



# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

Also Present: Mr Paul Dunham, Clerk to the Council. Mrs Caroline Owen, the new Clerk designate.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A minute's silence was then held in respect of Mr Donald Abbott, former Chairman of the Council, who had died recently.

### 1. Apologies for Absence.

- 1.1 Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs Johnson, McLean and Rogers. County Councillor Roberts was also unavailable.

### 2. Declarations of Interest.

- 2.1 None.

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

- 3.1 Debbi James-Saunders referred to item 18.1.3 (Pause in hybrid meetings) asking that the Council maintains the provision because of its importance to the public, particularly the disabled, and also to restore the meeting video. The Chair responded that public attendance via this provision was minimal and that there had not been a disabled attendee at all, but that it was not the Council's intention to pause the provision for long. The Clerk added that the pause was to allow time for the new clerk to become familiar with the set-up. The Chair added that the intermittent loss of the video provision was a technical issue that the Council hopes to resolve in time.

#### 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)
22/03351/UPA	The Barn, 1 Chipperfield Road	Construction of an additional storey.	No objection	
22/03436/FHA	26 Hempstead Road	First floor side extension	No objection	
22/03431/FHA	68 Langley Hill	Single storey rear extension & second floor dormer to the front and rear.	No objection	
22/03449/FUL	Land between Meadows View and The Oak Barn, Love Lane	Phased application for 2no self build chalet bungalows with associated access, parking and amenity space.	No objection	
22/03464/FHA	Dreamscape, Rucklers Lane	Proposed new front bay window and new rear dormer projection and internal alterations.	No objection	



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

### 3.2.2.1 Dacorum Borough Council.

New Street Name – Beechfield Garage Site

Members were asked to consider a street name for the site. The developer had applied to register the name “Langley Lodge Close”.

Cllr Collins suggested “Beechfield View” and other members agreed.

The Clerk would inform Dacorum Borough Council.

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

### 3.2.3.1 None.

## 4. Police Matters and Other Services.

### 4.1 Crime reports.

4.1.1 PC Stevens was unable to attend but had provided the latest set of crime statistics, as shown in the table below.

D1R KINGS LANGLEY Crimes 2022	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Tots
Burglary Dwelling	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0			5
Attempt Burglary Dwelling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Burglary (other - business & non dwelling)	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0			6
Attempt Burglary other	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0			4
robbery	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0			5
Theft of motor vehicle	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			4
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0			6
Attempt theft from motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Vehicle interference	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1			4
Damage to motor vehicle	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	0	2			10
Criminal damage	1	2	0	0	2	0	4	0	2	1			12
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Assault (common and ABH)	4	6	5	1	6	4	1	3	8	6			44
Serious assault (GBH)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Theft from shop	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			2
Theft other (all other types of theft related offences)	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	2			17
Drug related offences	1	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	2			11
TOTALS	10	9	14	11	19	15	14	7	16	15			130
ASB related calls	3	4	3	4	9	7	8	12	6	7			63
TOTALS	85	94	104	82	109	87	120	112	94	87			
Total number of incidents reported to police	22	25	22	27	29	20	29	17	24	27			
Athena Total Crime Investigations	10	9	14	11	19	15	14	7	16	15			
Relevant Crime investigations													

4.1.2 There were no comments.

## 4.2 Any Other Police and Neighbourhood Watch Matters.

4.2.1 None.



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## 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 undertook to remind / refer the following items to Cllr Roberts:

- a) The County / Ringway have still not sorted out the timer switches for our Christmas light displays. So there are still 4 not lit. And at the same time, we are being pressed to provide inspection reports!
- b) An update on the M25 roundabout.
- c) Growing issues with the local transport service.

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

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were adopted as a true record.

### 8.2 Chair's Reports.

8.2.1 Nothing to report.

### 8.3 Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

#### 8.3.1 Christmas Lights Festival.

Whilst all agreed that the event had, once again, been a great success, several issues were aired and discussed, including a lack of volunteers. It was agreed that these would be considered during the planning stages of next year's event.

