



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council; Mrs Debbi James-Saunders

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence.

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

2. Declarations of Interest.

2.1 Cllr Button declared a Personal Interest in planning application 22/02316/FHA (14 York Close) as his mother lived in York Close.

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

3.1 Mrs James-Saunders spoke to support Cllr Rogers' motion at item 14.3 as it was in accordance with the wishes of the Kings Langley's villagers per the village poll in December 2017. She urged Members to support the motion too.

3.2 Urgent Planning & Licencing Matters.

3.2.1 Consideration of Planning Applications as listed here:

Reference	Address	Details of Application	Submission	Reason (if any)
22/02193/FHA	18 Blackwell Road	Demolition of inadequate rear conservatory and lean-to extension, and construction of ground floor and setback first floor extensions.	No objection	
22/02316/FHA	14 York Close	Proposed front extension and alterations to front entrance.	No objection	
22/02323/FHA	35 Abbots Rise	Conversion of hipped roof to gable. Front dormer roof extension. Single storey rear extension. Rear-facing dormer extension.	No objection	

3.2.2 Other Planning & Licencing Matters (as specified on the agenda).

3.2.2.1 None.

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

3.2.3.1 None.



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4. Police Matters and Other Services.

4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 PC Stevens was not available to attend the meeting, but had provided the following updated table:

Kings Langley (DIR) Crimes 2022	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Burglary (dwelling incl attempt)	1	0	0	0	1	2	0						4
Burglary (other - business & non dwelling)	0	0	0	1	1	1	0						3
Robbery	0	0	0	2	0	1	1						4
Theft of, & attempt theft of motor vehicle	0	0	2	2	0	1	0						5
Vehicle interference	0	0	1	0	1	1	0						3
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	2	1	0	0	1						4
Criminal Damage inc arson	0	2	1	3	4	0	2						12
Assault	4	6	5	1	6	0	0						22
Theft from shop	1	0	0	0	0	1	0						2
Theft (other)	2	1	2	1	3	0	1						10
Drug related offences	1	0	2	0	2	0	0						5
Kidnap							1						1
TOTAL	9	9	15	11	18	7	6						75
ASB	6	4	12	7	9	7	11						56
TOTALS													
Notable total investigations	9	9	15	11	18	7	7						76
Athena Total Investigations	21	25	22	25	27	17	19						156

4.1.2 Members were intrigued to know more about the recorded kidnap and the Clerk was asked and undertook to seek further information, subject to it being allowed.

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.

5.2.1 The Clerk had produced and updated an “Information and Action List” for Cllr Roberts, (as requested by him) but, he reported, he had not received a response from him.

5.2.1.1 Cllr Morrish was able to provide updates having spoken to Cllr Roberts. Cllr Roberts was confused about the Council’s position on the SID for Watford Road. The Clerk responded that Peter Wright fully understood it and had responded accordingly. And that the work to the M25 / Junction 20 was proving to be the biggest project facing Herts Highways with therefore, attendant difficulties and costs.



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- 5.3 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247
Proposed Stopping up of Highway at 14 Abbots Rise.
Cllr Anderson advised that this normally entailed the transfer of ownership of part of Highway’s land.
- 5.3.1 Members had no objection to this proposal.
- 5.4 Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Draft Plan Consultation – 22 July 2022 to 30 September 2022.
- 5.4.1 Members noted this item.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

- 6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 5th July 2022 be adopted as a true record.

- 6.1.1 The Chair then signed the Minutes.

7. Matters Arising.

- 7.1 Cllr Rogers raised three comments regarding page 2 of the Minutes with paragraphs 2 and 3 and accepted the explanations received, and with paragraph 4 where it was agreed that Cllr McLean’s interjection that there were over 800 attendees at the public meeting held on 14th November 2017 (note that this date is also a correction to the minutes, as is the date that the Village Poll took place the 14th December 2017), would be recorded here.

8. Reports.

- 8.1 Standing Committees.

- 8.1.1 Planning & Licensing Committee.

- 8.1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 21st June 2022 were adopted as a true record.

- 8.2 Chair’s Reports.

- 8.2.1 The Chair reported that he had responded to comments on Facebook about overgrowing weeds and bushes, referring those commenting to those who should be responsible for clearing them. It was agreed that the next litter pick at the end of the month could be “converted” to a weed removal working party (subject to anyone turning up, of course.)

