



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council: Mrs Debbi James-Saunders.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Cllrs McLean and Morrish.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None

3. Public Participation.

3.1 Mrs James-Saunders asked if she would be allowed to record the meeting. This was granted by the Chair and set up by the Clerk. Mrs James-Saunders, who was a member of the Council's Leisure Group, added that she would like to hear the Members' comments on the Leisure Group "re-set" report under item 11.1.3 when the time comes.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 The reports for July had not been received in time for the meeting. PCSO Martin had now retired. For now his "patch" will be covered by PCSO Bardi Agallili.

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 was not present.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be adopted as a true record

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Cllr Rogers questioned the statement from the Chair of the Transport Group, Cllr McLean "so it is likely that the situation with the pinch point will not change or be



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pursued any further” in Minute 11.1.4, as he felt that there should be a solution. He would raise this with Cllr McLean.

## 8. Reports.

### 8.1 Standing Committees.

#### 8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 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 Christmas Lights.

On Cllr Angiolini’s behalf, the Clerk reported that he was dealing with the paperwork needed for the annual licences for HCC (Ringway) which had to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August. He added that the Council’s contactors are very good and efficient at providing the information required of them. The Clerk added further that the office and Cllr Angiolini had looked at changing or upgrading the displays. Two other companies had shown interest, one of whom sent a quote that was about twice the price the Council is currently paying, the second appeared to be put off by the information that had been provided and didn’t bother. The current company re-quoted with no increase. It was noted that because of Brexit and supply chains, and Covid, it was probably not the easiest time for contractors to quote.

The Clerk was also pursuing the installation of a power hub in the High Street for use on the day of the event, but was having to jump a few hurdles presented by Ringway and mis-information..

The members of the joint committee will need to start the process of organising performers and helpers, and seeking sponsors etc. Cllr Anderson added that Miller Homes had offered financial support and he advised that it would be best that this is paid to the Barry Denmead Fund which is managed by Community Action Dacorum, to avoid any conflicts of interest. Members agreed with Cllr Anderson’s proposal. The Clerk would act on this accordingly.

### 8.4 Clerk’s Report / Action List.

8.4.1 Nothing to report.

### 8.5 Village Warden’s Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Warden is currently on leave.

## 9. Finance Matters

### 9.1 Schedule of Payments for July 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for July 2021 in the sum of £21,957.11 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

9.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.



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9.2 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 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:	£194,068.73
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32

9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2021/22.

9.3.1 Members considered and noted the reports as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, which had been provided with the agenda, and the statement to that effect, was signed by the Chair.

9.4 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Reconciliation Statement (as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021).

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 Other Public Bodies.

10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and Members' questions

Cllr Johnson had attended the Housing and Community Scrutiny Committee. The two reports considered were a proposal to extend the contact for DENS to run the homeless hostel, which was approved, and secondly to take on ten Syrian refugee families (subject to certain conditions), which was also agreed. Cllr Anderson had attended full council at which he proposed a motion to write to the Government objecting to its proposal to reduce public involvement in the planning process, which was agreed.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Morrish was not present.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button has arranged a Group meeting for 26<sup>th</sup> August. He was waiting for further information from Cllr Morrish relating to focussing more on the Neighbourhood Plan aspects of the Group's focus.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group.

Leisure Group "Re-set" report. Cllr Johnson had presented the report to the Council by inclusion with the agenda.. Some Members had also received an email from Mrs James-Saunders on the subject. Cllr Johnson made the following statement:

"For historical reasons, the Group's agenda has used the actions from the notes of the last meeting as an agenda. At the meeting last week a number of issues were raised from the 'reset' document which had been discussed and – I thought – agreed at the previous meeting. There was certainly no outstanding action against the item.



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As you will see, the Parish Plan Steering Group considered 10 issues were sufficiently strategic and potentially achievable for the Leisure Group to pursue. A further 19 issues, it was considered, were not strictly leisure issues and should no longer be pursued by the Group.

It's worth perhaps adding that none of the Parish Plan Groups are intended to act as conduits or filters, because the Parish Council has the overall responsibility. For example, only if someone is looking for a grant or advice about organising an activity, do they approach the Parish Council if they want a decision.

