



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 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; County Councillor Richard Roberts; Mr Gary Ansell.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 None.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 Mr Ansell was attending to observe.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 The report for January 2021 was not available.

4.1.1 The Clerk reported that he had received a late note from PCSO Martin that there had been 3 reported crimes. The formal report would be received later.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

5.1 General Matters

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts reported that he had been in conversation with the library service in Kings Langley in looking at “possibilities” including the use of the building / infilling the under-utilised central part, which might interest to the Parish Council for use by the history society, for example.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 Cllr Roberts reported that he had looked at the latest version of the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) and noted that the resurfacing of Junction 20 of the M25 was planned for next year. He was pleased to add that this would mean that the A4251 through the whole of Kings Langley would have been resurfaced in recent years.

5.2.2 Cllr Roberts then responded to an email from the Clerk regarding the Council’s concerns with the worsening damage to grass verges. He highlighted that the appalling weather had not helped but that it was the Kings Langley residents in the main who were causing the damage. He suggested that one approach might be to engage with the community in seeking a solution, which could perhaps be verge hardening like the “Grasscrete” in Beechfield (although that doesn’t look very nice right now as no grass has ever grown through it). The Chair responded that he agreed that it was mainly our residents that were causing the damage, which was very disappointing, and suggested



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that a social media campaign might help and even raise awareness amongst those causing the damage. Cllr Hubberstey warned that the Council should be careful not to be appearing to be telling people off and almost becoming the “enemy”. He asked Cllr Roberts if he could offer some advice for publication about what could be done. Cllr Morrish suggested that there were particular areas, eg Hempstead Road / Coniston Road corner, where may be a more direct approach would work better, perhaps as a pilot, explaining what could be done. There is of course the question of cost and who pays. Cllr Roberts suggested that there might be some spare money in that set aside for drainage issues in his HLB budget next financial year, but it might be possible to set further money aside to deal with this issue over a two-year plan covering 2022-2024. Cllr McLean added he thinks a consultation is a good idea, but also felt that as a short-term solution, large tree trunks as a preventative measure could be placed on the verges, and that this suggestion could be in in the consultation. He added that he would like to see the area opposite the football ground used as a pilot for placing logs. The Chair reiterated that he was concerned about the legal aspects of using logs. Cllr Morrish suggested that the Transport Group could take on this issue, which was agreed.

5.2.3 Cllr Roberts spoke of yet another accident at the junction of Vicarage lane where a vehicle ended up against the wall of the Estate Agents. He is going to discuss with Highways the requirement to improve the protection of that area from anything more serious. The Chair responded that he is aware that the whole building shook on impact.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 12th January 2021.

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th January 2021 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

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 15th December 2020 and 12th January 2021 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair’s Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair was pleased to note that several food outlets were prevailing through the pandemic, but was worried for the smaller units in the village.

8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

8.3.1 None.



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8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.

8.4.1 The Clerk reported that he had been involved in working with an officer from Dacorum Borough Council, which had kindly offered to help the Council on the Fire Risk Assessment for Charter Court, adding that one item highlighted was that there were no sensors in the loft, and that as the others in the office were due to be replaced anyway, because of their age, the new ones would be added to that job. He had also been looking at the benches project, in particular a request for a new dedicated one on The Common, sorting out the recruitment arrangements and timetable for the new Village Warden, looking at paperwork and arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, and organising electricians to quote for new heating and replacement of the old fuse distribution board and connectivity for the solar panels at Charter Court.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden had repainted the hitching rail, replenished the salt in the bins and is likely to be moving a bin from the first cul-de-sac in Rucklers Lane to the second from where Hertfordshire County Council had removed one.

Cllr Anderson joined the meeting at this point.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for January 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for January 2021 in the sum of £10,804.43 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

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 a further iteration of the budget had been considered this evening and that it will be presented for final approval later in the month. Covid had taken its toll and parish councils have not done very well out of the budget. Cllr Anderson added there had been some unexpected windfalls from the government and that having an exceptional financial management team at the Borough, has meant that it is not in as bad a position as some other authorities.

10.1.3 Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) Emerging Strategy for Growth – Consultation. This item had been deferred from the previous meeting to give Members an opportunity to submit comments for consideration at this meeting. The Clerk reported that he had not received any. However, it had been agreed that Cllrs Johnson and Rogers would prepare a comments / submission paper for consideration at the Planning and Licencing Committee meeting on 16th February 2021, the deadline for comments having been moved to 28th February. Cllr Rogers was concerned that there may be conflict between this submission and the Neighbourhood Plan but was assured by other Members that this would not be the case. Members thanked Cllr Johnson and Rogers for undertaking this task.



