



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

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

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

Cllr Angiolini assumed the Chair.

The Meeting observed a minutes silence to mark the passing of former Council Member and Chair, Mrs Liz Rafferty.

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs Button and Rogers.

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 October 2021 had been received from PCSO Bardi Agallili and distributed to Members. There were two recorded crimes.

4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.

5. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

5.1 General Matters.

5.1.1 Cllr Roberts was not present.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.2 Cllr Morrish reported that the pedestrian / school crossing on Hempstead Road had now been commissioned as a project and it is currently awaiting safety checks. There was some discussion vis-a vis the nearby pedestrian crossing which was included in the proposals for Rectory Farm. He added that a traffic signals engineer had visited the High Street / Vicarage Lane junction. He thought it was a difficult site because of the different road levels, but not impossible. The proposal being considered is to install traffic lights and to relocate the pedestrian crossing from outside Spar. It is still being progressed through the Council's Transport Group and to be commissioned as a project by County.



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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 5<sup>th</sup> October 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 21<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October 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.

The Clerk reported that he had received notice from HCC that four of the lamp columns holding the Council's Christmas light displays had been condemned and would be replaced within two weeks. This meant that the displays would have to be removed and stored away by the Council's contactor. This was in addition to the column outside St Luras still not having any power.

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 would be planting the flower beds over the course of the next few days. He was still refurbishing the village garden "welcome" sign.

## 9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for October 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for October 2021 in the sum of £15,444.97 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> September 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:	£126,967.92
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32

- 9.2.2 The Clerk added that he now had on-line access to the Council’s bank accounts and had made the first BACS payments. The approval process which requires three signatures and had previously been approved was discussed.
- 9.3 Dacorum Borough Council - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Payments April 2021 – September 2021.
- 9.3.1 The report was noted. The Clerk confirmed that the payments from Dacorum Borough Council had been received in October,

## 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 reported that the Borough were in the process of negotiating the purchase of Hamilton House which would provide 73 flats for social housing. Also that the Borough’s policy for sheltered housing is being amended to make it more open for people who wish to down-size.  
Cllr Anderson reported that the Borough was considering a major review of its climate change strategy and action plan this evening.

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

- 11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.
- 11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.  
Cllr Morrish reminded Members of the difference between the Neighbourhood Plan and the various parts of the Parish Plan / Groups, the latter being the implementers of the actions identified as part of the process of developing the former. It was hoped that the plan would be “live” in the spring.
- 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).  
Cllr Johnson reported on Cllr Button’s behalf that the Group would like to introduce awards to promote environmental issues. These could involve schools, individuals and businesses and be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Secondly, the group was keen on wild flower and tree planting, but was difficult, partly because of the constraints imposed by Herts Highways and the Borough. Cllr Anderson suggested that it might be helpful to invite Rob Cassidy from Dacorum Borough Council to one of the Group’s meetings.
- 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Johnson).  
Cllrs Johnson had provided notes from the October meeting of the Group and these are attached at appendix 1. Cllr Collins also wanted a further board to the village entrance signs welcoming people to “historic” Kings Langley. It was agreed that this would be formally presented at the next meeting of the Council.



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It was further agreed that this could be done as well as highways signage at the M25 roundabout, and it was agreed that this would be raised again with HCC (by the Clerk / Cllr Anderson).

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

Cllr McClean had provided an update report and this is attached at appendix 2. He added that he detected a lack of enthusiasm and impetus within the Group which is being daunted by the size of the task and the need for significant funding. Cllr Morrish responded that he had spoken to Andrew Freeman (HCC) who had seen the report and would appreciate a meeting to consider re-focusing priorities. This could mean a single project, eg the High Street / Vicarage Lane junction.

## 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)

The Clerk said that the Warden had reported several instances of damaged birds-mouth fencing around the village, particularly on The Common and in Green Park / The Nap car park. These were the Borough's responsibility.

### 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).

Cllr Collins was pleased to report that Highways had cleared the mud from the Miller and Carter footpath very quickly after he had reported it, although not yet the issue with the footpath to Belham Road.

### 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 hedge by West One needed cutting back again. The Clerk would forward him the contact details.

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

The Clerk reported that the success of the drainage works in Watford Road was apparently being thwarted by grass cuttings now blocking the drain / covers.

### 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish reported that the normal flooding issues had recurred recently. Borough teams do come and clear the debris when there is availability.

### 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

No report.

## 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

### 11.3.1 Volunteers are still attending the Friday morning session and some planting is continuing (before the frosts arrive!).