I've therefore brought the paper to the Parish Council and would ask it to endorse the view of the Steering Group that we stick to just the 10 strategic issues. Ten issues for a group of 5 people, 3 of whom are Parish Councillors, is a significant workload. Of course this does not preclude the Parish Council deciding at a subsequent meeting that it would like the Leisure Group to take on board another issue, but hopefully we will have made sufficient progress on 1 or 2 of the existing issues by that time.

I do not propose to respond in detail to the email but, as you will have seen, the Kings Langley Players, the Kings Langley Revue Company and The Kings Langley Light Musical Theatre Company are putting on the musical *Stepping Out* at the Community Centre in 3 weeks as a 'new normal' celebration of local theatre. They have been rehearsing for months at the Community Centre on a stage with costumes, lighting, curtains, changing rooms, toilets, tiered seating, a box office, a bar and a roof. They are doing 4 performances with seats at £12 per head in all areas – and will be lucky to break even.

All 3 companies then go into rehearsals in the Community Centre for their own separate productions. The Musical Theatre company are running workshops and then doing *The Addams Family* next Spring, the Kings Players are doing the *Wizard of Oz* this Christmas, *Diary of a Nobody* in March, *Mindgames* in May and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* in September. I can't remember what the Revue Group are doing, but they have at least 2 productions next year.

They have not sought or needed our help.”

He added that the above considerations are why the re-set report is being presented to the Council with a much reduced list that is strategic and, potentially achievable. The Chair agreed, and he stated that he will be taking the same approach with the Environmental Group.

The Chair asked Cllr Rogers as a member of the Leisure Group if he had anything to add. Cllr Rogers responded that he had produced a paper on cycling for leisure purposes (including motorised bikes and scooters etc) for consideration by the Group, but that he saw the Parish Council as enablers, rather than being responsible for these types of activities. He added that he hoped that this would be approved by the Group and then be passed to the Berkhamsted Cycle Club at Nash Mills for their consideration. He felt that this approach could be adopted for other projects. The Chair responded that he wished to support the group Chairs in not trying to take on too much. He added that, once again, far too many issues were being discussed and debated by email which should be done at meetings, and whilst he supported Cllr



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Rogers' initiative re leisure cycling he reiterated that he did not want to overload the work of the groups and any of their individual members.

Cllr Collins, who was also a member of the Leisure Group agreed that we should work within the capabilities and means available, but not to completely lose sight of other initiatives that were not on the re-set plan.

The Chair concluded that he was happy with Cllr Rogers' leisure cycling proposal and, moreover, with Cllr Johnson's re-set report and proposals. There were no further comments from Members.

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

Cllr McLean was not present, but the Clerk reported that Cllr McLean had no further updates. However, the Chair reported on a meeting with the Vicarage Lane Residents Association at the cricket club, attended by around fifty people including Cllrs Anderson and McLean, County Cllr Roberts and Herts Highways' Peter Wright, to discuss proposals to resolve the traffic issues in the road. Cllr Button was very aware that any proposals for Vicarage Lane would impact surrounding roads, and this was raised at the meeting, but that there would, of course, be full public consultation. The primary proposal being discussed was the possible implementation of a one-way system between Marwood Close and Five Acres. Peter Wright spoke regarding the practicalities of budgets and resources (Cllr Roberts pledged some of his Locality budget), and indicated a possible timeline, suggesting that a survey (not fully defined, but included traffic measurements) could be carried out this year, in 2022-23, a feasibility study leading to consultation, with the earliest implementation being in 2024.

The possibility of a temporary trial solution being implemented was discussed, but Peter Wright indicated that this could take a year, mainly because of all the regulatory processes that have to be undergone (eg Traffic Regulation Orders).

There was also a suggestion that the car park at the cricket club be extended and yellow lines being placed on the bend there to improve safety sight lines etc. Cllr Button felt this was a good idea.

