



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council; County Cllr Richard Roberts; representatives of Angle Property and Cala Homes; residents of Rucklers Lane.

At this point the Chair asked the meeting to spare a little time to think about the horrific plight of the people of Ukraine during these awful times for their country.

1. Apologies for Absence.

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

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 Cllr Anderson declared a Prejudicial Interest in item 14.3 (Letter regarding redesignation of footpath from Rucklers Lane via Barnes Lane to Chipperfield) as the footpath was adjacent to his property.

3. Public Participation / Question Time / Urgent Planning & Licencing Matters

3.1 Public Participation / Question Time.

3.1.1 Mrs Fieldsend of Rucklers Lane was present to speak to item 14.3 (Letter regarding redesignation of footpath from Rucklers Lane via Barnes Lane to Chipperfield). The Council had received a letter from a lady who liveried her horse in Rucklers Lane who was asking whether the Council would support the above redesignation. She had also written to Hertfordshire County Council which is the authority responsible for making changes of this nature. Mrs Fieldsend felt that the this suggestion was wholly inappropriate and cited several reasons. Cllr Anderson agreed, especially as he believed that horse-riding on the footpath would damage it to the extent that it would make it very difficult for walkers to use and would also destroy the steps that had been installed by Countryside Management to help pedestrians scale the slope. The Clerk added that the farmer had configured the fencing in his field to stop horse-riding, so he would clearly be against the change. Cllr Anderson proposed that the Clerk should write to the County stating that this Council would not support this redesignation. Members agreed. The Clerk would also write to the letter-sender.

3.2 Rectory Farm – A brief update from Angle Property.

3.2.1 James Good of Angle Property introduced three representatives from Cala Homes who were Angle's partners for the proposed phase II of the development at Rectory Farm. James explained that he would like to present the latest proposals for the development to the Council in more detail at the Council's meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March so that it would coincide with the public consultation, which would be starting shortly with a leaflet drop to 5000+ homes this week and a stall in the High Street this coming Saturday. The representatives of Cala Homes provided a further update, which included confirmation that the proposal would be for 135 homes and various community buildings and facilities. It was the intention that the consultation would allow for the community to have a say on the shape etc of the development.



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There was a brief question and answer session and copies of the public flyer were distributed.

3.2.2 Once James Good et al had left the meeting, Members discussed their attendance at the meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that this would be allowed.

3.3 Traffic situation in Rucklers Lane.

3.3.1 The Council had received an email from a resident of Rucklers Lane asking for this item to be discussed at a Council meeting. He cited his concerns with hazardous parking and speeding,

3.3.2 Cllr Morrish had already discussed this matter with HCC’s Andrew Freeman and Cllr Roberts. He advised that these situations required a case to be built to presented to the appropriate authorities. He added, that in the meantime Cllr Roberts had agreed to arrange some traffic counts.

3.4 Urgent Planning & Licencing Matters

3.4.1 Mrs Hutton of Rucklers Lane was present to raise her objections to the planning application below. Members supported her objections and agreed to submit the following objection and reasons as shown.

| Reference    | Address           | Details of Application   | Submission | Reason (if any)   |
|--------------|-------------------|--|------------|---|
| 22/00330/LDP | 32A Rucklers Lane | Proposed new outbuilding for ancillary use to the existing dwelling. | Objection  | The Council objects to this application because, in the Members’ opinion, it does not satisfy the requirements of a Lawful Development, especially as it is in the Green Belt and, therefore, should be subject to a full planning application. |

County Cllr Roberts arrived during the above item.

3.4.2 Other Planning & Licencing Matters.

3.4.2.1 None.

3.4.3 Any Other Planning & Licencing Business (Not Requiring Formal Decision).

3.4.3.1 None.

4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 No reports had been received.

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 reported that the County had “landed” its corporate plan, the budget had been set at £950m, resulting in a Council Tax increase of just under 4%, equating to £60m over the whole of Hertfordshire.



