



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 6th July 2021.

Present: Cllrs Angiolini (Vice Chair), Button (Chair), Collins, De Silva, McLean and Rogers.

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council: County Cllr Richard Roberts.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None

3. Public Participation.

3.1 None.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 The reports for June 2021 were noted. There were four recorded crimes.

4.1.2 Cllr Rogers wondered why there was such a reduction in the crime numbers, and whether it was something that could be used to promote the village. The Clerk responded that there had certainly been a reduction during the pandemic. Members felt that this was probably because more people were at home. Members were also concerned that if the Council made too much of this, it might provide an opportunity to reduce the police coverage, especially when the current PCSO retires, which is imminent. It was agreed that the Council would review its stance and strategy to retain its PCSO after the removal of COVID controls and further figures are available.

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 A meeting with the Vicarage Lane Residents Group had been organised for August 2nd to discuss various proposals from them to resolve traffic issues in their road. Cllr Roberts outlined some of the options, most of which had been considered in the past, and his views were that none were straightforward or ideal and / or would impact surrounding roads. Cllr McLean confirmed that he would also be attending as Chair of the Transport Group particularly as it was on, and linked to, other items on its agenda. Cllr Morrish added that responses to the Neighbourhood Plan included this issue, but that, whilst it needed to be resolved, it can't be done via the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Button wished to make it very clear that he would not want any scheme for Vicarage Lane to take priority over the resolution of the safety issues at the junction of Vicarage Lane and the High Street, which many felt was a greater concern for the majority of residents.



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Cllr Roberts responded that despite all the accidents at the location, it is still not designated as an accident black spot requiring further investigation. He has asked that in the meantime, that safety improvements by way of bollards around the junction be looked at. He will also be asking that the junction be looked at from a more holistic viewpoint.

- 5.1.2 Consideration is being given to reducing speed in Whippendell Bottom.
- 5.1.3 Cllr Roberts had had a meeting with the Library Service to follow-up on what were the options for the library. Some “were not very easy”, but it was generally felt that enclosing the courtyard area would provide some great opportunities for the library and the wider community. He felt that it was important that the Parish Council be involved in these discussions. He added that the building needed a lot of work to bring it up to standard and wondered if it might be the right time to consider, for example, whether it is in the right location or a different use for the building or the site itself. Whilst it was felt that improving the building and enclosing the courtyard was probably the most sensible option (which was generally favoured by the Parish Council), consideration had also been given to rebuilding to two storeys (suggested by Cllr Rogers) to incorporate council offices (Cllr Collins) and a wider community use. Cllr Roberts felt that that would be too large a building for the site and too big a cost to justify.
- 5.1.4 There is a parking Traffic Regulation Order being processed for Tooveys Mill Close, which everyone there appears to be happy with.
- 5.1.5 There is to be a speed check on Watford Road in advance of consideration of installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) southbound.
- 5.1.6 Cllr Morrish reported on the interest and excitement in the village upon the announcement that there will be a lollipop crossing on Hempstead Road. He felt this was very important as he has witnessed how awful it is for parents with small children crossing the road there. This was another priority of the Transport Group and he wondered whether Cllr Roberts could find out the date for its implementation and further, expedite it. Cllr Collins was concerned that the speed of traffic leaving the village northwards was still an serious issue and that there should be additional controls especially with the introduction of a lollipop crossing. Cllr McLean wondered if it would be possible to do a speed survey on this stretch of the road near Rectory Lane, despite the proposal for a pedestrian controlled crossing near there as part of the Rectory Farm development, which should naturally slow traffic. The Council agreed to fund the cost of the survey (approximately £500). Cllr Morrish undertook to email Cllr Roberts to remind him about timescales for the lollipop crossing.
- 5.1.7 Cllr Roberts reported that the County Resources Panel had approved a COVID recovery fund of £9m. This was intended to help businesses, schoolchildren and other young people, families and victims of domestic violence etc.
- 5.1.8 The old youth club (site) is to be re-purposed to be used by adult social care for people with learning difficulties. Asked whether the building would be available for any other uses, Cllr Roberts responded that it would be for supported living and, therefore, not be a community asset as such.

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



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6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 1st & 29th June 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(s) held on 18th May and 1st June 2021 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 The Chair reported that whilst walking his dog at the weekend he found many of the footpaths overgrown and difficult to pass. The Clerk undertook to report these to the appropriate authority, but he would need a footpath number or clear location. He added that there appeared to be quite a backlog in dealing with these matters.

