

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY
11th APRIL 2019

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11th April 2019 at Kings Langley Community Centre, The Nap, Kings Langley.

Present: Kings Langley Parish Councillors: Anderson, Angiolini, Button (Chair), Collins, De Silva, Johnson, Morrish and Rogers

Also present: PCSO Ian Martin
Mr Gary Lewis, Headteacher, Kings Langley School
Mrs Frances Stickley, Chair of Governors, Kings Langley School
Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk, Kings Langley Parish Council,
Mrs Beverley Ross, Administrative Assistant, Kings Langley Parish Council
Mr Paul Savin, Village Warden
40 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Button, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 He then introduced those sitting at the top table.
- 1.3 He informed the meeting that generally he intended to take all reports as read, although allowing time for general questions at the end of each.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were recorded on behalf of Councillors Jackson and McLean; County Councillor Richard Roberts; David Fisher, Kings Langley School and Eric Martin, Kings Langley Charities.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 It was proposed, seconded and resolved: -
That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th April 2018 be adopted as a true record.
- 3.2 The Chair then signed the minutes.

4. Presentation of the Community Awards 2019 (Part 1)

- 4.1 Cllr Morrish presented a Community Award to the members of the carnival committee: Carol Chandler, Margaret Rogers and Beverley Funnel (absent). This item was brought forward as requested by Carol Chandler as she had to leave the meeting early.

5. Annual Report of the Council

- 5.1 Cllr Button introduced the report of which copies were available and stated that he would take the report as read.

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY
11th APRIL 2019

- 5.2 He invited residents to come along to Council meetings.
- 5.3 Cllr Button stated that regarding the MOTO planning application, the Council was looking into the detail and will be responding although the land in question was not in our parish.
- 5.4 Cllr Button thanked Councillor Jackson for her work on the village newspaper and Cllr Morrish for implementing improvements to the canal footpath.
- 5.5 Although the Council was working hard to protect the Green Belt; the application to build on Rectory Farm was thought likely to be approved.
- 5.6 He pointed out that Parish Councillors were unpaid but do what they do for the love the village.

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 Cllr Anderson stated that the accounts for 2018/19 had not yet been audited.
- 6.2 Precept/Budget for 2019/20.
- 6.3 There were no questions.

7. Parish Plan Survey Report

- 7.1 Cllr Morrish gave thanks to Andrew Levy, Chris Pichon, Eric Martin, James Markham and John Ingleby for giving their time so generously on this important village initiative.
- 7.2 The team had conducted a survey of village opinion on a range of topics and responses had been received from just over one thousand residents. The next stage was to present the full report for adoption by the Parish Council at their June meeting.
- 7.3 The survey found that 95% of residents wanted Kings Langley to remain a village and that future development should be on brownfield sites, with starter homes for local young people given priority. Nearly 90% wanted to see more recycling initiatives and growing of local food. Nearly 80% thought the High Street could be improved through traffic calming measures. Many thought recreation facilities were inadequate for young people.
- 7.4 In answer to a question on the TIK allotment area on Rectory Farm, Cllr Morrish reported that the allotments would not be lost, but would be relocated to a different area.
- 7.5 Mr Ashford raised the issue of the pinch point in the High Street which caused traffic jams and suggested two parking bays be removed. Cllr Button pointed out that this was a County Council issue and shopkeepers were against any parking spaces being removed but he would speak again to County Councillor Richard Roberts. The previous idea of removing the bank on the other side of the road had proved cost prohibitive. Claire Carpentier spoke about the ridiculous speed of vehicles in the village and thought the pinch point slowed vehicles down. Further discussions took place to which Cllr Button said he understood the difference of opinion and the issue would not be forgotten. Mr Ashford replied that the parking spaces could be removed on a temporary basis to see what happens.

8. Police Report

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY
11th APRIL 2019

- 8.1 Crime figures for Kings Langley for the period 1st January to 31st December 2018 were attached to the agenda. There were 158 crimes recorded in total, up from the 2017 total of 148.
- 8.2 PCSO Ian Martin spoke about the low crime rate in Kings Langley. Burglaries were down from last year but thefts from motor vehicles were up and he asked that people make sure they always lock their vehicles. He also informed the meeting that the village's new police constable PC Karl Diggins had been awarded neighbourhood officer of the year and was a great asset to the village.
- 8.3 He also invited anyone not signed up to Neighbourhood Watch to contact him or ward co-ordinator Cllr Jackson for further details. Over 42% of the village were now in the scheme which put Kings Langley second out of the 25 wards in Dacorum.
- 8.4 No questions were asked.

9. Trustees of Kings Langley Charities Report

- 9.1 Thanks were given to Harold Taylor for his passion and dedication who was now stepping down as a trustee. He will be replaced by two new trustees.
- 9.2 The charity was grateful for an additional couple of donations but had spent more than had been received.
No questions were asked.