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- 5.1.2 The discussions regarding a new hospital for South West Herts were still ongoing, but not really getting very far.
- 5.2 Highways Matters.
- 5.2.2 The final part of resurfacing Common Lane (at the bottom) had been completed. Cllr Rogers advised that there may have been some issues with this job as he had witnessed that the work appeared to have been done twice. Cllr Button added that, although the resurfacing work on Vicarage Lane was good, the parts around the drains were already crumbling. Cllr Roberts undertook to check.
- 5.2.3 For Cllr Robert's information, Cllr Morrish repeated his previous report per Minute 3.3.2. Cllr Roberts added that as a result of the speed and traffic measurement exercise southbound on Watford Road, he had made provision in his Locality Budget to make a 50% contribution for a Speed Indication Device there. There ensued a discussion on whether the existing northbound device could occasionally be switched to face the opposite direction, or actually moved to a pole on the other side of the road. The Clerk responded that if the device was turned you would get a lot more of readings bouncing off vehicles coming the opposite way as you do to an extent already, and he questioned who would move the device.
- 5.2.4 Cllr Morrish asked for an update on the works planned for the M25 roundabout, to which Cllr Roberts responded that it had been postponed. All agreed that the works were much needed.
- 5.3 The Hertfordshire (Mill Lane and Tooveys Mill Close, Kings Langley) (Restriction of Waiting) Order 2022
- 5.3.1 Cllr Anderson raised some concerns regarding the above, but was given explanations and reassurances by Cllr Roberts.
- 5.4 Grass Verges
- 5.4.1 There were concerns that the measures associated with 5.3 would exacerbate the problem of damaging the grass verge in Mill Lane. There were further discussions regarding verge damage throughout the village. It was agreed that, with Cllr Roberts' support, there would be an experiment to place large logs on the damaged area in Mill Lane as a deterrent, despite the Clerk's reservations, and that the Clerk would write to Miller Homes regarding the damage that they appeared to have caused at the top of Rectory Farm / Hempstead Road. Cllr Anderson undertook to contact the Dacorum Borough Council portfolio-holder on the first item.
- 5.5 Cllr Roberts added that money had been provided to create a new team to deal with cutting back overgrowth.

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

- 6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 be adopted as a true record.

- 6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.



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## 7. Matters Arising.

- 7.1 Cllr Rogers asked, re Minute 14.2 (High Street - Electricity Feeder), whether the Council had received repayment of the initial deposit for these works, to which the Clerk responded that the process had not reached that stage yet, until it had received a quote for, and made a decision on, the second Part of the works. He reassured Cllr Rogers that he had been told that the deposit would be repaid if it did not proceed.

## 8. Reports.

- 8.1 Standing Committees.
- 8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.
- 8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were adopted as a true record.
- 8.2 Chair's Reports.
- 8.2.1 Cllrs Button and Roberts updated the Members on a meeting with the football club regarding parking, and various options were discussed.
- 8.2.2 The Warden will be carrying out a pedestrian count at the bottom of Vicarage Lane.
- 8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.
- 8.3.1 No reports.
- 8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.
- 8.4.1 The Clerk reported that he had been working on the Council's asset register, in particular, dealing with recommendations from the Internal Auditor.
- 8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.
- 8.5.1 No report.

## 9. Finance Matters

- 9.1 Schedule of Payments for February 2022.
- 9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:
- That the payment schedule for February 2022 in the sum of £11,791.87 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022). Members had received copies of the summaries.
- 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:         | £77,313.79 |
| NS&I Investment Account: | £45,869.91 |



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- 9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2021-22.  
9.3.1 To receive the latest updates (as at 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022) (enclosed) and the signing of a statement to that effect.
- 9.4 Examination of the Council's Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (enclosed) and approval to sign the statement. The Chair to sign.
- 9.5 Review of Financial Regulations
- 9.5.1 A revised version (March 2022) of the Council's Financial Regulations had been issued with the agenda and Cllr Anderson advised the meeting of the main changes, which related to the introduction of on-line banking and payments, and to the section on procurement.

It was proposed (Cllr Anderson), seconded (Cllr Button) and RESOLVED:

That the revised Financial Regulations be approved and adopted by the Council.

## 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 there had been just one meeting at the Borough, which was Full Council, mainly focussed on the budget and the proposed Luton airport expansion.
- 10.1.2 Local Plan timetable extract from Cabinet paper.  
These were noted.

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

- 11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.  
11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Morrish).  
Cllr Morrish advised that the group had been given access to the comments and feedback out of the final consultation, and would be working on these. The Borough had appointed an Examiner" for the next stage. He hoped that the referendum stage would be completed before the summer.
- 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).  
There had not been a further meeting.
- 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Johnson),  
Cllr Johnson had provided notes (see appendix 1) of the meeting held in February and he invited questions. There were none.
- 11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).  
No report.
- 11.2 Geographical Areas Reports  
11.2.1 Abbots Rise area (Cllr Angiolini).  
Cllr Angiolini reported that a neighbour had raised concerns that the shrubs outside 17 Abbots Rise were overgrowing the footpath again resulting in pedestrians having to walk in the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the occupier indicating that the overgrowth would be cut back and placed in the driveway / front garden. Cllr Angiolini would also be posting the latest bin collection schedule in to some dwellings on the Bury Estate.