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 confirmed that having completed the paperwork for the External Audit after the Council's approval at its meeting on the 29th June 2021, it had been submitted two days before the deadline. The Clerk thanked Members for their support and the Chair thanked the Clerk, in return, for his work.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that much of the Warden's time recently had been taken up with preparing and then planting up the flower beds. Sunnyside had done the High Street troughs, although the Clerk added that he was not happy with the quality of the lobelia in the troughs and would be dealing with Sunnyside accordingly.

8.5.2 The Clerk added further that the Warden was concerned with the damage being caused to the grass in the village garden by its use for the market. It would be monitored to see if it recovers in the 4-5 weeks between markets, but Cllr Morrish would also look at moving the stalls around so that they were not in the same place each month.

8.5.3 The Warden is also working on the top part of the village of the year "totem pole", which he has taken down, and is meticulously restoring the woodwork and repainting.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for June 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:



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That the payment schedule for June 2021 in the sum of £22,811.68 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 and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 30th May 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 as at the above date were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£204,738.54
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32

9.3 Hybrid Meeting Requirements – Installation of Network Cabling

9.3.1 Retrospective approval for the sum of £550.

9.3.2 This was approved. The Clerk added that this was for 6 network cables and that he felt that it may be necessary to add a further two. The Chair responded that he would like to see the set-up tested first.

10. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies.

10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and Members' questions

Cllr Anderson and Johnson were not present. The Chair asked Cllr Rogers if he was aware of anything relevant to the Parish, to which he responded that there was a recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee meeting that the Borough should look at revising the Local Plan based on the number of houses it believes are needed rather than the numbers being imposed. The Chair added that it appeared that a number of authorities were challenging the numbers. Cllr Rogers added that there was a standard methodology for calculating the need and that he had questioned why data from 2014 was still being used especially when there is now information from this year's census that could be used.

10.2 Three Rivers Council.

10.2.1 Three Rivers Local Plan: Publication of the Local Plan Regulation 18 Preferred Policy Options and Sites for Potential Allocation Consultation.

The Chair expressed his concerns that this plan showed substantial development on the borders of the parish, which, if nothing else, would have a severe impact on the local infrastructure. He felt that the Council should object, which was supported. It was noted that Cllr Johnson had offered to write the Council's submission. Members were very happy to agree to this. It was also noted that Members could make their own personal submissions.

Cllr Rogers gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

10.3 Affinity Water.

10.3.1 Draft Drought Plan – Consultation



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It was agreed that the Council would respond expressing its concerns that given the amount of building and infrastructure expected over the next few years, there could be a serious water shortage, especially as some local rivers had dried up in recent years.

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 consultation period had started and will end on the 7th August. There will be a big article in the forthcoming village newspaper encouraging people to comment and a public Zoom meeting on the 19th July. He added that the one of the biggest challenges emerging was getting people to understand that the Neighbourhood plan was not a panacea and that so much rests with the Borough.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button would be reconstituting the group once the outcome of the forthcoming election is known.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group.

In the absence of Cllr Johnson, Cllr Collins reported that the group had re-prioritised its wish list and produced some costings.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean had issued an update to Members for the meeting which summarised the various meetings that had taken place and an outline of the re-set objectives and priorities.

One of the ensuing actions was to have a meeting with Highways to discuss the “pinch point” in the High Street. He had concluded that the issue would not be resolved without the loss of parking spaces, and it is well known that there is opposition to this from residents and traders, so it is likely that the situation with the pinch point will not change or be pursued any further.

The meeting also took the opportunity to consider a previous suggestion that additional spaces could be designated on the lower north side of Langley Hill. On arrival at about 2:45pm, there were cars parked on both sides of the road and people were managing around that quite well and sensibly. By 3:15, there were no cars parked on the hill, but traffic was queuing from the top of the hill to the High Street, mostly trying to turn right, and all appeared to be on “school run”. The conclusion from that was that Langley Hill wasn’t wide enough to have designated parking spaces. It was therefore likely that the Transport Group would be dropping this idea. The meeting also had a further look at what possibilities of increasing parking at The Nap car park and it was felt that the logical place to do this in cost and practicability terms would be the flat area opposite the doctors’ surgery (if this would be allowed). Cllr Button appreciated that Cllr McLean and the Transport Group had taken a very realistic approach to these issues and was happy with the conclusions.

