



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2nd March 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..

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 4 recorded crimes for January 2021, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Theft – other	2	Texaco fuel station – drive off without payment (2)
Drug related	2	Rucklers Lane – cannabis Shendish - cannabis
Total	4	

4.1.1 The Clerk added that he had just received the report for February on which there were 2 crimes.

4.1.2 The report was noted.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

5.1 General Matters / Highways Matters

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts reported that the County had approved its 2021-22 budget the previous week, and he highlighted that there were additional sums of, £10m for flooding and blocked drains, £2m for the voluntary sector, £10m for highways (including £7m for 20mph schemes, £3m for local roads) and an enhancement for a further 2 years of £4m each year for local roads – the good news here is that residential and unclassified roads had seen investment that had reduced those considered to be unsatisfactory from 17% 3 years ago down to 7% now. 3-4% of A and B roads were considered to be in an “unacceptable” condition.



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- 5.1.2 Cllr Roberts added that at the same meeting as mentioned 5.1.1 the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) was approved. He reminded Members that this included the resurfacing of the roundabout area of Junction 20 of the M25 for next year, and that the whole of Vicarage Lane would receive a thin surface dressing.
- 5.1.2 Conversation regarding the library continued, and the Parish Council would be kept informed.
- 5.1.3 Cllr McLean asked how priorities would be determined for the use of the £10m for flooding measures, as he had a particular concern with Rucklers Lane. Cllr Roberts acknowledged that Rucklers Lane was indeed a serious consideration for Kings Langley, as was Langley Hill.
- 5.1.4 Cllr Hubberstey thanked Cllr Roberts for the work at Apsley Grange which had made a great difference and was very much appreciate by the residents. He also thanked him for his intervention regarding the installation of a bollard to stop parking on the edge of the verge.
- 5.1.5 Cllr Rogers asked whether the High Street “pinch-point” which hadn’t been mentioned for several months was still under consideration. Cllr Roberts responded that it probably hadn’t been mentioned because of the pandemic and the consequent reduction in traffic, but that it was not currently high on any priorities list. The Chair added that it was still part of the deliberations within the Transport Plan.
- 5.1.6 Cllr Morrish added that 20mph zones was a priority for the Transport Group, and he would like to know how to access the funding for it. Cllr Roberts responded that he would be the best point of contact initially, adding that there was considerable support for these schemes.
- 5.1.7 Cllr Collins added that he would like to see the 30mph limit extended farther along the Hempstead Road towards Rucklers Lane. Cllr Anderson responded that the 30mph zone would be extended farther if Rectory Farm is developed. He added that the police had always rejected previous attempts to extend it to the (former) Eagle PH on the grounds of enforceability, because it was very difficult for people to maintain a speed of under 30mph there.
- 5.1.8 The Chair mentioned that there had been some discussion regarding a speed indicating device (SID) on the southbound Watford Road, and wondered if that was an item he could include in his budget. Cllr Roberts responded that there hadn’t been any speed monitoring there for 10 years and wondered if the Council felt that this should be done again. The general feeling was that the money would be better spent on installing another SID.
- 5.1.9 Cllr Hubberstey asked whose remit the triangular parking area in Church Lane by the village garden was if it could be marked out so that an area could be reserved for hearses (when needed) and for disabled access. This had been raised by Fr James. Cllr Roberts responded that this had been discussed some 5 years ago. The Clerk responded that yes, it was Highways land, but the discussion concluded that but that any markings / restrictions were unenforceable. He reminded Members that the church used to place signs and bollards there when there were funerals asking people not to park. Cllr Roberts asked that someone came back to him, maybe after discussion with the Transport Group, with something more specific and he would then see what could be done.
- 5.1.10 Cllr Collins returned to the topic of SIDs (see 5.1.8) and reported that the last time he passed it the one on Watford Road wasn’t working. The Clerk responded that it was ok now. He and the Chair added that it was likely that the solar cells had not been charged enough.



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5.1.11 Cllr McLean reassured Cllr Rogers that the “pinch-point” was definitely on the agenda of the Transport Group, as was the suggestion for a southbound SID on the Watford Road. He added that a further issue regarding parking at All Saints Church (see 5.1.9) which was discussed last time, also unresolved, was the parking of bridal cars. He confirmed that Cllr Roberts would be receiving an invitation to the next meeting of the Transport Group.

5.2 The Hertfordshire (London Road, Red Lion Lane, Hemel Hempstead and Rucklers Lane, Nash Mills Lane, Kings Langley) (Restriction of Waiting) Order 2021. Members were asked if they wished to submit comments on the above.

