



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 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; County Cllr Richard Roberts; Mrs Debbi James-Saunders; Mr Dean Wigzell, Community Relationship Representative, KLFC.

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 Crime reports.

4.1.1 The reports for August 2021. There had been no contact from PCSO Bardi Agallili.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

5.1 General / Highways Matters.

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts reported on the situation with the 300+ refugees from Afghanistan that Hertfordshire was looking after. These included interpreters but also many that had been traumatised. Some were in quarantine hotels and others in resettlement hotels, from where they would move to permanent placements. He was very thankful for all the support that had been received, but that there was no longer a need clothes and toys. There was, however, a "Just Giving" site for anyone who may wish to donate.

5.1.2 He asked that the Council should now be submitting requests and suggestions for allocations of the Highways and Community Support budgets, the latter had received an additional £5,000 of funding this year.

5.1.2.1 Following a query from Cllr McLean, Cllr Roberts confirmed that the £15,000 Community Support allocation was per county councillor. Cllr McLean added that he would be submitting a request.

5.1.2.2 Cllr Morrish asked Cllr Roberts if he would pursue a response to an email he had sent regarding the proposed Hempstead Road crossing patrol, which he agreed to do.

5.1.2.3 Cllr Morrish had noted that HCC had received funding of over £300,000 for cycling initiatives and wondered how Kings Langley might access some of it. Cllr Roberts responded that he believed that much of it had already been allocated, but that Cllr Morrish should still contact him with his requirements and he would look at it, adding that the team dealing with this was very keen to help.



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5.1.2.4 Cllr Johnson raised his concern that there was a suggestion that as part of Watford Borough Council's 'Transforming Travel in Watford' strategy there should be a park and ride travel hub "near Kings Langley", but further, that Three Rivers' Cllr Sara Bedford believes that the suggested site was in Kings Langley, specifically, Moat Farm, which is a Scheduled Monument Site. Cllr Roberts had no further information than had appeared on social media. However, Cllr Anderson as the Dacorum Borough Council portfolio holder for these things, assured Members that it would not be happening.

5.1.2.5 Cllr Roberts stated that the final consultation for parking restrictions in Tooveys Mill was imminent.

5.2 Parking opposite KLFC (Cllr Button).

5.2.1 Mr Wigzell had recently been appointed to his role as Community Engagement Representative at Kings Langley Parish Football Club. He had been made aware of the issues related to parking. There was a useful and positive discussion with Members, exploring the causes of the problem, the many concerns and possible actions or solutions, including installing barriers on the verge, implementing parking restricts, and finding specific additional parking facilities. The Club was very keen to work with everyone concerned to find a solution and it was agreed everyone's ideas would be shared and that representatives of the club would attend the next meeting of the Environment Group to progress these. It was also agreed that Cllr Morrish would contact the owner of Rectory Farm to see whether any land there would be available for parking and that the Clerk would try to find out the name of the owner of the land to the north of the club, for the same reason.

## 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 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 20<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 As his main focus had been on the activities of the Environment Group, the Chair would report under item 11.



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## 8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

### 8.3.1 Christmas Lights.

Cllr Angiolini reported that the Joint Committee would be meeting on the coming Thursday and that he would therefore have more news for the following Council meeting. Cllr Anderson added that the event would have to be approved by the Dacorum Safety Advisory Group (DSAG) and given that it had not approved several public events already because of the continuing COVID restrictions, the timing of the application would need to be carefully considered. Members were very concerned whether the event should take place anyway, and it was agreed that a decision should be made at the next Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October at the latest.

However, the Clerk added that there had been discussions about replacing the event brochure with a 4-page spread in the Village Newspaper. This would save the cost of printing and delivery with a contribution being made to the newspaper.

## 8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.

### 8.4.1 The Chair stated that he had supplied the Clerk with various cables and equipment so that a hybrid meeting can take place, hopefully the forthcoming Planning and Licencing Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

The Clerk added that the solar panels had been installed and connected and that the meter readings were being monitored.

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

### 8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden has been doing more work that is the responsibility of "parent" authorities, generally because of the number of complaints (eg cutting back the hedge north of 16 Hempstead Road). Cllr Anderson responded that in Dacorum Borough Council's case this should only be temporary; staff were being deployed on refuse collections, which must take priority, as the service is still suffering because of the pandemic.

## 9. Finance Matters

### 9.1 Schedule of Payments for August 2021.

#### 9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for August 2021 in the sum of £13,278.11 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

#### 9.1.2 The Chair then signed the schedule of payments.

### 9.2 Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements (as at 30<sup>th</sup> July 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:         | £162,740.88 |
| NS&I Investment Account: | £45,865.32  |



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- 9.3 Application for financial assistance Kings Langley Allotments and Gardens Association (KLAGA)
  - 9.3.1 Cllr Johnson had asked for this item to be considered, but as he appeared to have lost his connection, the Clerk provided a brief introduction, explaining that the request was for assistance in trying to save the allotments from further flooding. Members had some sympathy yet also some concerns and reservations, so it was agreed that the item be deferred until the next meeting when, hopefully, Cllr Johnson will be able to assist.
  - 9.3.2 There was further debate about what the problems were and the difficulties in getting any action to resolve them from the Environment Agency and the Canal and Rivers Trust. Cllr Roberts undertook to contact the team at County who assisted with a problem in the same area recently to see if they could help.
- 9.4 Lamp-post poppies.
  - 9.4.1 It was agreed that the Council would purchase these. The Chair offered to use his official allowance. The Chair added that if any of the Groups needed some funding, as was the case here, they should not use the grant system, but should apply for a budget allocation.

