



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 5th October 2021.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr De Silva. (It was noted that County Cllr Roberts had also sent his apologies.)

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 September 2021 had been received from PCSO Bardi Agallili and distributed to Members.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 The Clerk reported that the village had a new PC, Dean Childs-O'Leary.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

5.1 General / Highways Matters.

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts was unable to attend the meeting. There were no matters to report.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 7th September 2021 be adopted as a true record

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 None.



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8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 17th August and 7th September 2021 were adopted as a true record.

8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 The future of The Priory.

The Chair had written to several bodies requesting that they considered assuming responsibility for The Priory. He had had from The National Trust, who would not be able to. He was disappointed that no-one else had replied. Cllr Anderson stated that The History Society was writing to Historic England with its concerns about the site and the loss to the public.

8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

8.3.1 Christmas Lights.

Cllr Angiolini confirmed that it had been agreed by the Joint Committee that the event should not take place this year because of the continuing concerns about the pandemic and the complications of organising such an event. However, as last year, the lights would still be switched on and the two competitions organised. Mrs Anderson had volunteered her services. The Clerk added that the lights would be installed the following week. There may be a public event as there was last year on the 5th December when Santa's sleigh will be touring. And there is a possibility that a shopkeepers group may also be staging something.

8.3.2 Gardens Competition Presentation Evening.

Cllr Angiolini reminded Members that this was on Friday 22nd October and that as much help as possible would be appreciated. This year's charities would be DENS and the Sunnyside Trust.

8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.

8.4.1 No report.

8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden was refurbishing the village garden "welcome" sign which was rotten. Members asked that the Clerk would pass on their thanks to the Warden for refurbishing the village of the year sign.

8.5.2 Cllr Morrish asked whether the Warden could be asked to clear the mud and slurry on the path at the bottom of Right of Way 10 (between (Miller & Carter and Brookfield View) and that this is added to his job description. It was agreed that this would be discussed under 9.6.1.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for September 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for September 2021 in the sum of £24,383.33 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.



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- 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 31st August 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:	£150,517.45
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32

- 9.3 External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2021.
- 9.3.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the external auditor's letter, report and certificate be accepted.

- 9.4 Application for financial assistance Kings Langley Allotments and Gardens Association (KLAGA).
- 9.4.1 Cllr Johnson explained that the association was seeking assistance in obtaining professional advice on how to protect the allotment site from flooding after several occurrence this year. He felt it was important to support the Association. There was general support that some level of assistance should be given, and after a short debate, it was proposed (Cllr Johnson), seconded (Cllr Anderson) and RESOLVED:

That the sum of £500 should be made available for the above purpose. Members acknowledged that on this occasion it would waive the maximum figure set out in the rules of the Council's Small Grants Scheme. The payment would be released upon submission of a quote or invoice.

- 9.4.2 It was noted that after Cllr Roberts' approach to the drainage team at HCC, it was unable to help.

- 9.5 On-line banking and payments via bank transfer.
- 9.5.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be granted access to on-line banking for the Council's Current Account.

- 9.5.2 The Council's Financial Regulations will be amended accordingly.

- 9.6 2021-22 Budget Virement

- 9.6.1 Cllr Johnson explained that he and the Leisure Group felt that there was sufficient signage in the High Street and that more maps would be a better solution. However, it was felt that this budget or part thereof would be better spent on improvements to Kings Langley woods. He had presented quotes from The Sunnyside Trust, the first part of which was to brush cut all the numbered footpaths through the woodland. He added that £2,100 would be needed for this purpose, but that a separate project with further expenditure will be required to resolve the issues with footpath 10 (adjacent to Miller & Carter and Brookfield View). Cllr Johnson felt that this initiative had many benefits, not least that (hopefully) it will encourage greater use of the footpaths and also persuade the Borough to maintain them better.



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Cllr Collins hoped that the Council would consider the second part of the proposal from Sunnyside which was introduce steps and surfacing to mitigate the frequent flooding down footpath 10 to Hempstead Road, which was an on-going problem reported many times in Council minutes.

Cllr Morrish stated his support for the footpath clearance, especially as opening up the woodlands was included in the Neighbourhood Plan, but he also asked that the Warden could clear the mud at the bottom of the footpath when it occurred. There were concerns that the Warden would not have the means to dispose of the mud.

9.6.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That £2,100 would be made available for the woodland accessibility project.

9.6.3 It was further agreed that the Warden would be asked to monitor the state of the mud accumulation on the Hempstead Road footpath, that it would also be monitored to judge whether the brush cutting on footpath 10 improved the situation and that Dacorum Borough Council would be approached regarding supporting the two projects, in particular financial support for the second.