5.2.1 Members were generally in favour of the proposal, although there were some concerns regarding the decanting of vehicles elsewhere in the area. There was no formal news from the extraordinary meeting that Nash Mills Parish Council had held on this topic. It was noted that the residents’ car park still appeared to be closed. The Clerk added that it was proposed that the residents would have to purchase a £75pa pass to make use of it in future.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th January and 2nd February 2021 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

Cllr Roberts gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point and was thanked for his attendance and contribution.

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 26th January and 2nd February 2021 were adopted as a true record.

8.1.2 Personnel Committee

8.1.2.1 Cllr Rogers commented that the Council hadn’t actually discussed alternatives to directly employing a Warden, suggesting that there were advantages that could be considered in outsourcing the role.

Cllr McLean (a member of the Personnel Committee) responded that it was discussed at the meeting and it was decided that there would be no change, but to keep the option in reserve and to review it from time to time. Cllr Rogers reiterated that there were opportunities with outsourcing that the Council may have missed and couldn’t see from the minutes that there was much of a discussion. The Chair responded that he was not convinced by the idea of outsourcing; the current warden has provided an



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excellent service, adding that much will depend on the outcome of this round of recruitment.

Cllr Anderson added that there had been quite a lengthy discussion at the meeting with the pros and cons being well considered, with the conclusion being that the role needed to be for one individual who lived locally and could deal with issues quickly, overcoming the inertia in larger organisations. He added further that the funding received from the Borough was dependant on the fundamentals of the scheme being followed, and that there was a danger of that funding being withdrawn if the role was outsourced to an organisation away from the village.. The Chair confirmed that it was discussed in some detail.

Cllr Hubberstey sought clarification on the point that Personnel Committee having delegated powers to deal with personnel matters but argued that this related to personnel that were actually active and that a strategic decision of whether the Council should contract out the warden service (or any other services), it should be considered by full council. Cllr Anderson responded that Standing Orders were quite clear on this in that the Personnel Committee deals with ALL personnel matters, ie. anything that involves personnel is in its remit. Cllr Hubberstey continued to press his argument that whether the Council has a Warden or not should be debated by full council, but there was no support for this. He added that with Bovingdon and Chipperfield having outsourced their warden services, he believed that the concurrent service grant could be spent on anything the Council wanted, that it didn't have to be on warden services. Cllr Anderson responded that he had made it quite clear how the scheme worked. This position of Warden may have to be reviewed depending on the outcome of the current recruitment.

8.1.2.2 The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on the 26th January 2021 were then approved and adopted and signed by the Chair.

8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair was pleased to note that the High Street was still surprisingly busy, especially the coffee shops.

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 how happy he and the Admin. Assistant are with the new PCs just installed. They were losing several hours a week waiting for responses and losing connections etc. He added that the new units were much smaller than the outgoing ones. The Clerk added further that the office had had a spot check visit that morning from a representative of the Health and Safety Executive and he was able to tick every box covering our understanding and implementation of the Covid safety requirements.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 No specific update.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for February 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:



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That the payment schedule for February 2021 in the sum of £9,358.57 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 of the Council’s Bank Account Statements (as at 31st January 2021) and approval to sign the statement to that effect. Summaries enclosed.

9.2 Examination and signing of the Council’s Bank Account Statements (as at 31st January 2021).

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 on the two main accounts at the above date were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£100,446.04

9.2.2 The Statement of Interest from NS&I showing interest for the year to 31st December 2020 of £327.85 was noted. This resulted in the following balance as at the 31st January 2021:

NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32
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9.3 New notice board for London Road.

9.3.1 The Clerk had provided details, options and costs of the standard type of notice board previously favoured by the Council. He added that they was very much like the last purchase the Council made which is now in the corner of the village garden, which has two glazed doors. The examples presented this evening are of one that is semi-glazed and one which is fully open. He added that the frame down the centre restricted the number of notices that would be visible. Following further discussion and advice from the Clerk it was:

Proposed (Cllr Button), seconded (Cllr McLean) and RESOLVED:

That the unglazed option be purchased for the sum of £1,008.78.

9.3.2 It was noted that there may be further costs (scan / installation) related to this once the location is determined.

9.4 Charter Court: Heating installation, new RCD distribution board / consumer unit (replacing old fuse boards as recommended in the wiring inspection report) and minor works to accommodate the solar panel installation. A statement of costs and copies of quotes had been issued with the agenda. Members were asked to select a contractor and solution and to approve the expenditure.