Cllr Anderson added that he was very supportive of the Vicarage Lane residents who had been suffering for many years, but that, of course, any scheme needed to be mindful of the impact on other roads and their residents. He was hopeful that residents elsewhere could be "won over", and that it appeared that Cllr Roberts was also very much in favour. He added further that Peter Wright had stated that because there were no safety issue statistics to support any measures they would not be funded from any mainstream budget. The Chair added that he and Cllr McLean had stated that the Parish Council's priority was still to resolve the (safety) issues at the Vicarage Lane junction with the High Street and the recently agreed crossing in Hempstead Road. Cllr Anderson responded that Cllr Roberts had stated that it wasn't a case of "either/or".

The Chair wondered if we might be reaching a point where the public were asked what their priorities were regarding these types of schemes, including the "pinch-point" but it was felt that it would not be representative.

## 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

### 11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).

Nothing to report.



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- 11.2.2 The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park (Cllr Button)  
Cllr Button reported that there had been an incursion of travellers several days ago, but that they were moved on the same day, and he expressed his thanks to those involved in achieving it.
- 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).  
Cllr Collins reported that the ground on Rectory Farm was being levelled, creating large piles of stone in preparation for works which are to start in earnest next week. He also reported some overgrowth making passage difficult on the footpath near Rectory Lane. He was advised that, on this occasion, this would be best reported on the County website where there is a category for this type of issue.
- 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 has now been cut back. The strip of land by the bus stop shelter by the Red Lion now has a lot of growth encroaching the path. The Chair advised that this should be reported on the County website.
- 11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson).  
Nothing to report.
- 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).  
No report.
- 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).  
Cllr Rogers reported that it appeared that all the businesses that were going to re-open had done so.
- 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).
- 11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that watering and weeding continues. The volunteer mornings would be restarting, New signs would be produced to publicise this.
- 11.4 Litter Picks
- 11.4.1 Cllr Johnson reported that a family of four had participated and headed for The Common. This was just after the traveller incursion. Fortunately, other residents had cleared much of the rubbish that had been left, so it was in a fairly good state. He added that Imagination Technology's was on hold, but that the secondary school was organising a mass litter pick at the end of September (he believed), and would be borrowing 70 pickers from Dacorum Borough Council.
- 11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments
- 11.5.1 Cllr Johnson summarized the recent problems on the site which included three periods of flooding and two fallen trees. The flooding had ruined most of the produce and as the land was still water-logged was preventing any further sowing or planting. There had been exchanges of communications with the Environment Agency, the Canal and Rivers Trust and Sir Mike Penning, who was trying to help get some action from the two organisations. The main issue is establishing who is responsible and who is going to fix the problem. As a result of their losses KLAGA members asked Cllr Johnson if their rent could be waived for a year which he agreed to bring to the Council. The idea would be that the Association would use this as a form of financial support towards providing some future protection from any future flooding. There was some support for helping the Association, if only as a gesture of goodwill, although it was noted that the annual rent paid by them hardly covered the Council's costs, especially if it has to deal with fallen trees. Cllr Anderson responded that it would be more appropriate to provide a grant from the budget set aside for



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village groups, and he suggested a sum of £500. There was further concern that the Council's costs far exceed the revenue. The Chair felt that it was unreasonable to ask taxpayers to keep paying for tree management, although Cllr Johnson responded that this was a result of many years of neglect, and that the current issue related to flooding where far too much water is being "allowed" into the river from the canal and that there is a build-up of debris blocking it.

There was general agreement that Cllr Johnson would progress the matter of financial support based on a suggested amount of £500 towards obtaining consultancy or other actions to mitigate against further flood damage and that he would initiate an application for financial assistance whilst continuing to pursue a resolution from the Environment Agency and the Canal and Rivers Trust.

## 12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

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

12.1.1 No report.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Nothing to report. The Association should have had a meeting before next Council.

## 13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 Cllr Button had attended the last surgery and reported that the main topic was the Three Rivers Council Local Plan. The next surgery will be on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

## 14. Other Matters.

14.1 Donation to All Saints' Church in respect of the commemoration service for John North.

14.1.1 It was agreed that the Council would make a donation of £100 towards this service and further, that the bench and service should also commemorate the contribution that Freda Marshall made to the community. It was also agreed that there would be two simple plaques.