## 10. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies.

- 10.1 Dacorum Borough Council.
  - 10.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and Johnson – Reports and Members’ questions  
Nothing to report.

## 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 latest consultation had been completed and the many and various responses were now being processed. There were particularly good and helpful responses from the statutory consultees and Dacorum Borough Council, with whom the group will be meeting for discussions on September 13. He added that recent government legislation has shown an even greater the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan particularly relating to design codes to influence the style of developments. He was also looking at how to create better opportunities for affordable housing in the village and how this could be incorporated in the Plan. There was further discussion about affordable / social housing and ”starter homes”.
  - 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).  
Cllr Button had circulated a report, to which he spoke. This is shown as appendix 1. He also asked whether the Borough’s use of the herbicide glyphosate could be reduced or stopped. This would be a question for a Borough officer. The next Group meeting would be on 6<sup>th</sup> October.
  - 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group.  
Cllrs Johnson and Collins would be having an exploratory meeting in the woods with the Sunnyside Trust to discuss woodland management there. Abbots Langley Parish Council had signed off the arrangements for the Repair Shed in Primrose Hill. The release of this Council’s contribution will be expected in due course.



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Cllr Rogers had had a meeting with representatives of British Cycling at which a family cycling event was proposed, probably during the spring half term.

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

Cllr McLean reported that he would be organising a further meeting of the group shortly. He also gave his views on the recent meeting of the Vicarage Lane Residents Group with local council and county council representatives, which was reported at the last Parish Council meeting (for which he was unavailable). His main concern was that there had been no consultation with the wider community. However, he was assured by Cllrs Anderson and Roberts that this would be carried out by the County Council as part of the normal process in these circumstances.

## 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports

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

Cllr Angiolini raised an issue with a resident being denied a request for a dropped kerb in Abbots Rise, but which Cllr Roberts had undertaken to pursue.

### 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 reported that on Rectory Farm the main services were being installed and the footings for the first four properties were being dug. He had spoken to the foreman who had informed them that sales were already going very well “off plan”. Cllr Collins was concerned that there was not really going to be any “affordable” housing and also that all the concreting over would exacerbate the flooding issues, discussed earlier.

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

Nothing to report.

### 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Cllr De Silva reported that the overgrowth on the strip of land by the bus stop shelter by the Red Lion had not been tackled. The Clerk responded that although this was not the Parish Council’s responsibility, he had asked the warden to have a look to see if he could clear it. There was a water leak emanating from West One which he would report to Affinity.

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

Nothing to report.

### 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish reported on the ceremony and “unveiling” of the bench dedicated to John North and Freda Marshall which was very well attended by residents and Councillors and conducted by Fr James.

Cllr McLean asked whether the drains / gullies in Rucklers Lane could be cleared as many were full and overgrown with weeds. Cllr Roberts undertook to pursue this. The Clerk added that the Highways site no longer accepts reports for specific blockages, responding that they will be cleared as part of the routine programme. Returning to the above ceremony, Cllr Anderson proposed that the Council increases the amount of the donation to All Saints to £200. This was seconded by the Chair and agreed.

Further to Cllr De Silva’s report, Cllr Anderson asked Cllr Roberts if he could arrange for an enforcement notice to be issued to the owners of the land by the Red Lion, to clear the overgrowth, as it was a significant amount of work to expect the warden to do.. Cllr Roberts was not prepared to do this specifically, although he did



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state that he had asked his cabinet colleague if he would set aside some budget to “reclaim” some of the paths being lost by the increasing spread of overgrowth.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).  
Cllr Rogers had left the meeting.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).  
11.3.1 Cllr Johnson had lost his connection.

11.4 Litter Picks  
11.4.1 No report.

11.5 Sunderland’s Yard Allotments  
11.5.1 No report.

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

## 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 stated that the local produce market would still be running on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, prior to the carnival in the afternoon.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.  
12.2.1 Cllr Collins reported that there were various shows in the pipeline and he hoped that they will be well supported. The association’s AGM will be in October.

## 13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 The next surgery will be on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## 14. Other Matters.

14.1 Face to face / hybrid meetings (Cllrs Anderson and Button).  
14.1.1 Cllrs Anderson and the Chair reported that steps had been taken to progress towards the return to face-to-face meeting and further, towards “hybrid” meetings, combining face-to-face meetings with remote connectivity, improving accessibility to all. At this stage this mainly involved cabling and equipment. The plan is to trial this at the Planning and Licencing Committee Meeting on the 21st September. There were no dissenters to this as a way forward towards some normality.

14.2 Bee boxes (Cllr Johnson).  
14.2.1 This item was deferred until Cllr Johnson was available as more information was needed.