9.4.1 The Clerk introduced this item. Firstly, he informed Members that he knew the three contractors who had quoted. He continued to explain that there is not enough room under the stairs to fit the new units. The first contractor proposed building a framework under the stairs to accommodate the units; the second contractor had not proposed a solution at this stage, and the third proposed that the units be placed on the other side of the wall, in the external cupboard, which the Clerk felt was a more



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sound solution. He added further that in looking at the requirements for the heating and the solar panel connectivity, it became obvious that the Council would have to implement the recommendations of the inspection report it had received several years ago, and further that the regulations meant that electricians should not certify any connections to the old equipment anyway.

9.4.2 The Chair asked whether the Council had to take the cheapest quote to which Cllr Anderson responded that this was not mandatory as long as the Council could show reasonable justification.

9.4.3 Cllr Collins asked whether we were saying that the wiring was dangerous to which the Clerk responded that it was that the consumer unit / fuse board was old and no longer suitable. Cllr Collins then suggested that the landlord should be responsible for carrying out and covering the cost of this type of work. The Clerk responded that that was not his reading of the lease, adding that this requirement has emerged because of the Council need to replace the heaters, the money for which has been in the budget for several years now, and they are now in a very poor state and in some cases unusable, and to connect the solar panels. Cllr Rogers supported Cllr Collins' contention in that the lease states that landlord is responsible for the fixtures and fittings and the tenant is responsible for repairs and maintenance, and he argued that the Council is not responsible for the replacement. Cllr Hubberstey also felt that the lease wasn't very clear when it came to replacing equipment. He felt that the Council should get professional advice. He also questioned whether the Council installed the heaters or did they come with the building because this could have a bearing on the situation. Cllr Anderson disagreed with the above and felt that money spent on legal advice would be better spent on doing the work. Cllr Hubberstey reiterated his concerns regarding the legal aspects of what the Council is responsible for and what it can do. He then questioned whether the replacement heaters proposed were the best solution and suggested that heat pumps should be considered. The Chair responded that these were very costly to install. The Chair asked Cllr Hubberstey whether he wished to make a proposal that the Council sought legal advice on this matter, which he did, and this was seconded by Cllr Rogers. This was not put to the vote, instead, Cllr Johnson proposed that the Council sought absolute clarification from Dacorum Borough Council on who is responsible for carrying out this work.. This was agreed.

(There was some confusion throughout this item in that some Members believed the proposal was to replace storage heaters with storage heaters, which was not the case. The proposal was to replace the storage heaters with panel heaters).

9.5 Application for financial assistance – Kings Langley Village News. See enclosed.

9.5.1 Cllr Johnson declared a Personal Interest in this item as he was a volunteer on the newspaper. However, all Members then declared a Personal Interest as it was the Parish Council that had instigated the idea. Cllr Johnson introduced the item explaining that it had been a tough time especially as the paper relied almost entirely on local advertisers for its revenue. This application was part of a larger fundraising campaign. All Members felt that this was worthy cause for something that is valued by the community. It was noted that the purpose of this scheme, and its legality, was not to provide on-going revenue support. However, it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

That Kings Langley Village News be granted a one-off sum £250.



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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 Anderson was sad to report the loss of Dacorum Councillor Graham Sutton, who was the portfolio holder for Planning and was a great character, a gentleman and a really treasured colleague. There was full Council meeting the previous week which discussed the Local Plan, and at which Cllr Rogers and Johnson gave their maiden speeches. Cllr Johnson added that the budget and precept had been agreed.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Morrish reported that Dacorum Borough Council were still awaiting responses from the various agencies. The design codes report had been received and is an excellent document and a useful part of the plan. There had been some debate about green space designation; the cricket pitch at the Steiner school is receiving particular attention, which the group would like to see preserved for future generations to use and enjoy.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button reported that the issue of verge parking had been handed to the Environment Group by the Transport Group, so he hoped to organise a meeting as soon as possible.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey had nothing major to report, but he sought guidance on an initiative to improve parts of the “resting” cemetery (including eg wild flowers and a learning zone for students) in conjunction with or in addition to whatever the Borough might be able to do. At a recent meeting with the Borough it transpired that these were part of its plans, however he and the PCC were concerned that the Borough may not be able to deliver this. Cllr Anderson responded and declared his interest as the Dacorum Borough Council portfolio holder for Environmental Services. He clarified that the churchyard belongs to the church / PCC but the Borough is responsible for the Clean Safe and Green aspect of it. He added that the state of the collapsed graves and subsidence in the newer part was still to be resolved. But the Borough has made the decision that it will do the work. He added further that in terms of extending the path across the church yard, the Borough spent a lot of money on this to the point that it now ends, which is where the PCC had wanted it to stop. The PCC has now changed its view but there is no money left to extend it, so it is for the PCC to resolve. Cllr Hubberstey responded that he was still had concerns and would have a further discussion with Fr James.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean reported on a meeting the group that had taken place that afternoon, which he felt had been the most productive meeting to date. The key projects from the Arup report were being incorporated into a spreadsheet which would indicate high, medium and low categories in terms of priority, costs and timescale. Some aspects crossed boundaries with the Environmental Group and the Leisure Group and at some point there would be a rationalisation of these. The spreadsheet will be shared with Members once it is complete.