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 reported that many of the Clean, Safe and Green staff members were being deployed on refuse collection, where, also, staff retention was becoming difficult against better pay for drivers in the private sector (particularly the supermarkets). The Borough was undergoing a restructuring of its senior management. It was also noted that although no members of staff at the Borough had been furloughed, homeworking was still encouraged.

Cllr McLean raised some issues with car parking in Hemel Hempstead to which Cllr Anderson responded.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Morrish updated Members on a recent meeting with the team at the Borough. There would be further public consultation in the spring.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

The Group was meeting the following night.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group.

Cllrs Johnson reported that a planning application was being prepared for the “trim trail”. Eric Martin and Cllr Collins were trying to progress the “Links” website. There was a suggestion to place an additional “strap line” to the village entrance signs with the words “Historic Village”. The Clerk felt that there may not be room, so this would be examined further.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

No update. A meeting would be organised shortly. Cllr Morrish added that he was continuing to pursue an update on the crossing patrol in Hempstead Road.



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- 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports
 - 11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).
Nothing to report.
 - 11.2.2 The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park (Cllr Button)
Little to report other than that Vicarage Lane is closed for water utility works.
 - 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).
Cllr Collins updated Members on progress on Rectory Farm. He also reported an issue with the footpath to Belham Road. He was advised to report this to Herts Highways.
 - 11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).
No report.
 - 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).
No report.
 - 11.2.6 Watford Road and Coniston Road areas (Cllr Johnson).
There had been some minor slippage on the Coniston Road development.
 - 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).
Cllr Morrish advised that there have been some works planned at the junction with Hempstead Road, but that he was very unhappy with the poor communications surrounding it.
 - 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).
Cllr Rogers had nothing to report. Cllr Button reported that the owners of Langley House had cut back the worst of the overgrowth on the High Street.
- 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).
 - 11.3.1 The volunteer session had been postponed until this coming Thursday because of bad weather, when there would be some bulb planting.
- 11.4 Litter Picks
 - 11.4.1 Two families joined the latest pick. Waterside was added to the regular “list”.
- 11.5 Sunderland’s Yard Allotments
 - 11.5.1 There had been a meeting with the Environment Agency and the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT). The former had acknowledged that the River Gade IS its responsibility, but the trees and vegetation growing on the bank are the Council’s responsibility, and these have been identified (as has that which is “Gaywood’s” responsibility). The Council’s part will be dealt with shortly, and hopefully this will eliminate one of the possibilities that might be contributing towards the flooding, but Cllr Johnson advised that there still appeared to be issues with the canal itself which the CRT is not acknowledging; there is certainly a problem with the volume of water coming into the River Gade: it is still over a foot deeper than 12 months ago and there is flooding elsewhere nearby.

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

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.



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12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 Cllr Collins reported that neither he nor Cllr Rogers would be able to attend the association's AGM will be in October. Cllr Johnson agreed to substitute if he was not otherwise engaged.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 The next surgery will be on 16th October.

14. Other Matters.

14.1 Information / Media Management (Cllr Button)

14.1.1 It was noted that the Clerk and Chair had the Council's authority to issue statements on its behalf, and that this naturally included those on social media.

Members of the Leisure Group Eric Martin and Cllr Collins have been investigating the possibilities of kick-starting the <https://www.kingslangleylinks.com>, which had been developed by former Councillor Hubberstey, but which was not live and the idea had not been met with much interest from several organisations that had been approached recently. This would be revisited at the December meeting.

14.2 Format of Council minutes.

14.2.1 Cllr Johnson introduced this item and Members considered ways to reduce the length of Minutes to save time in their production and reading. Suggestions included making them more decisions-based supported by a clearer agenda, in turn supported by Members' reports. The reports would have to form part of the published minutes. It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would pilot this.

14.3 Removal of temporary powers granted to the Clerk.

14.3.1 It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the full powers of the Council delegated to the Clerk at the meeting of 4th May 2021 be rescinded as the next meeting of the Council (2nd November 2021) would be in-person.

14.4 Bee boxes (Cllr Johnson).

14.4.1 Members were supportive of installing these around the village. Cllr Johnson agreed to approach schools and nurseries to see if they would be like to be involved.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Johnson advised that the Remembrance Day service would be on Sunday 14th November at the war memorial. Fr James has asked to borrow the Council's PA system. This was agreed. There would also be a commemoration on Armistice Day at the memorial.

15.2 It was agreed that the meeting of the Council in November would be face-to-face. The next Planning & Licensing Committee would be a further trial of the technology.

15.3 Cllr Morrish reminded members that the Council's Christmas meal was being organised for 10th December and to ensure they responded to the invitation.

Meeting closed 21:40