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Members considered additional items submitted as part of the debate from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Great Gaddesden Parish Council but decided not to take any further action on them.

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 group would be receiving the Design Codes from the Acon study this week and reviewing on Friday. There had been an informal assessment from the Borough's planning department and some suggestions which have been readily accepted. It will now have to be presented to various government agencies. The next phase is "Reg 14" and then final examination. Meanwhile the comments on the plan are still being looked at.

Cllr Morrish added that the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan team had undertaken to ensure that those in the Gade Valley would be represented there.

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 brought forward item 14.1 (Notice board for London Road) to understand what was needed to move it forward. The Clerk responded that, as had been discussed, there would need to be a model / style options and cost statement and a resolution to its location, permissions and possible survey requirements. There had been a misunderstanding. The Clerk and Chair agreed to explore the possibilities and report back to Council. The Clerk added that permission and a survey would be required to site it and he would make the appropriate enquiries.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean was pleased to report that all the members of the group were now fit and well and that they would be meeting next week.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Cllr Angiolini reiterated his concerns regarding the water leak outside the fuel station especially how dangerous it would be if it froze. It was established that this was not a Highways issue, and the Clerk reported that the owners of the fuel station had been in conversation with the office and would be taking action to resolve 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).

Nothing to report.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Cllr De Silva reported that the verges in Mill Lane were churned up. He had looked at the "AGC" building in Waterside in the light that there were plans to develop it and was interested in whether it had any historical significance.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that he carried out a litter pick recently and collected two full bags, much of which appeared to be overflow from blue bins. He wondered whether Cllr Johnson's experiences were similar, to which he responded that most of what he found was dumped around litterbins and disturbance by feral animals. However, he is finding that the Warden had been clearing much of it. Cllr



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Hubberstey is still awaiting action from Sue Bean from West Side on the hedge, although she has promised to provide some dates. Cllr Roberts interjected that there is a bigger piece of work to consider widening the path there. Cllr Angiolini pointed out that the lampposts would present a problem with widening.

11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)

Cllr Johnson reported the site at the top of Coniston Road had been secured. There had been no problems with flooding on Watford Road despite the weather. He thanked Cllr Roberts again.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish stated that the drainage problem in front of Miller and Carter seemed to be cured. Thanks again to Cllr Roberts. He had reported an issue with the road surface at the new Rucklers Lane junction and was very pleased with the quick response he had received. Cllr McLean reported that with the amount of rain recently the “rural” part of Rucklers Lane had been horrendous with flooding right across the road, sweeping a large volume of debris down to the “urban” part. Cllr Roberts responded that there was £10m in next year’s budget for drainage schemes and he has been pressing for action in this respect. He agreed that Rucklers Lane was a major problem, as was Langley Hill, and he suggested that the Parish Council might want to nominate priority schemes for action. Several reasons for this the Rucklers Lane problem were propounded; Cllr Anderson felt that the main cause was the farmer having built a culvert to drain his fields on to the road. It was agreed that the Transport Group would take this on.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

Cllr Rogers had nothing to report, but the Chair reported that there had been some electrical issues at the southern end.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the garden was still looking good despite the weather. He added that the Sunderland’s Yard allotments had been badly flooded.

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 plan was to run a February market with just food stalls.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting at this point and was thanked for his attendance and contributions.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Nothing to report.

13. Council Surgeries.

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

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Notice board for London Road (Cllr Hubberstey).

14.1.1 This was dealt with earlier at 11.1.3.



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15. Any Other Business.

- 15.1 Cllr Mclean reported that there had been quite a lot of aggressive begging at Sainsburys and he asked whether Cllr Hubberstey could put something on Facebook, which he agreed to do.
- 15.2 Cllr Anderson asked if anything had been agreed earlier before he joined the meeting about the removal of the salt bin in Rucklers Lane by Hertfordshire County Council. Cllr Anderson relayed his understanding of the situation etc. He was very unhappy with what had happened and would continue to pursue his complaint with Hertfordshire County Council. In the meantime, the Clerk and the Warden would be arranging a salt bin for the second cul-de-sac and will be stencilling "KLPC" on those that are owned by the Parish Council.
- 15.3 The Clerk raised questions re the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that it would start at 7pm with Zoom starting at 6:30 and that there would be an item for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 15.4 Cllr Johnson reported that he had spoken to Bob Best regarding the memorial bench for John North. Only £5 had been raised, which means that the Parish Council would be funding it.
- 13.5 It was noted that the community had sadly lost yet another Rucklers Lane and village stalwart in Peter Field.

Meeting closed at 9:33pm.