



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 7th December 2021.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr Collins.

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 None.

3.2 At this point Cllr Rogers questioned why agenda item 18 (Rectory Farm “Community Land”) was included under Part 2, thereby excluding members of the public. The Clerk responded that it was because there was a possibility that commercially sensitive interests may be raised and to respect the wishes of the developer for these discussions to remain confidential at this stage. When asked by Cllr Rogers, no Members identified any specific confidential information that might be discussed, so he proposed that the item be brought forward to Part 1 of the agenda, but there was no support for his proposal.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 The reports for November 2021 had been received from PCSO Bardi Agallili and distributed to Members. There were five 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 at this stage.

5.2 Highways Matters.

5.2.2 Cllr Morrish reported that work on the installation of the pedestrian / school crossing on Hempstead Road was planned to start in spring 2022.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:



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The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 2nd November 2021 be adopted as a true record.

6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

7.1 Minute 15.2. Cllr Rogers asked whether Peter McDonnell had been successful in obtaining a donation from the film company recently active in the village. The Clerk responded that he had not.

8. Reports.

8.1 Standing Committees.

8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 19th October and 2nd November 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 No reports.

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 had populated the flower beds with plants except for those at Great Park which were being left so that the Celandine could be killed off in the spring, allowing for Union Flag displays to be created to celebrate HM The Queen's Jubilee. The High Street troughs had also been planted by Sunnyside.

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for November 2021.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for November 2021 in the sum of £12,697.31 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 October 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:	£125,861.10
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,865.32



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- 9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2021/22.
- 9.3.1 Members considered and noted the reports as at 30th November 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 31st October 2021).
- 9.4.1 In accordance with Audit requirements and recommendations, the statement was examined by the Members and signed by the Chair.
- 9.4.2 Cllr Rogers asked again why there were daily transfers between the two bank accounts. This was done automatically by the bank in order to retain balances at the level agreed with the bank to avoid charges. Following from this, the Clerk undertook to look at depositing a further amount in the NS&I Investment Account:
- 9.5 Internal Audit fee letter for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. See enclosed.
- 9.5.1 The Internal Auditor is offering two options for the audit because of changes to the *guidance* contained in the updated Practitioners Guide (PG2021) published in March 2021:
- Option 1 – “Legacy programme” (as in previous years) – fee £600.00.
Option 2 – “Expanded programme” (updated for PG2021) – fee £1,080.00.
- The options had been discussed between the Clerk, the Chair and Cllr Anderson, and advice obtained from HAPTC, and as a result, Option 1 was recommended, which Members were asked to approve.
- 9.5.2 Members were very pleased with the excellent and robust audits to date and it was therefore:
- Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:
- That Internal Audit Option 1 be accepted at this time.
- 9.6 Application for financial assistance Kings Langley Cricket Club.
- 9.6.1 The Cricket Club sought assistance with the repairs and renewal of its outside lighting which would improve security and safety for users of the pavilion and its surrounds, including the car park.
- 9.6.2 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:
- That Kings Langley Cricket Club be granted £250 re the above.
- 9.7 To approve the purchase of signage stencils.
- 9.7.1 Cllr Johnson sought approval to spend £450 on the above out of the Village Signs budget. This was approved.
- Cllr Roberts joined the meeting at this point.
- 9.8 The Chair asked Cllr Roberts if he had anything to report and he responded there was nothing specific, but that he was happy to take any questions.
- 9.8.1 Cllr Morrish if there was any news on the start of the work on the M25 roundabout, to which Cllr Roberts responded that he was not aware of any, but would find out.
- 9.8.2 There were no further questions for Cllr Roberts at this stage.



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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 first pass of the Borough’s budget was being considered. There was one item that stood out of interest to the Parish which was a sum of £20,000 for separating the utility services at Charter Court.