- 8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

- 8.3.1 On Cllr Angiolini’s behalf, the Clerk reported on the meeting the Christmas Lights Group at which several decisions were made to try to make the event a little slicker, including not having a parade, Santa starting earlier. It was also agreed that a questionnaire would be sent to the shopkeepers to seek their views on various aspects of the event.

- 8.4 Clerk’s Report / Action List.

- 8.4.1 The Clerk reported that he had been preparing the Clerk’s recruitment pack pending his retirement which he would like to be soon after Christmas, subject to the Council finding a suitable replacement.



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8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Clerk reported that the Warden had just lifted the old wooden 2002 jubilee bench from opposite the football club. It was rotted and potentially dangerous. The Clerk hoped that it might be possible to replace it with a bench commemorating the 2002 and 2022 jubilees. The Chair would send in a photo of an example bench sited at the Bunkers Lane shops that might be suitable. The Warden had also reported that the Council's lock-up garage in Beechfield had been broken into. He (the Clerk) had reported it to the police and Dacorum Borough Council (who should repair it).

9. Finance Matters

9.1 Schedule of Payments for June 2022.

9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for July 2022 in the sum of £10,404.00 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 June 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:	£229,177.79
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,869.91

9.3 Tree to replace felled ash in the village garden as a Covid memorial.

9.3.1 Cllr Johnson introduced this item and it was and
It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council would spend up to £600 on a replacement / Covid memorial tree for the village garden.

The wording for a plaque would be agreed at a later date.

9.4 Hempstead Road / Coniston Road / Mill Lane posts and wildlife strips – expenditure approval / update.

9.4.1 Cllr Anderson introduced this item. As it stands, County will not allow the Parish Council to carry out this work without obtaining a licence, which is a very onerous process and was advised against by HCC's Highways Officer. The alternatives are that the Council asks Dacorum Borough Council to commission the work from the contractor the Council had chosen, as it has a standing licence to do Highways work of this nature, or the get HCC / Ringway to do it, with help via Richard Roberts' budget. But this would likely be very much more expensive, and there was some doubt that, although Cllr Roberts had said he was very supportive of the project, this may not extend to the financial aspect.



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- 9.4.2 Cllr Anderson advised that the cost of installing the posts, if commissioned by the Borough, would be in the region of £2,500 using the contractor secured by the Parish Council, and he sought Members' support this approach and approval to spend the £2,500. This was agreed.
- 9.4.2 Cllr Anderson also advised the Borough had offered to plant the wild flower strips.
- 9.4.3 It was noted that this work would not be completed before the start of the football season, which Members felt was unfortunate.

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 was reviewing the housing maintenance contract which was soon to end. Cllr Anderson had 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).

Cllr Morrish reported that he was expecting to receive the Examiner's report this week. In response to Cllr Rogers question, Cllr Morrish hoped that approval of the report by the Parish Council then by Dacorum Borough Council would be completed by the Autumn, which should then be followed by the referendum.

11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button had nothing to report.

11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Johnson),

Cllr Johnson had nothing to report. The Group would be meeting the following week.

11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllr McLean).

Cllr McLean had not yet received a response from Andrew Freeman to his request for a progress update, and had nothing further to report.

Cllr Morrish reported that the discussions regarding funding for completing the upgrade of the towpath has reached the point where Nash Mills and Kings Langley Councils have been asked to contribute £5,000. This was agreed, but would be have to be ratified at the September meeting.

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).

Cllr Collins was concerned that the footpath from Miller and Carter to Common Lane was in a terrible state and needed resurfacing. Cllr Morrish responded that, according to Cllr Roberts, work on this was scheduled for the next few weeks.

Cllr Collins was also concerned with the spillage from shingle drives which could cause an accident (e.g. someone slipping), and he questioned who would be responsible. All agreed that this is the responsibility of the owner of the drive, although if there was a claim for damages it might initially be managed by the County as the Highway "owner". Consideration was given to whether placing a stop



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on the driveway should be enforced by the planning process; the Chair asked that the Borough Councillors would make enquiries.

11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).

It was noted that the closure of London Road for the utility works (electricity power lines re-routing) was having a huge impact on the trade of the Red Lion.

11.2.6 Watford Road area (Cllr Johnson).

Nothing to report.

11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish explained the reasons for the works in London Road and that the reason it was taking so long was because of all the other works where councils had asked for them to be done in the school holidays. However, with Cllr Roberts help, he had managed to get some priority / additional resource applied.

11.2.8 High Street area (Cllr Rogers).

Nothing to report. Cllr Button had been liaising with Thames Water to resolve a leak issue at the side of The Lunch Box.