Cllr Collins was concerned with the further loss of green space and wondered, at least, if the base could “grass-crete” or similar in order to preserve as much of the green as possible. Cllr McLean responded that what the surface was would be a later discussion, but he did feel that it was important to find ways to continue to invigorate the High Street, and that it was a reasonable justification.

Cllr Button wondered whether the space where the nearby garages are could be utilised, but Cllr McLean responded that it was more likely that these had already been earmarked by the Borough for housing. He undertook to make enquiries.



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11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Cllr Angiolini reported that an untaxed van with no MOT parked in Abbots Rise had been reported to Dacorum Borough Council via the Clerk.

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

Cllr Button was pleased to see cricket on The Common again. There were, though, a lot of cars parked on it. All other areas were OK.

11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).

Cllr Collins reported that the area on Rectory Farm that had contained the wooden sheds had now been flattened as had the building previously used for storage by the drama group. The Clerk added for information, that the builder had submitted an application to delay the building of the play areas on the site. This was mainly for safety reasons. Cllr Collins reported also that the verges in Havelock Road were in a poor state.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).

The hedge on the London Road outside West One was once again very overgrown and making passage difficult.

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

No report.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish reported on the “saga” of the John North bench. This had been purchased by the Parish Council and installed by the Borough at a position agreed by Cllr Anderson at the junction of the cul-de-sac opposite John North’s house. It transpired that this was not ideal as large vans often parked right in front, so a group of residents took it upon themselves to move it to the opposite side of the junction. This had upset a nearby resident because she felt that people should not move Council property without permission and had been a bit of an altercation with the group that had moved it. Cllr Morrish had visited the resident and believes that the problems have been resolved.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

No report.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson’s written report was noted.

11.3.2 Request for memorial rose and plaque.

Members considered the enclosed request and decided that the village garden is not a memorial garden and would not be able to accept any more requests from the public for individual / personal commemorations. The recent roses and plaques were actually a mistake / misunderstanding. The request would be denied but an offer would be made to place a plaque on one of the benches, subject to Cllr Johnson being happy with it. This would require a donation of £50.

11.4 Litter Picks

11.4.1 From Cllr Johnson’s report: “The litter pick was quiet as no one else turned up because of the rain.

From 4th August, Imagination Technologies will be doing a regular litter pick in the village from 2pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of every month. They will be using all their own equipment and 'picking' at their own risk.”



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11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments

11.5.1 From Cllr Johnson's report: "The allotments have flooded not once but twice in the last 2 weeks. The Environment Agency are responsible for the River Gade and consequently if the river overflows, and have been informed. It appears the weir near Water Lane which can be opened for water to flow from the canal to the river has been opened further than previously was the case.

The Environment Agency has been in contact with allotment holders and hopefully this will result in some action to prevent any further flooding.

In addition, a huge tree (sycamore?) has fallen across a large part of the allotments, narrowly missing a shed and a greenhouse. It will be removed."

12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 The Kings Langley Community Benefit Society (KLCBS) (Cllr Morrish).

12.1.1 Nothing to report.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Cllr Collins reported that there had been no change since the last meeting.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 There was no surgery on the 19th of June because of the upcoming election and there would not be one on the 17th July because Cllr Johnson was away and the market would be overloaded with the Neighbourhood Plan and the Residents' Association.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Covid commemorative tree for the village garden (replacing felled willow)(Cllr Button).

14.1.1 It was agreed that this item would be deferred until a later date.

14.2 New street name plate for Rucklers Lane (Cllr Morrish).

14.2.1 This has been largely resolved. The Borough will be replacing the nameplate. It remains that the noticeboard will be refurbished and the Clerk would be writing to Royal Mail to repaint the post box, and, hopefully remove the additional box attached to it.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 On Cllr Johnson's behalf, Cllr Morrish reminded Members that the Council had agreed to have a service of dedication for John North's bench, which Fr James had agreed to perform. It was agreed that the Council would ask Fr James for some dates.

15.2 Cllr Button confirmed that his friend would complete the refurbishment of the main High Street board. There would be a Perspex covering for the village map and some history information and cork covering for the main part. It was also agreed that it would be nice to highlight the Parish Council so that there could be more recognition of what it does, but without assuming responsibility for the noticeboard itself.

Meeting closed.