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

11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Morrish updated the meeting with the details of the current status as the process reaches the final consultation stage which expires on 27th January. It was hoped that the final plan will be available by early summer.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

The Group had met on 10th November. The main topic was the parking outside the football club, from which there were two representatives, but there was very little progress on the issue. Cllr Button sought Members’ support to fix temporary barriers (initially) to protect the verge. He would like to see where the displaced vehicles then park. Cllr Roberts supported appropriate action, but he and Cllr Anderson suggested that the Clerk should contact Peter Wright at HCC to seek his views and advice, which was agreed. It was noted that the club is allowing non-football parking to use / rent parts of the grounds. The second main topic was the Environmental Initiative Award. It was agreed that the prize would be increased to £200 and further updates be made to the flyer and to publish it before Christmas. Cllr Johnson undertook to place them with the schools.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Johnson),

Cllrs Johnson had provided notes from the November meeting of the Group and these are attached at appendix 1.

Kings Langley Links.

The Group had asked Cllr Johnson to clarify the Council’s support in principle of the above website. It was understood the Parish Council would not have the resources to maintain it. Whilst there was general support for this, Cllr Morrish felt the Leisure Group needed to demonstrate how it saw the website being maintained and any practical and (perhaps) financial support from the Council. This was agreed. The Clerk added that the Council paid something towards the initial set-up of the site, but nothing since.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McClean reported that a meeting had been scheduled for 13th December, and he was pleased to confirm that Cllr Roberts and Andrew Freeman would be attending.

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)

Nothing to report.

11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).

No report.



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- 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 his email to the contact at West One had been returned.
- 11.2.6 Watford Road area (Cllr Johnson).
Nothing to report.
- 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).
Cllr Morrish reported that residents in the lane had embraced a “community advent calendar” window display.
- 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).
Cllr Rogers reported that many of the shopkeepers were very positive about the next few weeks leading up to Christmas.
- 11.2.9 Coniston Road area (Cllr Sinclair).
Cllr Sinclair reported that there had been some recent filming of “The Marriage” in the vicinity.

- 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).
 - 11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that there were no volunteers at the latest session because of the inclement weather and that he would be getting back to some general maintenance as soon as practicable.

- 11.4 Litter Picks
 - 11.4.1 There would be no more litter picks until February 2022.

- 11.5 Sunderland’s Yard Allotments
 - 11.5.1 Cllr Johnson reported that three quotes had been received for the consultation regarding the flooding issue, so the grant that the Council had agreed can be released. The Clerk would discuss the details with Cllr Johnson outside the meeting. The problem with debris accumulating at the northern end of the river inlet has returned, despite being cleared by the Canal and Rivers Trust just a few years ago. They are denying any responsibility once again.

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.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting at this point.

- 12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.
 - 12.2.1 Cllr Rogers reported that all but one of the groups who used the centre had returned. The Association was in a good financial position because of the Government’s Covid grants.

13. Council Surgeries.

- 13.1 The main topic was of complaints regarding uneven pavements. These were directed accordingly to HCC. Cllr Button had followed up a complaint about the overgrowth in The Drift.



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14. Other Matters.

14.1 Dates of meetings 2022

14.1.1 The dates of meetings were agreed, and further, it was:

- Agreed that the meeting at Rucklers Lane Community Hall would still be held, although it was unlikely it would be a “hybrid” meeting
- Noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would not be “hybrid”
- Agreed that council surgeries now be shown as monthly.

14.2 Christmas Lights (shopkeepers’ event).

14.2.1 Cllr Button had attended the event and reported that the shopkeepers were very pleased with the support received from the Parish Council. He had taken rubbish bins for use in the High Street, but was pleased to say that there was very little litter. The Clerk added that the shopkeeper group had litter and first aid issues well under control. He added further that another reason for him placing this item on the agenda was to highlight that the Council may need to consider how the event is run in future, and to what extent each of the parties is involved. This would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

15. Any Other Business.

15.1 Cllr Angiolini informed those that were not aware of the sad passing of Terry Simmons. He would be attending the funeral along with the Administrative Assistant. Further, it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Council would make £20 donations to each of Mr Simmons’ three chosen charities.

