



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

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.

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 8 recorded crimes for July 2020, as follows:

Reported Crime	Incidence	Details
Theft from motor vehicle	2	Langley Hill – catalytic converter The Nap – registration plate
Theft of motor vehicle	1	Hempstead Road (car parked in layby between Abbots Rise and Rucklers Lane)
Theft from shop	3	Boots Pharmacy Spar Texaco fuel station
Drug related	1	The Nap - cannabis
Other crimes	1	Langley Hill – attempted theft of registration plate
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	

4.1.1 Cumulative and average data was also provided.

4.1.2 There had been 4 recorded crimes in the previous month (June).

4.1.3 The report was noted.

4.2 Neighbourhood Watch.

4.2.1 No report.

4.2.2 “OWL” Communications.

4.2.2.1 It was agreed that items 4.2 & 4.3 would be merged on future agendas as “Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters (if any)”.



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## 4.3 Other Related Matters.

### 4.3.1 None

## 5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (1).

### 5.1 General Matters

#### 5.1.1 None.

### 5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.1 The Clerk advised that he had reminded Cllr Roberts that he was going to provide an update on the current situation regarding the former youth club and updated plans for the Rucklers Lane junction reconfiguration which included additional parking measures, but that these had not been forthcoming. The Chair asked the Clerk if he would chase these items again.

## 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

6.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be adopted as a true record.

6.2 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 16<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were adopted as a true record.

### 8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 No report.

### 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 the Council's Internal Audit was almost complete, although he had received a large list of queries which he had responded to today. The position meant that, provided all was ok with these the Council would have to have an additional meeting on either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> August to approve and complete all the necessary documents for forward submission to the External Auditors. The Chair responded that the 18<sup>th</sup> would be better as he was away on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

8.4.2 The Clerk advised that one of the Council's hall users had requested a restart in September, which he had no problem with, but it has meant that we have had to enhance the Council's Health & Safety Risk Assessment and Plan and are now in the process of agreeing joint responsibilities.



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He added that he had taken delivery of more sanitising equipment / gel etc and that there would be further additional precautionary items and instructions, including an attendance log for all visitors coming into the office or the hall. Additional precautions had already been introduced including disinfecting surfaces and railings etc. The Clerk added further that he was not suggesting that the hall was opened for Council meetings soon.

8.4.3 The Clerk reported that he had also been examining what was allowable expenditure of CIL monies and would be sharing this with Members later.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden has been spending much of his time watering during the current hot weather and continues his work in the village garden with Cllr Johnson. Cllr Collins commented that the troughs etc were looking very good and complimented everyone involved.

8.5.2 Cllr Anderson asked if the Clerk would ask the Warden to report any build-up of weeds to avoid the problems of last year recurring. Cllr Button added that he had reported a problem in Dronken Lane which was dealt with very quickly. Cllr Hubberstey reiterated his concerns regarding the overgrowth problems on the pathway in rural part of Rucklers Lane. These should be reported via the Clerk to his usual contacts. Cllr McLean would contact the Clerk.

## 9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for July 2020.

9.1.1 Cllr Rogers sought clarification regarding the two payments in respect of the Council's copier which the Clerk explained that one was a quarterly lease charge and the other a monthly copy charge. Cllr Rogers also asked whether zero and pence items could be not shown on the large reports. The Clerk responded that the whole costs had to be presented as part of the audit and internal control purposes, but that he would look at not showing zero fields.

9.1.2 It was then proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for July 2020 in the sum of £9,600.42 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.3 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

9.2 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 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:	£178,494.75
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,537.47



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## 9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2020-21.

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

9.3.2 Cllr Rogers asked whether the line for “Solar Panels” could be renamed, as it didn’t appear that these would ever materialise. Cllr Anderson responded that he was currently in the process of obtaining quotes for the solar panels, which indicated that costs had dropped greatly since the Council last explored it, and felt that the item should remain.

## 9.4 Examination of the Council’s Bank Reconciliation Statement (as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020).

9.4.1 In accordance with Audit requirements and recommendations, the statement was examined by the Members and signed by the Chair.

## 10. Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

### 10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

#### 10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and members’ questions

10.1.2 Cllr Johnson’s reported that he had missed the last full council meeting as he was on leave and that there hadn’t been a Housing and Communities meeting since his last report. There had been two meetings of the Licencing Committee, but he did not feel the items discussed were particularly relevant to Kings Langley.

#### 10.1.3 Cllr Anderson reported that:

- a) the issue of minimum parking requirements came up at the Strategic Planning meeting, where one space per bedroom was agreed. However, Cllr Anderson felt that this was likely to be challenged, but he was trying to mediate on this by considering evidence-based policies related to geography and the availability of public transport.
- b) National Association of Local Clerks (NALC) / The Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (HAPTC) had circulated an email for Council’s to respond to the proposal to create a unitary authority in Hertfordshire. Cllr Anderson provided a brief overview of how this was likely to impact on Councils, Members, staff and services; the biggest problem with them, he felt, was that they take decision-making even further away from the public. He asked that the Parish Council responds that it believes that the existing two-tier system is best for Hertfordshire. After further discussions, including relating the experiences of unitary authorities in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Cornwall, and reiterating Members fears relating to the remoteness of decision-making, particularly planning matters, it was proposed by Cllr McLean, seconded by Cllr Morrish and agreed by majority, that Cllr Anderson be asked to draft a response on which Members could comment and then submitted by the Clerk to National Association of Local Clerks (NALC) / The Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (HAPTC).

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

### 11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Cllr Morrish reported that work was progressing with the green space review, on the website and on exploring the possibility of obtaining some drone footage, which he felt would be good publicity generally and particularly when tourism is looked at.