## 15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Anderson reported that:

1. The Borough will be issuing a strong objection to the Three Rivers Council Local Plan particularly regarding Numbers Farm and the impact it would have on Kings Langley.
2. He had responded to the Parliamentary Boundaries Review on his and the Council's behalf as the deadline was the previous Sunday night. Members unanimously supported Cllr Anderson's action on this matter.
3. The Borough had set aside a capital sum to resurface the rough car park on Chipperfield Common and he has asked whether any underspend could be used to make improvements to the top of Kings Langley Parish Common especially to protect against traveller incursion. Members unanimously supported this initiative.



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- 15.2 Further concerns were again expressed regarding parking by football club supporters. Cllr Button would be discussing this at the next Environmental Group meeting.
- 15.3 Cllr Johnson reported that:
1. The Best Gardens' competition was judged the previous Saturday. The presentation evening has been organised for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the cricket club.
  2. Work has begun on the human sundial and should be completed by the end of next week.
  3. (a reminder that) the carnival will be taking place on The Common on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- 15.4 Cllr Sinclair thanked everyone for the warm welcome he has received as a new Member.

Meeting closed 21:36





## ADDENDUM 1

### **Leisure Group – reset report.**

As some of you will have heard at the June Parish Council meeting, the Parish Plan Steering Group had a meeting to discuss a ‘reset’ for all 3 Groups in order that all 3 concentrate solely on projects that are strategic and potentially achievable. The Steering Group agreed a way forward which will be shared with Group members.

For example, the Transport Group is as follows:

1) Original overall objective of the Transport Group:

Implement the ARUP report strategy in full. Is it realistic or just a goal that cannot be achieved either financially or technically; need to scale back. Andrew Freeman to do a ‘cursory’ investigation of the financial and technical aspects.

Scaled Back, Realistic, achievable short-term objectives:

- 2) Cycle ways and Footpaths:
- 3) Pinch Point:
- 4) Car Parking:
- 5) One Way Traffic Flow system: and
- 6) Road Safety, Crossing points.

The Leisure Group have an agenda and a Wish List, which the Steering Group discussed. (It may be sensible to re-label the Wish List as ‘Watching Brief’ if it is retained). From this the following were considered strategic and potentially achievable issues for the Leisure Group to pursue:

### **Current Leisure activities that are achievable**

1. Common and Woods (Sunnyside Draft Management Plan) Alan and Derek
2. Repair Shed – Debbi and Alan
3. Kings Langley Links Directory and Website & Admin Support – Eric
4. Trim Trail - Alan
5. Heritage Trail/Signage including Information Boards – Alan
6. Cycling (as a leisure activity; cycle paths are a Transport issue) – Mark

### **Leisure activities that are achievable but would need grant or other funding**

1. Playground facilities
  - Large
  - Small
2. Public toilet facilities
  - toilet block
  - toilet cubicle
  - Community Toilets Scheme



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3. Leisure provision for secondary school youth – Alan emailed school to ask what young people want (follow up to draft Neighbourhood Plan discussions with Head of Sixth Form)

4. Outdoor gym or similar on Common

From this the Steering Group agreed the following are not about Leisure, Leisure issues or Leisure activities and should not continue to be pursued by the Leisure Group;

1. Community Food Banks – All Saints PCC
2. Public footpath Watford Road to Church Lane – All Saints PCC/DBC
3. Apsley Grange Noticeboard – KLPC responsibility
4. Village Garden Path – KLPC - completed
5. Charter Court lease – KLPC responsibility
6. Red Telephone Box for library or similar – KLPC responsibility
7. Annual Keep Britain Tidy campaign – KLPC completed
8. Parking area adjacent to Community Centre – Transport Group
9. Lack of parking – Transport Group
10. Verges become wildlife reserves – Environment Group
11. Create regular High Street events - N/A. KLPC could deal with requests.
12. Reboot retail plan for High Street – KLPC Business Group .
13. Christmas Tree in Village Garden - N/A KLPC could deal with request.
14. Coordinate 3 KL theatre groups for a production in the Village Garden – N/A KLPC could deal with request
15. Capacity of venues - N/A
16. Village Well – N/A (adjacent to Pound. Nothing to see as well is capped).
17. Encourage use of KOMOOT app – N/A
18. Youth Club - N/A (going to be a supported living hub) – see above
19. Add QR code to new signage to places of interest – goes with signage