## 11.4 Litter Picks

### 11.4.1 The last session was cancelled because of the torrential rain.

## 11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments

### 11.5.1 The Council had carried out the tree and debris clearance required by the Environment Agency but there is no noticeable difference in the water levels.



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## 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 was pleased to add that things seemed to be getting back to normal.

## 13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 A report had been provided, but the surgery was curtailed because of the weather.

## 14. Other Matters.

14.1 Remembrance Services - update

14.1.1 Remembrance Day (14<sup>th</sup> November) This service would be at the war memorial.

14.1.2 Armistice Day (11<sup>th</sup> November (Thursday)). The arrangements would be as last year with a service presented by Fr James at the war memorial.

14.1.3 To approve the cost of a wreaths for Remembrance / Armistice Day and a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

Recognising that the British Legion's funds would once again be depleted this year as a result of the pandemic, it was RESOLVED that the Council would make a donation of £200 towards the Poppy Appeal, which includes payment for wreaths

14.2 Christmas and New Year Office Opening Hours.

14.2.1 The following opening and closing dates were agreed. Staff would be required to take annual leave if they also took the time off.

27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
(day in lieu of) Christmas Day	(day in lieu of) Boxing Day*	CLOSE	CLOSE	CLOSE
03-Jan	04-Jan	05-Jan	06-Jan	07-Jan
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
(day in lieu of) New Year's Day*				

14.3 Council and Planning & Licensing Committee meetings.

14.3.1 To consider proposed changes to the format of Council and Planning & Licensing Committee meetings.

14.3.2 Cllr Button had expressed concerns that full council meetings were often quite lengthy and finished late, but that Planning & Licensing Committee meetings were usually brief and he was seeking ways balance them better and reduce the size of the full council agenda. It was agreed that:

- a) The Planning & Licensing Committee meetings prior to full council meetings would not be held but that any urgent such matters would be incorporated into the



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full council meeting. This would automatically increase the length of Planning & Licensing Committee agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

- b) Full Council meetings would start at 7:30pm.
- c) This would start in January.
- d) Members should provide written reports which would be attached as appendices.

14.3.3 There was a further discussion regarding whether “Geographical Areas” should continue to be itemised in detail on the agenda, but concluded that it should be retained in its current form. Cllr Sinclair agreed to “take on” the Coniston Road area.

14.4 Dates of meetings 2022.

14.4.1 Members confirmed that they were still happy with the current basis for the timetable of meetings despite occasional clashes with Dacorum Borough Council meetings.

14.4.2 It was agreed that the meetings in January would be delayed by a week.

14.5 Christmas Lights (shopkeepers’ “event”), 27<sup>th</sup> November.

14.5.1 The Clerk updated Members on the information he had on this event which would be replacing the Council’s event this year.

## 15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the Church was organising carol singing in the village garden (also) on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

15.2 A further filming session would be taking place in and around The Nap car park on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Cllr Johnson added that former Councillor Peter McDonnell had approached the film company to request a donation to the people of the village in compensation for the disruption suffered, which appeared to have been met with some positivity.

15.3 Cllr Morrish asked whether the Council was happy to support the initiative to improve the library, which had been on-going for many years. If so, he would write to the chief librarian at the County. Members confirmed their support.

## 16 Exclusion of the Public – the following resolution was passed:

That, in accordance with Kings Langley Parish Council Standing Order 17(q), under schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended to schedule 12(A) by the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in the view of the special and/or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.



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## PART 2

### 17. Budget 2022-23

17.1 Structure of the Budget - Revenue Expenditure and Funds – a brief recap / Consideration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft.

17.1.1 Members had received a copy of the first draft of the budget prepared by Cllr Anderson, which he explained and in so doing provided a re-cap on how it was structured, answering several questions.

In response to a question regarding Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts, Cllr Anderson stated that these are not budgeted for but accounted for as and when they are received and placed in the projects fund. A CIL account is produced each year as a separate document.

This stage provides an opportunity for Members to request any changes prior to the next iteration which will be considered at the next meeting.

Meeting closed 21:40



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1.

#### **Briefing note of the October Leisure Group meeting**

##### Repair Shed

Sunnyside Trust have an estimate of £75-£100k to bring the building up to standard, the majority from grants. Community Action Dacorum have orally asked for the parish council and Richard Robert's contributions.

##### Kings Langley Links

Neither Derek Collins or Alan Johnson could recall what, if anything, was agreed on this item at the parish council meeting.

##### Commons and woods

The Sunnyside Trust started work last week on the numbered footpaths. They started on Footpath 10.

##### Trim Trail

The planning application for the Trim Trail has been submitted.