### 8.4 Clerk's Report / Action List.

8.4.1 No additional.

### 8.5 Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

8.5.1 The Warden was busy planting the Council's flower beds and borders.



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## 9. Finance Matters

### 9.1 Schedule of Payments for November 2022.

#### 9.1.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for November 2022 in the sum of £34,292.18 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> October 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:	£188,688.09
NS&I Investment Account:	£45,869.91

### 9.3 Income and Expenditure Statements 2022-23.

#### 9.3.1 Members considered and noted the reports as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022).

#### 9.4.1 In accordance with Audit requirements and recommendations, the statement was examined by the Members and the balances shown were cross-checked with the bank statements (see 9.2, above), then signed by the Chair.

### 9.5 External Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### 9.5.1 A "minor matter" was noted and it was then proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

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

### 9.6 Applications for financial assistance.

#### 9.6.1 Kings Langley Community Library Courtyard Garden Project.

#### 9.6.2 Kings Langley Swimming Club.

These two items were deferred to Item 17 (Budget 2022-23)

## 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 had nothing to add to Cllr Johnson's written report, except to note that there was a budget scrutiny meeting that evening. See also report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1.



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In response to a question from Cllr Morrish, Cllr Anderson confirmed that the green bins would not be emptied over the normal winter break, but he did accept that there might be scope for shifting the dates.

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

### 11.1 Parish / Neighbourhood Plan Reports.

#### 11.1.1 Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Morrish).

Cllr Morrish was pleased to report that there was an unexpectedly high turn-out for the referendum and that 92% had voted in favour. The plan will now be presented to Dacorum Borough Council's Cabinet for approval later this month and to Full Council in January.

#### 11.1.2 Parish Plan – Environment Group (Cllr Button).

Cllr Button had nothing to report.

#### 11.1.3 Parish Plan – Leisure Group (Cllr Johnson) (see report at appendix 1).

Cllr Johnson was not present.

#### 11.1.4 Parish Plan – Transport Group (Cllrs McLean and Morrish).

(Cllr Morrish) The school crossing should be installed at the beginning of next year, and the hope that it will be up and running by Easter. The canal towpath upgrade project work is scheduled for May next year.

### 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 reiterated his concerns with the by the bus stop opposite Rectory Farm. It was noted that it is Highways land.

#### 11.2.4 Blackwell Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

#### 11.2.5 London Road area (Cllr De Silva).

Nothing to report.

#### 11.2.6 Watford Road area (Cllr Johnson).

See report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1.

#### 11.2.7 Rucklers area (Cllr Morrish).

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

#### 11.2.9 Coniston Road area (Cllr Sinclair).

There were no particular parking issues with the football match at the weekend.

### 11.3 Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

#### 11.3.1 See report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1

### 11.4 Litter Picks

#### 11.4.1 See report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1.

### 11.5 Sunderland's Yard Allotments

#### 11.5.1 See report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1.



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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 No report.

12.2 Kings Langley Community Association (Cllr Collins).

12.2.1 The new chairman appears to be doing very well.

## 13. Council Surgeries.

13.1 See report from Cllr Johnson at appendix 1.

## 14. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda).

14.1 Dates of meetings 2023

14.1.1 The schedule of meeting dates for 2023 was approved. Cllr Anderson asked the Clerk to arrange a date for the Annual Parish Meeting as soon as possible.

14.2 Christmas and New Year Office Opening Hours.

14.2.1 The following dates were approved:

26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Boxing Day	(day in lieu of) Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
02-Jan	03-Jan	04-Jan	05-Jan	06-Jan
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
(day in lieu of) New Year's Day	OPEN (New Clerk)	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

14.3 Replacement commemorative plaque for former local midwife.

14.3.1 This was agreed. The Clerk added that there may be three further plaques that need to be purchased.

## 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.



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## PART 2

### 17. Budget 2022-23

17.1 Cllr Anderson provided a walkthrough of the budget, explaining the main areas of savings and growth. He also advised that there some outstanding factors that might impact on the budget which would be reflected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft which would be presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> January meeting. These being the determination of the Resources Base and the employers pension contribution. There was likely to be a small overspend for the year.

17.1.1 As part of the budget preview, these items deferred from 9.6 (Applications for financial assistance) were considered, and:

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:

The Council would pledge £1000 in respect of the Kings Langley Community Library Courtyard Garden Project, payment of which is deferred until the next financial year;

The Council would make a donation of £620 to the Kings Langley Swimming Club for training for a swimming coach, payment of which is to be made in the current financial year.