10. Kings Langley School Report

- 10.1 Gary Lewis informed the meeting that this would be his last report as he was retiring after eighteen years as headteacher. He had hoped to introduce his successor, David Fisher, but unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Lewis was certain his successor would drive the school forward. The school was still oversubscribed and would likely be asked to increase numbers of students in the future.
- 10.2 There followed a brief discussion about the school. Bill Ashford reported that the traffic situation at drop off times had improved but this encouraged more parents to drive so was a double-edged sword and that students should be encouraged to walk. Kim Goode of Tylers Close reported how well behaved the students were which was echoed by Claire Carpentier who thanked Gary Lewis for the fantastic job he had done in turning the school around. Mr Lewis explained that the school worked hard on character building and decision making which had been successful but there were always some students who let the school down.
- 10.3 Julian Mincham said that the press reports on the closing of Rudolf Steiner school had been inaccurate. Mr Lewis reported that some of the students now attended Kings Langley school.

11. Borough Council Report

- 11.1 Cllr Anderson presented this report.
- 11.2 He thanked Cllr McLean who was stepping down from the Borough but remaining on the Parish Council for the good partnership they had had, for which he was grateful.

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY
11th APRIL 2019

- 11.3 Cllr Anderson stated that he had attended a presentation of the planning application for a Motorway service area at junction 20 on the M25 to which the Council was very much opposed and will fight against. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State.
- 11.4 Gary Ansell spoke about the greenbelt issue. He thought targets for house building were ridiculous and that Government policy was to flatten the greenbelt but there were better ways of reducing the housing shortage to which Cllr Anderson said the Council will carry on opposing developments in the greenbelt. However smaller sites would be difficult to resist, and it was likely Rectory Farm would be lost.
- 11.5 Bill Ashford asked if anything was being done about the problem of parking in Red Lion Lane to which Cllr Anderson said he had been in touch with the owners of the land next to the Red Lion public house who want to sell, to explore the siting of a three storey car park. Yellow lines were not the answer as they simply move the problem elsewhere. Jeff Dalling pointed out that the housing development in the lane was a good example of a 'bad development,' to which Cllr Anderson stated that it was made difficult for local planners as so many homes are needed.
- 11.6 The issue of electric points was raised to which Cllr Anderson said that the provision of electric points was being looked into and the private sector was doing the same. Jeff Dalling thought that it would be a big mistake to leave it to the private sector as he thought it would probably go wrong and cost more.
- 11.7 Susan Wallace asked how much cooperation there was between Dacorum and Three Rivers Council as although she did not reside in the parish, people just over the border still consider themselves part of Kings Langley. Cllr Anderson informed her that the Council had a duty to co-operate and there had been instances where South West Herts had worked together. There are however political differences and Dacorum had more undeveloped land. Susan reported that Leighton Buzzard had fought off a development which was down to 'people power' and it was down to the general public to fight against developments and not just leave it to councillors.
- 11.8 Bill Ashford complained about roads not being swept, overgrown verges, dirty paths and blocked drains to which Cllr Anderson advised him to report the issues to Hertfordshire County Council.
- 11.9 Christopher Carnaghan raised the issue of Watford General Hospital, saying he had attended a meeting and was now under the impression that keeping the hospital in Watford was a done deal. £450,000,000 was not sufficient to build a new hospital and Watford General would be rebuilt with new access improvements and a proposed new carpark to which Cllr Anderson stated he was concerned about the sheer impracticability of rebuilding the hospital while it was still operating.

12. County Council Report

- 12.1 Cllr Roberts was not present at the meeting and had not produced a report.
12.2 No questions were asked.

13. Resolutions

- 13.1 To consider any resolutions received. No written resolutions had been received.

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF KINGS LANGLEY
11th APRIL 2019

14. Presentation of Community Awards 2019 (Part 2) and Photography Competition Awards

14.1 The rest of the nominees for the Kings Langley Community Awards 2019 were read out:

Name:	Nominated By:	
Ann Johnson Susan Wallace	Valerie Lee Sec. Tony Burnell	For initiating and running a Garden Club for children in years 3 & 4 of Kings Langley Primary School <i>(Work with Young Persons)</i>
Jeff & Claire (Dalling & Co)	Andrew Levy Sec. Victoria Bate	For their engagement and contribution to the community of Kings Langley <i>(Action in the Community)</i>
Wendy Smith Ann Kircher Pat Blake Phyllis Ratcliffe	Ann Waine Sec. Sian Roberts	For many years of dedication to the Guiding movement in Kings Langley <i>(Work with Young Persons)</i>

14.2 The winners of the 2019 Photographic Competition were announced:

Over 14 Category:

Philip China with his photo of local residents walking through Wayside Farm.

Under 14 Category:

Beatrice Dormer-French with her photo of the canal.

15. Questions/Any Other Business

15.1 John Chipperfield asked if there was any truth in the rumour concerning the old youth club building being turned into flats and was told that it was just a rumour and was not on the horizon at the moment.

15.2 Mr Peacock gave thanks to the people on the top table.

15.3 Julian Mincham wondered what could be done to make young people interested in what goes on, pointing out that the people attending the meeting were mostly middle aged to which Cllr Button said it was a good idea to look at youth development and it would be put on the next agenda for consideration.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.