



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held “virtually” on Tuesday 26th January 2021.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 None received.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 Cllr Anderson and Johnson declared a Personal Interest in budgetary matters because of their capacity as Borough Council Members.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 There were no members of the public present.

3. Financial Year 2021-22.

3.1 BUDGET.

3.1.1 Version 4.0 of the budget for the financial year 2021-22 had been circulated with the agenda and had previously been considered and supported at the Council meeting on 7th January 2020, subject to the addition of the purchase of the Council’s own copy of a “Zoom” licence. Cllr Morrish thanked Cllr Anderson for including the “small projects” in the projects fund, adding that the “medium and large projects” had been included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.1.2 It was proposed (Cllr McLean), seconded (Cllr Morrish, and RESOLVED that:

Version 4.0 of the budget be approved and adopted.

3.1.3 Cllr Hubberstey felt that there may be some confusion with some of the items in the projects fund because it is unclear who has overall responsibility, ie the Parish, Borough or County responsibility. He cited “The Common Top area” and the “Hempstead Road curtilage”, which he understood were the responsibility of the Borough and the County, respectively. So, he wondered if his could be shown in the comments. There was a concern that this might result in most of the items in the projects fund being shown as ultimately someone else’s responsibility. However, there is an explanation of this in the report to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk suggested that the word “contribution” could be added the projects in question. Cllr Anderson responded that would happen anyway.

3.2 PRECEPT.

3.2.1 It was proposed, seconded, and RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Parish of Kings Langley under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby gives notice to Dacorum Borough Council that in respect of the financial year beginning on 1st April 2021 it requires the PRECEPT sum of £119,872.78 to meet the expenses of the Council and it hereby requires the levy of the said PRECEPT sum as an additional item of the Council Tax for the Parish and it requires this sum to be paid to Kings Langley Parish Council by 30th April 2021.



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3.2.2 CONCURRENT SERVICES.

3.2.2.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Parish of Kings Langley hereby approves submission to Dacorum Borough Council of the estimates of "Concurrent Services" expenses for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2021 in the sum of £20,988.93.

3.3 COMPLETION OF PARISH FORM

3.3.1 The paperwork in relation to the precept and the application to Dacorum Borough Council for approval of the concurrent services expenditure was then completed and duly signed by the Chair (Cllr Button), the Vice Chair (Cllr Angiolini) and Cllr Anderson.

4 Other Matters

4.1 Equalities Act

4.1.1 A "Briefing note on aspects of the Equality Act 2010, Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) and Charter Court accessibility" produced by Cllr Johnson had been issued to Members with the agenda. Cllr Johnson introduced this item, reminding Members that he had agreed to produce this briefing note and recommendation for the Council's consideration at its meeting on the 8th December 2020. He added that it was not easy to produce because he could not find any examples of other parish councils management of this issue. The Clerk confirmed this and that Mr Mistry of the HEC was also unable to help, in this respect. The Clerk added that the best he could find was a five-page, comprehensive "Equality and Diversity Policy" on Kimpton PC's website, where the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Council's legal officer is clerk, and a one-page statement from Buntingford Town Council. There was no evidence of any equality impact assessments. He congratulated Cllr Johnson on the production of the briefing. Cllr Hubberstey responded that it did appear that parish council were not publishing very much, including financial reports.

4.1.1.1 Cllr Hubberstey stated that he was still concerned that the Parish Council had not addressed specific public sector equality duties (section 149 of the Equality Act), which he had raised at a previous meeting. He had circulated a document from the Government Equalities Office entitled "Equality Act 2010: Public Sector Equality Duty. What Do I Need to Know? A Quick Start Guide for Public Sector Organisations". The Clerk suggested that the Council may wish to wait until Dacorum Borough Council's new Equalities Officer had settled in and see if he / she could advise. Cllr McLean urged caution on the Council's part not to be drawn into producing a large document that may not be necessary, but he would like to see a copy of the abovementioned document, whilst supporting the Clerk's suggestion.

4.1.1.2 Cllr Morrish added that he had examined the requirements of the Act relating to the Neighbourhood Plan and had explained to Mr Mistry that the group had consulted widely across the village and given people an opportunity to participate in the Parish Plan survey and wouldn't be taking it any further.

Meeting closed 8:24pm