### 18. The new Clerk.

18.1 To consider and agree various transition arrangements.

18.1.1 Retainer arrangements for current Clerk.

Cllr Anderson and the Clerk advised that it had been agreed there would be a handover period during which the current Clerk would be retained on a fee of £70 per week. The hours would be agreed with the new Clerk. This arrangement would be expected to end by 31<sup>st</sup> March, hopefully before.

18.1.2 Bank signatories and payments.

The Clerk explained that the banks seem to make changing these types of arrangements complicated and that there may be a period before the new Clerk is registered as a signatory and has internet access to make payments. It was therefore agreed that the outgoing Clerk would be authorised to continue to make payments until the arrangements for the new Clerk are set up.

18.1.3 Pause in hybrid meetings.

It was agreed that there would be a short pause in the provision of hybrid meetings until the new Clerk could be shown and guided through the set up.

18.1.4 Charter Court lease renewal.

The Clerk advised that the legal work on the lease renewal had begun. The Council had appointed Sedgewick Kelly to act on its behalf. It was likely that the lease would not be signed by the current Clerk.

The Clerk also advised that, in his opinion, it was imperative that the arrangements and charging for the shared utilities (electricity, water & sewerage) and facilities (e.g. courtyard security, maintenance / lighting etc) be clearly established as part of the new lease agreement.

18.1.5 Cllr Anderson advised that the Valuation Office had increased the valuation of Charter Court but had made some erroneous assumption, which he was challenging

Meeting closed 21:03.





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## Appendix I

### Report from Cllr Johnson

#### Item 10.1

##### Housing and Community

There is a proposed new Housing management structure intended to make the work within this area more 'joined up' as part of a Housing Transformation Improvement Programme. The council has 10,000+ council properties and the impact of Covid has highlighted the deficiencies with the current structures and systems. There were the usual performance reports.

##### Full Council

This was a little tetchy as Liberal Democrat councillors were asking questions about, and comments upon, an air quality report coming to one of the scrutiny Committees early in the New Year. In this case, the information about which questions were being asked had not been provided by DEFRA. There also appeared to be a lack of awareness both for the reasons for the introduction of a £45 charge for a green bin and the income this would generate, and what the draft Mitigation Strategy for Chilton Beechwoods actually meant, i.e. it did not guarantee people would not visit Ashridge

#### 11.1.3 Leisure Group

Repair Shed - Contact has recently been made with Community Action Dacorum. They were unable to provide any new information as they are still trying to obtain a response from Three Rivers Estates Department about the site.

Trim Trail - A little challenging but the Trim Trail is installed. On the first morning of the installation the equipment itself was delivered on the back of a low loader and deposited, by crane, into the Girl Guide's compound at the southern end of Green Park before I arrived. Unfortunately, that wasn't supposed to happen, and it took a little detective work to find a keyholder and obtain access.

The second problem was the lack of running water, which the workmen needed but had not been requested. Fortunately, after knocking on several doors with the familiar refrain "Excuse me, I'm from the council ...." a local resident provided access to an outside water tap in their back garden and work was able to start.

#### 11.2.6 Watford

Nothing to report

#### 11.3 Village Garden

No community garden activity last Friday but did plant 16 Yew conifers to form a small hedge in the northeast corner. !4 more to be planted to provide a hedge.

#### 11.4 Litter pick

No litter picks until February 2023.

#### 11.5 Allotments

A tree that was in a dangerous condition has been reduced in height and pollarded.

#### 13. Council surgeries

Quite a steady morning in November with some familiar questions (and a few new ones):

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- Neighbourhood Plan - passed.
- Rectory Farm - in a circling pattern
- Road flooding in the High Street - has been reported. Apparently, Affinity waiting for a Traffic Management OK to close part of the road?
- Complaints about large vehicles in Langley Hill, Coniston Road and Common Lane damaging pavements
- Parking - where to start. General lack thereof.
- Lights at Vicarage Lane/High Street causing tailbacks and confusion - no one working there today, but lights still operating
- Details about next weekend's Christmas Lights (road closures, parking, timings etc)
- Green Bin payments - most not fazed by payment, understanding the rationale
- Various bits about the Autumn Statement, usually leading to the rhetorical question - where is the light at the end of the tunnel?
- Weeds along the High Street not being cleared.

Generally, very positive atmosphere, but chilly! Next one 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### 14.3 Replacement plaque

The request should have stated ideally the plaque would not be of a type so easily removed again!