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A list of projects is being considered, which will need to be prioritised and funded. However, there is some confusion regarding how CIL money can be spent, and the Clerk as the “Proper Officer” has been asked to provide some guidance. The Clerk responded that he has been working on a paper which isn’t quite ready yet but will be circulated later. He added that his initial views were that, firstly, having looked at the definition of “infrastructure” under the legislation, it is surprising how much is included, and, therefore, how many of the items submitted to the projects list actually qualify. Secondly, CIL money expenditure must be on something that addresses the demands that the development has placed on the community, and he believed that a developer might challenge its use, and that one might have to show that expenditure related to the individual development’s demands, but he couldn’t see quite how that would work in practice. Thirdly, you cannot spend CIL money on general day-to-day maintenance. Fourthly, it should not be spent on someone else’s asset if it then generates an additional on-going maintenance cost, unless you have the owner’s permission and their agreement to assume that cost.

Further, the Clerk felt that each project should be separately costed for future commitments and the method of funding be made very clear, and, very importantly, future CIL money is not guaranteed, meaning that, any for future costs related to a CIL capital project, possible alternative funding would need to be identified. The Council should consider preparing a CIL budget / plan in a similar form to its normal budget, but covering a longer period, logically 5 years, although this might be a rather fluid plan, because, as previously mentioned, future CIL money can be very variable and is not guaranteed.

Cllr Morrish commented that he hadn’t appreciated the point that expenditure had to be related to the demands that the development placed, and that, therefore some of the projects may have to be reconsidered in the light of this. Cllr Anderson responded that he felt many projects could be justified on the basis that the developments have introduced more people into the village. The Clerk agreed. Cllr Morrish respond that the next steering group would be re-examining and prioritising the list of projects.

#### 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button advised that two parts of the group would be Home Energy Efficiency and Local Food Growing. John Ingleby would be providing some terms of Reference for a resource to support the former of these.

#### 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Hubberstey).

Cllr Hubberstey reported that all was work in progress / fact-finding, with no major update since the last meeting.

#### 11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean thanked everyone for their attendance at the recent ARUP presentation and for their contributions. He felt the time was right for action now, after many years of deliberations and wished to put the proposal as set out on the agenda, and it was seconded and AGREED by majority:

That the Council adopts in principle the ARUP Public Realm Strategy Plan, will include it within the Neighbourhood Plan and empowers the Parish Plan Transport Group to investigate further steps, reporting progress to the Council as the project develops.



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The vote was recorded with Cllrs Anderson, Angiolini, Button, De Silva, Hubberstey, Johnson, McLean and Morrish voting in favour and Cllr Collins and Rogers abstaining.

## 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

### 11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini)

Cllr Angiolini wished to record his thanks to one of the residents of the road for litter picking the area the previous day.

### 11.2.2 The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park (Cllr Button)

Nothing new to report, although he understood that there were still gatherings on the Common with the usual litter being left. It was noted that there are several regular volunteer litter pickers on the Common and surrounding areas.

### 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins)

Cllr Collins wondered if there was any action regarding the large signs at 2 Hempstead Road. It was noted that this had already been raised by the Clerk who had ascertained that planning permission was required, but there had been little else in reply despite reminders. Cllr Collins added that the area in general was looking very good. Miller and Carter and the Premier Inn appeared to be open for business again.

### 11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva)

All ok.

### 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr Hubberstey)

West One had cut back the hedge.

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

Cllr Johnson had raised with Cllr Roberts that road works in Watford Road and Alexandra Road had not happened to the frustration and annoyance of residents.

### 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish)

Cllr Morrish reported that parts of the footpath were scheduled for micro-surfacing, although not as much as he had hoped. He had also seen some dates for the start of the junction reconfiguration works, but they seem now to have disappeared from the Highways website.

### 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers)

Not a lot to report. It was noted that the High Street was quite busy now, particularly at the Saracens and Dallings and that all the empty premises, but one has been re-let. Some places were taking advantage of “eat out to help out”.

## 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

### 11.3.1 The Chair reported that he had measured to pathways in the garden and the cost and practicalities of resurfacing with a bonded or self-binding material was discussed. Quotes would be sought.

Cllr Johnson added that the time of the volunteer work had been moved to the morning and that a skip would be needed to clear a large amount of waste in the garden.

## 11.4 Litter picks.

### 11.4.1 My Kings took some pictures at the last litter pick at which a good number of volunteers attended.



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- 11.5 Other items.
- 11.5.1 Human Sundial.  
No update.

## 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 market was held in the garden for the first time and was a huge success. It is hoped that this could continue for the summer months. The site on Rectory Farm will moved back to its current position after the building works.
- 12.2 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP).
  - 12.2.1 Cllr Morrish wondered if this could be moved to the Leisure Group, which was agreed.
- 12.3 Kings Langley Community Association.
  - 12.3.1 No further news.
- 12.4 Others.
  - 12.4.1 Dacorum Environmental Forum  
No update.

## 13. High Street Surgeries.

- 13.1 There will be a surgery alongside the market on the 14<sup>th</sup> August.

## 14. Other Matters.

- 14.1 Christmas Lights Event update.
  - 14.1.1 The Clerk reported that the licence for erecting the lights has been recommended for approval at Hertfordshire County Council. The decision on whether the whole event should take place will be made on 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- 14.2 The Chiltern Society – Save Our Pubs
  - 14.2.1 Members were asked to consider whether they wished to apply for the Parish’s pubs to be listed as “Assets of Community Value”. It was agreed that this be noted.

## 15. Any Other Business.

- 15.1 None.

Meeting closed at 9.27pm.