##### Cycle paths

Unfortunately the community activator leading on this project has left, but the replacement should be in post by the end of November.

##### Community Toilet Scheme

Nothing to report at this time.

##### Poppies

The street lamp poppies have been received and will be installed shortly. The KL Crafts Group will also be doing small Remembrance installations at bus stops.

##### Heritage Trail

It was suggested the Council's Kings Langley Walk document could include a QR code linked to a website or websites with information such as the history society.

The addition of more Village Maps were being investigated, e.g. what authority is needed for signs in, for example, Tooveys Mill.

##### Signage

There was a discussion about additional, less intrusive signage to historic sites. This would be explored.





## APPENDICES

### Appendix 2

#### **Transport Group Update: Prepared by Bob Mclean 14/10/21.**

**The key objectives discussed at the Steering Group are listed below and remain as the ongoing focus of this group:**

- 1) Overall objective to implement the ARUP report in full over a three to five year period
- 2) To have a 'fall-back' position which would allow the key safety aspects of the ARUP report to be implemented in the short term if the overall project was found to be unviable both financially and technically.
- 3) To focus on improving Cycle ways and footpaths across the village for joint use.
- 4) Look at financially viable ways of resolving the Pinch Point.
- 5) Review all car parking options to make more spaces available in order to attract consumers to the village to bolster the High Street economy.
- 6) Investigate 'One Way' traffic flow systems through Vicarage Lane in order to reduce congestion in that throughway.
- 7) Review and recommend the road safety aspects of the path from the Primary school to Rectory Lane.

#### **1: ARUP Viability:**

Andrew Freeman was requested to undertake a high level review of the project the overall ARUP project and to check out its viability both financially and technically accepting that this was a 3 to 5 year term and report back: Andrew felt he may be able to achieve this within one month.

**Action: Andrew Freeman.**

#### **2: ARUP Fall-back:**

To investigate implementing a 'Safety First' option at the junction of Vicarage Lane and the High Street as an interim solution

Parish Council have indicated that their concern following the agreement to establish a Nursery at that junction.

The preferred solution (longer term) is the raised platform 'Vicarage Square' allied to a set of traffic lights to control the flow of the High Street traffic.

It is important that the traffic situation be monitored following the opening of the Nursery and that any incidents are logged in order to possibly support the preferred option in the longer term.

An option in respect of the traffic lights may be to relocate the current pedestrian lights currently outside SPAR closer to the actual junction and expand to a full system at the Nap junction.

It may then be possible to do away with the pedestrian lights at the SPAR as they will become redundant and to have two sets of lights so close together would be non-practical

**Action: Full Group discussion at next meeting.**



### 3: Cycle Ways and Footpaths:

The Group felt strongly this should be investigated with the aim, where possible of creating 'joint' cycle ways and footpaths across the village to encourage people to get out of their cars and these should be a drive towards both leisure and transport solutions.

Clearly there would be safety issues to address but it was felt that tis investigation should take place to review all options both: North/ South and East / West across the village. To this end James would work with Andrew and identify key routes, immediate examination would be the planned activity in Green Lane.

Further work should take place to examine the current status of the canal Tow Path with a view to completing the Kings Langley section and to seek to make this a community wide amenity for both transport and leisure use linking the entire length of Dacorum from Tring to Watford.

Initial investigation with respect to expanding Green Lane path suggests that there is little space to provide a joint use facility: this is therefore unlikely to go ahead.

It is suggested therefore that any new development plans for cycle way/footpath development must from the outset be planned in such a way that both requirements are catered for and that the width requirements be taken into consideration from day one of any newly planned route.

**Action: James Markham, Andrew Freeman.**

### 4): Pinch Point:

The view of the group was that the cost of resolving the 'Pinch Point' by reconstructing the banking and hitching rail outside Fred and Gingers was not a financially viable.

The realistic option was to move a number of parking spaced directly opposite towards the Blue Court / Church Lane junction and to create a one metre space on the widest pavement point to allow cars to legitimately park halfway across the pavement, noted that this is happening anyway as drivers are concerned about losing wing mirrors now.

Equally there is an area just beyond the existing bus stop which lends itself to the creation of a layby as was created opposite Taylor's Tools, this area extends sufficiently to provide a 4 car layby facility without seriously impeding the width of the pavement and offers 'offroad' parking of at least 4 spaces would could go some way to mitigating the objections of the Traders and should warrant serious investigation.

Andrew indicated that this is not Highways preferred option and that there had been objection when this was last reviewed some two years ago.