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The next stage will be to seek a meeting with HCC and Herts Highways with a view to discussing priorities and funding. Other funding is being explored.

11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Cllr Angiolini reported that the water leak outside the petrol station is getting worse. Environment protection ad Dacorum had been contacted. The Clerk had contacted Cllr Roberts to suggest that the Highways should have some enforcement powers for “illegal discharge on to the public highway”. The response wasn’t particularly positive.

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 was pleased to hear about the verges issue in the transport report. But he reported that the surface on the Hempstead Road was beginning to break up. The Chair suggested that he should report this in the normal way.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reiterated how pleased everyone was with the works outside Apsley Grange. Work on the hedge outside West One was still outstanding.

11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson)’

Cllr Johnson reported that with the schools returning imminently the issue of parking on grass verges may recur, so he would be keeping a watchful eye.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Nothing to report.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

Cllr Rogers reported that there is a fund to help shops which can be applied for at the Borough. Cllr Anderson added that it is a re-start scheme.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the garden was looking more colourful now that spring is arriving. He would be looking at planting over the next few weeks, but also checking on some trees that are “shedding”. The Clerk reported that the Tulip tree would be receiving some more phosphite drench treatment from the tree surgeons in the next couple of weeks. This will promote growth and help to fight disease.

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 they had run a food-only market in February market which was very well supported (the pie man sold 160 pies) and all the bread sold out.. The next market will also be food-only unless the government changes the rules meantime.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Still closed.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 These are still suspended.



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14. Other Matters.

14.1 Community Award 2021.

14.1.1 Cllr Johnson suggested that, given the circumstances of the past year, rather than inviting the public to make nominations, which might miss a few deserving cases, the Parish Council could make a general award to all those, the local businesses in particular, who had made such an effort to keep the community going. Cllr Collins suggested that the Good Neighbours also deserved some recognition. Cllr McLean suggested that it would be nice, if possible, to recognise those who have worked for the NHS and also the binmen and the postmen/women. The Chair responded that he would be more than happy to do this at the Annual Parish Meeting. There was unanimous support for this. It was also agreed that list would be publicised on noticeboards and social media.

14.2 Annual Parish Meeting

14.2.1 Members were asked to review and agree the agenda for the forthcoming meeting, and the following agenda was agreed:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 11th April 2019
4. Annual Report of the Council (attached, Cllr Howard Button)
 - 4.1 The Community Award (Cllr Button)
5. Financial Report (attached, Cllr Alan Anderson):
 - 5.1 Accounts for 2020/21
 - 5.2 Budget / Precept for 2021/22
6. Neighbourhood Plan update (Cllr John Morrish)
7. Transport Plan update (Cllr Bob McLean)
8. Police Report (PCSO Ian Martin)
9. Trustees of Kings Langley Charities Report (attached, Cllr Alan Johnson)
10. Borough Council Report (attached, Cllrs Anderson and Johnson)
11. County Council Report (County Cllr Richard Roberts)
12. Consideration of any resolutions of which written notice has been given
13. Questions / Any other business

14.2.2 School reports would be suspended for this year.



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15. Any Other Business.

- 15.1 Cllr Hubberstey asked whether the Parish Council would be able to consider supporting food banks to help the less unfortunate members of the community during the current crisis. It was agreed that Cllr Hubberstey could make a formal request which could be treated similarly to the request from Kings Langley Village News (9.5, above). The Clerk would forward the appropriate application details.
- 15.1.1 Cllr Anderson passed on the wider economic concerns being considered at Dacorum Borough Council that will very likely need to be addressed once the protection from eviction and/or furlough payments cease. He gave an example of one area where the pandemic has already had an impact in that the Borough is currently supporting 30 families from broken homes in bed and breakfast, when there were none prior to it.

Meeting closed at 9:56pm.