loss of jobs and of small industrial units and commercial enterprise.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had to incorporate whatever emerged from the Local Plan.

As the deadline has been extended until February 28th, it was agreed that this would be deferred until a further meeting, but, Cllr Anderson added, it was important that



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someone assumed responsibility for compiling the Parish Council's submission; it would be difficult for him to do because of a conflict of interest.

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 draft Neighbourhood Plan was accessible on the website. There had been some very good and positive responses to it, and it has now been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council for a "Strategic Environmental Assessment process". It will soon be ready for "Reg 14" which involves submission for further approvals. Cllr Morrish added that the plan was virtually complete and that there had been a great deal of work to achieve it, but it would be a very valuable document for the village. The Chair asked that congratulations be noted.

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 the group was still meeting monthly and that having reviewed its project sequencing felt that it should be reported that there would need to be some fluidity in the plans, perhaps between years.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean reported that there had not been a meeting but he hoped to organise one so that he could report to February Council.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Cllr Angiolini reported that there is a water leak outside the fuel station and that he had notified the water company. He added that it will be very dangerous if it froze and asked that if anyone else noticed it that they would also report it.

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 verges in Havelock Road seemed to be the latest that have been churned up. It was noted that in most cases this was by residents. Cllr Collins felt that it was time that the Council took a view on how this problem should be tackled. It seems that so many people have no respect for the village. Cllr Anderson reminded Members that the verges belonged to Herts Highways and so it is difficult for the Parish Council.

Cllr Rogers believed the solution was to place logs on the verge to stop parking, which had worked at the top of Coniston Road, but it was noted that Highways would be unhappy with this idea. The Clerk added that he could not condone the Council doing this as it was contrary to what the Herts Highways would allow us to do. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Roberts to ask what Hertfordshire County Council were doing about it.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing further to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that he had been trying to contact Sue Bean from West Side regarding the accumulation of leaves on the path but was not getting a response. He would contact Cllr Roberts to see he could push for some action.



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There had been a massive improvement in the flow of traffic at the lights since the invention. He had emailed to say, “well done”. He would be doing a quick litter pick in his area shortly as there had been an unexpected build up of litter recently.

11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)

Cllr Johnson reported that enabling work for the development at the top of Coniston Road had been due to start the previous day, but it appeared to have been delayed. The Clerk responded that there had been a report of vehicles arriving which appeared to be getting ready for some work, possibly looking at what was required regarding the works to the trees. Cllr Johnson added that the site was due to be fenced off the following week.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish agreed that the junction did appear to be working well, but, of course, there is a lower level of traffic at the moment. It seemed to be much safer and more open now. Cllr Anderson added that there was a very small gap between the railway bridge parapet and the traffic light post making it difficult for wheelchair users.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

It was noted that there had been some filming at Dallings, apparently a commercial for butter.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that he and the Warden were keeping an eye on the garden.

There had been some minor vandalism to one of the plants. Given the weather it was still looking good with plenty of colour.

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 in accordance with the Covid regulations, the market will not be operating until further notice.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Nothing to report. The Association had not met.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 There would not be a surgery until the market re-starts.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 None.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Hubberstey commented that the All-Saints’ food bank was very well used over Christmas and that we should all be mindful that despite this being an affluent area there is a need for social support.

15.2 Cllr Johnson asked whether the Council should be thinking about a date for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chair agreed to discuss this with the Clerk later in the week.

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

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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 Cllr Anderson presented version 4 of the budget. He updated Members on the changes that had occurred since the last issue. In the main these had occurred because of changes by Dacorum Borough Council, namely, the phasing out of the Council Tax Benefit Grant, a reduction in the Resource Base and no increase in the Warden pay element of the Concurrent Services Support Grant. To retain the precept per the previous version of the budget, he had removed the transfer to the projects fund. This kept the precept increase to 3.3%. There were further minor changes in the funds budgets.
- 17.1.1 Cllr Morrish sought clarification regarding the use of projects money that wasn't spent, on other projects. Cllr Anderson explained that there was some flexibility as long as these types of movements did not result in an overspend. In some circumstances, the Council would have to agree a specific "virement", in accordance with its Financial Regulations.
- 17.1.2 Cllr Hubberstey contended that having gone through a major exercise in October and November to prioritise projects that the various groups had put forward, that those projects should be shown in the budget under the projects fund. He felt it was especially important that they were shown formally as he would be discussing funding with external bodies. Cllr Anderson felt that as no costs had been identified they should not appear in the Council's financial budget but in the Neighbourhood Plan. After further lengthy debate, it was agreed at the suggestion of the Clerk that these items could be shown in the projects fund with zero values. In supporting this, Cllr Johnson added that the Council had to be very careful how these projects are represented in the budget because it is a public document. Cllr Morrish reminded Members that it had been agreed that those projects defined as "small", where the costs of which had been identified, would be shown in the budget, but that "medium" and "large" projects would be managed via the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Hubberstey also suggested that it might help the public's understanding if a commentary was shown. Cllr Anderson responded that this was included in the reports to the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Anderson asked for a list for inclusion which Cllr Hubberstey agreed to send this to the Clerk for forwarding.
- 17.1.3 It was then:

Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that this budget be formally and publicly presented for approval at a special meeting of the Council to be held on 26th January 2021.

Meeting closed at 9:42pm.