The option of removal of several parking spaces (possibly) on the Fred and Ginger side was looked at during Andrew's site visit, this is most definitely an option and would likely be the easiest to implement since it would require removal/remarking of the road only.

At best the pinch point will only be resolved by the removal of up to 8 current parking spaces on one side of the road or the other, mitigated possibly by the addition of up to 4 spaces on the Blue Court side of the road. (see layby comment above).

The Chairman did report to the Parish Council that, in his opinion, unless the community was prepared to accept the loss of up to 8 parking spaces on one or the other side of the High Street there



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was little point in pursuing the option of resolving the Pinch Point. Undoubtedly the Traders would be very against and this could only be mitigated by offering some expansion of parking, most likely in the Nap.

## **5): Car Parking Options:**

The option of additional spaces marked out in Langley Hill was also able to be examined at the time of Andrew's visit.

It just so happened that this coincided with the 'School' run. Langley Hill was packed with cars from the High Street to the top of the hill all wishing to exit into the High Street.

This therefore represented a consistent flow of vehicles, mostly SUV in nature.

It was obvious that there was just sufficient room for those cars wishing to go up Langley Hill to pass and absolutely no space was available for a 'third' stream of traffic. Indeed one or two parked cars on the left side of Langley Hill going up created a blockage and further slowed movement.

Any attempt to create additional spaces at the lower end of Langley Hill for parking should no longer be contemplated.

Expansion of the Nap car park should be re-examined as time had moved on and certainly resident's attitudes may well have changed.

Again at the time of Andrew's visit it seemed more sensible to expand, should this happen, on the section outside the Doctor's surgery which offered a flatter and more accessible option than the plot of land directly attached to the Community Centre.

Establish up to 40 spaces on the green area outside the Doctor's surgery as an extension to the Nap carpark, recognised this is Dacorum issue therefore needs to be taken up via the Parish Council and HCC.

**Action: Parish Council / H.C.C. Full Group discussion at next meeting.**

## **6): One Way Traffic Flow Systems:**

Investigate and possibly overcome the traffic congestion in Vicarage Lane by introducing a 'one way' system either in part or for full length of parts of the village to resolve not just Vicarage Lane but perhaps also the Common Lane congestion.

The sense is that residents attitudes/objections appear to be changing and the past objections may no longer apply so up to 4 options are potentially available for consideration. At least three of the options impact wider areas of the village and would require extensive consultation and are maybe not worth pursuing.

A residents meeting took place at the Cricket Club in respect of this situation and was well attended. Views differed in respect of this meeting which, certainly the Chairman felt was representative of the residents of Vicarage Lane only and did not take into account any views from residents of the surrounding roads that may be affected by any significant traffic flow changes.

Notwithstanding the residents Chairperson presented a detailed and compelling case for a resolution of the immediate problem. He was able to demonstrate that the bulk of the issue lay within a very short area of Vicarage Lane, namely between the lower close and the close immediately above the cricket club.



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A one way system between those two closes would have the impact of resolving the width issue at that point and still allow parking on the North side of the road for residents without off road parking facilities.

I feel sure that Transport Group could support this option and would also support a 'trial' period to implement and monitor this potential solution.

Those representatives of the County Council present at the meeting seemed warm to this option and it is hoped that such a trial could take place in the near future. This may also limit the range of the consultation necessary to allow this to take place.

**Action: Andrew Freeman / Richard Roberts.**

## **7): Road Safety Crossing Point:**

The Group were strongly of the opinion that the crossing point at Rectory Lane to the path going up to the Primary School was a major danger to Parents and toddlers on their way to the school and needed addressing with immediate urgency

It was not clear if this crossing to be provided as part of the initial Rectory Farm development, if this was not the case then some form of 'Pelican' crossing needed to be considered as a matter of urgency, it was noted that junction improvements were included further towards Coniston Road as part of Phase two should it go ahead.

Some progress is being made in respect of a safer crossing facility at the Rectory Lane point and is being vigorously by Councillor John Morrish.

At this stage this is understood to be a manned crossing (Lollypop) type operating during the key school times. Whilst this is a welcome first step the Transport Group remain firmly of the view that in the longer term this needs to be a traffic light system operated by those pedestrians who wish to cross and currently exists outside the SPAR.

This is felt to be the only acceptable long term solution which potentially may be funded by Rectory Farm, stage 2, should it go ahead. It will have the added benefit of slowing the traffic accelerating from the High Street which is a constant threat to pedestrians as motorists move from the 30 MPH section into the 40 MPH section.

It was felt this was an issue for both HCC and Highways who agreed to investigate and report back.

**Action: Richard Roberts/ Andrew Freeman.**