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- 11.2.2 The Common, Vicarage Lane / Langley Hill / Great Park (Cllr Button)  
No issues.
- 11.2.3 Hempstead Road areas (Cllr Collins).  
There were still speeding issues.
- 11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).  
No issues not already discussed.
- 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).  
The water leak outside Shendish Edge had still not been fixed despite a lot of effort.
- 11.2.6 Watford Road area (Cllr Johnson).  
Nothing to report.
- 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).  
Cllr Morrish had managed to discuss a longer-term solution to the flooding problem with a representative of HCC.
- 11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).  
Cllr Rogers had nothing to report, but Cllr Button reported that the street lamp outside St Lauras was still not working. The column also provided power to the bus timetable display and the defibrillator. The Clerk responded that this was a supply issue in the hands of UK Power Networks. It was noted that the defibrillator had been used and the Council will have to replace the pads and battery.
- 11.2.9 Coniston Road area (Cllr Sinclair).  
Nothing to report.
  
- 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).
  - 11.3.1 The volunteer morning will be this coming Friday. Twenty-five rose bushes have been donated by the National Roses Centre. Cllr Johnson would be seeking quotes for the removal of the conifer tree stump which the contractor who removed the tree itself (felled by the recent storms) was unable to remove.
  
- 11.4 Litter Picks
  - 11.4.1 These would re-start on 27<sup>th</sup> March.
  
- 11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments
  - 11.5.1 Nothing to report.

County Cllr Roberts and Cllr Rogers gave their 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.
  
- 12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.
  - 12.2.1 The Association had meeting recently and items discussed include several repair requirements, the installation of a defibrillator and a teenage party at which there had been some problems.

## 13. Council Surgeries.

- 13.1 The next surgery would be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The market of the 19<sup>th</sup> February was cancelled, so there was no surgery.



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## 14. Other Matters.

- 14.1 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Update.  
Cllr Johnson and Morrish had met with Fr James and Matthew Cooper and a rough timetable had been agreed for a “garden party” in the village garden and surrounds on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the Council would make £300 available for this event if required which would include, for example, the purchase of bunting.
- 14.2 Annual Parish Meeting – Draft enclosed. The meeting will not be virtual or hybrid.
- 14.2.1 The draft agenda was agreed subject to some minor changes, particularly to try to concentrate on written reports.
- 14.2.2 It was agreed that The Rt Hon Mike Penning, MP would be asked to attend re the hoped-for proposals for a new SW Herts Hospital
- 14.2.3 It was agreed that the catering / refreshments would consist of cheese and wine and that the Village Butcher would be asked to supply cheeseboards.
- 14.3 Letter regarding redesignation of footpath from Rucklers Lane via Barnes Lane to Chipperfield. See above under 3.1.1

Cllr Sinclair gave his apologies and left the meeting during the above item.

## 15. Any Other Business ((Not Requiring Formal Decision)).

- 15.1 Cllr Morrish asked whether the white posts in the High Street could be repainted. The Clerk agreed to look into this.

Meeting closed 21:35.





## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1.

#### **Note of the Leisure Group meeting February 2022**

##### Repair Shed

Nothing to report.

##### Directory and website

The KL Links volunteers having obtained the parish council's financial support and then sought and obtained the council's reiterated support for the project at the December meeting, had decided they would now prefer to progress this as a standalone project rather than as part of the parish council's Leisure Group. Following a brief discussion, the Leisure Group unanimously acceded to the teams' request and offered their best wishes.

##### Common and woods

It was anticipated Sunnyside would have completed their work clearing the numbered footpaths, but poor weather had prevented this. DBC were very unhappy that Sunnyside had been asked to do this work as they were responsible for these paths on behalf of HCC. That said, there was no commitment by DBC to keep the paths clear.

##### Fitness Trail

A decision from DBC Planning still awaited.

##### Cycling

No update at the meeting.

##### Community Toilet Scheme

The Community Toilet Scheme signs was delivered to parish council offices on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Oscars, Dallings and Fred and Gingers have agreed to participate, but Fred and Gingers have indicated they do not want a sign in the window.

##### Heritage Trail

This project needs refreshing.

##### Signage

The Canal and Rivers Trust were not responding to 'requests' for possible siting of village maps on the towpath. The two Village signs needed some repairs but once this was completed the 'Historic Village' strap line would be added. The stencils were delivered to parish council offices on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

##### Yarn bombers

It was confirmed they would be 'bombing' for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

##### Rectory Farm

A brief update was provided on Rectory Farm's proposed community land should the site ever be developed.