15.2 Cllr Angiolini and the Administrative Assistant would be judging the shopkeepers Christmas decorations the following evening. The residential competition would also be judged shortly.

15.3 Cllr Angiolini reported that he had attended the Christmas Tree Festival event at All Saints’ and that he felt that the Administrative Assistant had done an excellent job with the Council’s exhibit, which was of a Plantagenet / Yorkists theme. Members were very pleased to record their congratulations and thanks to her which the Clerk would pass on.

15.4 Cllr Rogers asked if there was any news on the renewal of the lease for Charter Court which was due imminently. Cllr Anderson responded that as the Council was guaranteed an extension by law he was not overly concerned. There were still some issues to be resolved, not least the charges for utilities.

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 Consideration of the 2nd Draft.

17.1.1 Members had received a copy of the second draft of the budget prepared by Cllr Anderson. There had been seven changes, all of a fairly minor nature, which he explained. Replacing the Council's van with an electric vehicle and the installation of charging points was debated. The Clerk had obtained a quote for a single point, but it was agreed that he would obtain details and quotes for further options. It was also noted that the budget for electricity had not yet been reduced (to show the benefit obtained from the solar panels) at this stage until more usage information is available.

18. Rectory Farm "Community Land".

18.1 In the event that development on the rest of Rectory Farm is permitted, Members are asked to consider their preference for the future ownership and management of the area which the developer has designated as community land.

18.1.1 Members considered the options that had been identified on a document issued with the agenda. There was a lengthy debate which raised many questions and concerns about maintaining some controlling interest over the land and its future use but to avoid any risk or liabilities for the people of Kings Langley. One of the options was to take ownership of the land and to engage a known third party to take responsibility for all aspects of managing it. It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a meeting with the third party's CEO after the next Planning and Licensing Committee meeting on 21st December.

Meeting closed 21:55.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Briefing note of the November Leisure Group meeting

Repair Shed

Sunnyside Trust have an estimate of £75-£100k to bring the building up to standard, the majority from grants. The timing of any actual work still appears uncertain. In the meantime contact has been made with Isabel Montesdeoca, Clerk of Abbots Langley, to ensure the parish councils remain in control of this project (the property belongs to Abbots Langley). Debbi James-Saunders has a meeting with Community Action Dacorum w/b 6 December.

Kings Langley Links

At the October meeting of the parish council it was agreed to discuss this at the December meeting. The Leisure Group are seeking clarification on whether or not the Council supports the idea of this website in principle..

Commons and woods

The Sunnyside Trust started work but progress has been slow due to the weather conditions, i.e. wet and/or very cold, as the apprentices will not be asked to work in these circumstances. There was some discussion about maintenance of these paths once the work has been completed. This could involve asking for a more active role from DBC, contracting an annual maintenance 'trim' from Sunnyside (in the absence of any DBC work) or setting up a 'Friends of' group.

Trim Trail

The planning application for the Trim Trail has been re-submitted following questions from DBC Planning Department, e.g. size of Trim Trail installation in hectares, house numbers of adjoining properties, using a map not a Google map to specify the location and its surroundings..

Cycling

Unfortunately the community activator role due to lead on the national cycling project has still not been filled. Progress will be 'chased' with the Berkhamsted Club.

Poppies

The lamp post poppies proved very popular and it was hoped more could be added each year by the parish council.

Community Toilet Scheme

Oscars have agreed to participate at no cost; Dallings, the Saracens Head and (in due time) Fred and Gingers will also be approached on a similar basis..

Heritage Trail

The addition of more Village Maps was still being investigated. Initial discussions have taken place with Graham Prentice about the existing parish leaflet to make it more attractive, but he is busy until next year. A QR code or weblink to the History Society website would reduce the narrative, enabling more space for illustrations..

Signage

A quote has been received for 'stencilled' pavement signage to places of interest. The stencils directing people to places such as Wayside Farm and All Saints would be used sparingly and cost £90 each. They would be endlessly reusable.

A costing is due to be provided to the December meeting of the parish council for the 'Historic Village' strap line.