11.2.9 Coniston Road area (Cllr Sinclair).

No report.

11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

11.3.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the garden was very dry although it has been watered a lot by him and the Warden.

11.4 Litter Picks

11.4.1 Cllr Johnson reported that he had been accompanied by a father and son, but that the litter was not too bad,

11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments

11.5.1 Cllr Johnson reported that, having judged the Gardens' competition at the weekend, despite the winter flooding, the allotments had a surprising abundance of growth and produce.

12. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

12.1 The Kings Langley Community Benefit Society (KLCBS) (Cllr Morrish).

12.1.1 Nothing new to report.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association.

12.2.1 There had been a meeting on the 12th. with the new officers in place, who will be officially installed at the forthcoming AGM. Cllr Rogers described an issue with overhanging trees which could potentially damage the roof of the centre. An impasse had been reached with Dacorum Borough Council's Trees Officer. Cllr Anderson advised that it should be escalated the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery), which Cllr Rogers undertook to do.

13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 Cllr Button had attended that last surgery at which there was a complaint about the extent of cutting back of some overgrowth in The Drift.



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14. Other Matters.

14.1 Council Group Projects.

14.1.1 An updated list that been updated and circulated by email on 27th July. The amendments were explained by Cllr Anderson. There was some discussion and it was agreed that the heads of the “action” groups would review the list and that it would be further considered at the next meeting.

14.1.2 Cllr Anderson advised that Dacorum Borough Council had issued an email regarding a review of the infrastructure needs associated with growth in Dacorum and was seeking submissions from local councils. The timescales were very tight and he had drafted a response. After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr Anderson would circulate an update and with Members’ permission, forward to Dacorum Borough Council.

14.1.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council would obtain an estimate to repair the hitching rail outside the Services Club.

14.2 Kings Langley Community library / Arts and Crafts Society - Art Exhibition official opening. This is scheduled for 20th September at 7pm. Cllr Button offered to attend to perform the official opening and it was agreed that the Planning and Licencing Committee meeting scheduled for the same evening would be re-scheduled to start at 6:30pm.

14.3 Members were asked to consider the following motion from Cllr Rogers:

“The Parish Council supports the aspirations of the residents of Kings Langley to oppose any development of the Green Belt in the Village.

Acknowledging that the Parish Council has in the past agreed on opposing the phase II development on Rectory Farm, this Council believes a stronger message needs to be made. Residents should know that the Parish Council will work with other groups to further raise awareness of this vital issue. We will strive to educate all visitors, tourists and Borough/County Councillors and staff who travel through our Village, of our total opposition to Green Belt development.

We authorise sufficient expenditure, (of an amount to be agreed - up to £600?) on posters, banners, garden signs and other campaign materials to protect and promote our Village’s status and unique heritage”

14.3.1 The Chair began the debate by stating that he had been advised that the motion would contravene the Council’s Code of Conduct, to which all Parish Council (and Borough Council) Members had agreed. The concerns involved the issue of “pre-determining” decisions, particularly when considering planning applications, meaning that developers and applicants could claim that they did not receive a fair hearing. Several Members (Cllrs Johnson, Anderson, McLean and Morrish) spoke to oppose the motion, in the main because of the predetermination issue, and based on the advice Cllr Johnson had received from the Borough Council’s legal officer (Monitoring Officer). Cllr Johnson explained further that Cala Homes / Angle Property could make a retrospective complaint about failure to provide a fair hearing on Rectory Farm that would be upheld by the Monitoring Officer based on his own advice. They could then publicise the decision to local people, to Dacorum, the



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Planning Inspectorate and national planning magazines. Other developers with Green Belt applications in the future, would be able follow suit.

Cllr Rogers spoke forcefully in support of his motion because he felt that the Council should be doing far more to get the message to the wider community and decision-makers. Cllr Collins supported this reasoning and seconded Cllr Rogers' motion.

14.3.2 Having been put, the motion was voted upon and was defeated by six votes to two, with one abstention.

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

15.1 None.

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.

PART 2

17. Kings Langley School – Funding Request – All-purpose (3G) sports court. See enclosed.

17.1 Members to consider formally the Council's response to any financial support for the above proposed facility. The Clerk reminded that meeting that this item was discussed under Any Other Business at the previous Council meeting at which the Council agreed to support the school in this venture. However there had not been a discussion of any financial support.

17.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Council pledges the sum of £500 towards the cost of the above project.

NB. The Council also agreed to send flowers to the Administrative Assistant in respect of the sad passing of her mother.

Meeting closed 21:10.