14.3 The Queen’s Green Canopy: “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”.  
14.3.1 Members were asked to inform the Clerk if they had any suggestions for this initiative.



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14.4 Abbots & Kings Langley Royal Air Forces Association Battle of Britain Service - the Church of St Lawrence, Abbots Langley at 1130am on Sunday 12 September.

14.4.1 Unfortunately no Members were available for the ceremony this year.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 The Clerk added to the Warden's report that he had installed another commemorative bench on The Common.

Meeting closed 21:36



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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

Environment group meeting notes  
Thursday 26th August for a 7pm

In attendance

Howard Button Chairman

John Ingleby

Debbie James Saunders

Mark Bettals

Harold Taylor (unable to connect)Join Zoom Meeting

1. Everyone was welcomed and introduced.
2. Terms of reference agreed .
  - 2.1. Working group meeting only
  - 2.2 There will be no formal minutes only meeting notes
  - 2.3 All Suggestions will be subject to Parish council approval.
  - 2.4 Any recoding taken will be for note taking only and is NOT for dissemination outside of the group.
  - 2.5 Please respect the meeting times.
  - 2.6 Please allow everyone to speak.
  - 2.7 Please keep emails to a minimum between meetings.
3. JI covered the back ground and updated us all on the Neighbourhood plan objectives. There were no questions regarding this section.  
JI spoke about the loss of the TIK growing area at Rectory farm and advise that alternative areas on the site have not been readily accessible but may be once the present development roads are in place.  
JI also spoke about the recent flooding of the allotments HB reported that the EA & C&RT have been investigating the section river adjoining the allotments which is partially blocked by falling trees in some places local land owners have been contacted.
4. The group then went through the various suggested topics below that are annotated accordingly. The six key topic for action and further discussion are highlighted
  - a. Cyclist resource bike rack at the station: this is outside of the Parish boundary. MB commented that there are already cycle racks at KL Station that are currently under used so no further action other than monitoring required.
  - b. Encouragement for gardening; allotments & growing organic food. Discuss. The group considered this item could be through an awareness alert via social media HB to post any encouraging information on Facebook KLM page.
  - c. Rubbish and recycling reducing purchase of packaged food. Discuss; The group considered the same action as item b
  - d. School walking routes & Parking probably a transport item. Discuss. HB commented that to the best of his knowledge this was already in place agreed to seek confirmation. HB post meeting note; I have seen children escorted by their parent walking into the new nursely in Vicarage lane.





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- e. Wildflower verges, this has previously been discussed but could be reviewed. Discuss. Group felt this should also cover item j Less mowing HB advised that this it is a DBC policy that should be encouraged through DBC officers
- f. Parish award for sustainability/environmental achievement. Discuss. Unanimously agreed this was a brilliant idea and would be followed up for the 2022 Parish AGM Action HB & KLPC
- g. Parish council statement on sustainability/environment. Parish has signed up for climate emergency and has initiated environmental initiatives. Discuss. (solar panel work starts end of August) HB advised that works were underway on the works at the Parish council offices to install solar panels and that other electrical improvement work to the heating system had been completed. JI suggested a line paragraph could be added to the Neighbourhood plan to encourage sustainability for all new builds HB to confirm with councillor Morrish .
- h. Improve recycling in the village, perhaps expanding at the Nap, to collect - soft plastic, crisp packets, coffee pods i.e things that are difficult to recycle at the moment. We did touch on this before and I mentioned reverse vending machine trials. Discuss; HB commented that recycling bin in the Nap car have been abused in past and would be concerned about adding to the problem recommending a small bin alongside the existing recycling bins in lower Common lane DJS to look into the viability of a Coffee pods bin. HB &MB to investigate soft plastic recycling options. HB to look at inviting Borough team to AGM.
- i. Provide a drinking water tap for villagers and visitors to refill reusable bottles to discourage one-use plastic bottles. Also to fill up dog bowls. Discuss agreed to look at options and discuss at next meeting.
- j. Less mowing/more rewilding/ wild flowers/wild life reserves, this is already a DBC action point. Covered under item e
- k. Grass verges - stop erosion eg opposite KL FC. The Transport group have passed this over as it is considered more of an environmental issue with the verge erosion. The group commented that the football club need ed to take on more responsibility DJS commented that valuable parking within the grounds is being lost to what appears to be commercial used areas of storage.
- l. Woodland Trust initiative - plant a tree. We have looked at this as a parish several times see paper Queens Platinum Jubilee; Discuss. This merged into the discussion around the football club verge as a possible planting area.
- m. Ensure pesticides used in KL are not GLYPHOSATE (and in Dacorum) Parish council does not treat the weeds DBC issue. HB to ask DBC councillors to take this request forward
- n. Litter Picking - consider dividing village into areas with volunteers responsible for specific roads/areas. Parish already holds monthly public litter picks and the warden covers this under his duties. HB/KLPC to post litter pick date on KLM.
- o. Renewable energy - including PC building, Community Centre, Library, Doctors etc - replace incandescent light bulbs with more energy ones. Same as g.

In conclusion we have 7 action points to take forward but consider G&H should merge E; F;G&H;I;J;K;