



KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

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

Also Present: Mrs Beverley Ross, Administrative Assistant
6 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence.

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from County Councillor Richard Roberts.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Button declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 1A High Street as he owned the adjoining building. Cllr Anderson proposed that Cllr Button remain as chair which was seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by members. Cllr Anderson declared a prejudicial interest in Merceys Wood as he lived and owned a property nearby and said he would not partake in any discussion about this application.

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

Mr Grant Irwin spoke about planning application 23/00581/FUL land at Merceys Wood as he lived directly opposite and had done for the last 13 years. He pointed out that the old building, now in a dilapidated state, was situated further up the site than the proposed development which was nearer the bottom. This meant the building would be completely in his eyeline and was an expansion of 20% in size. Turning the site into an agricultural area would be an eyesore to him and his neighbours and to anyone walking on the much used footpath. The proposed 2m high fencing was taller and out of character with the surrounding area and would affect the nature and wildlife that resided in the woods and set an unnecessary precedent to others. The goats smell would permeate his property. Mr Irwin hoped that the Council would object to the application and protect his rights and that of the Green Belt.

Mr Rod Dreyfuss-Terrett also spoke about the application at Merceys Wood stating that the view of the open green belt should be protected as stated in the Neighbourhood plan. The 2.1m high welded mesh fence with barbed wire above would do the opposite to conserving the view. Cllr Johnson had looked at the site which was within the Green Belt and along with the Forestry Commission raised concerns about damage to the ancient woodland. He had checked a goat breeders website which acknowledged the strong smell of male goats. Cllr Morrish agreed about the view which he thought was an important point and keeping open views of the Green Belt was very much part of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Button asked if smell was a legitimate planning objection to which the answer was yes. It was unanimously agreed to object to this application.

The planning application at 1a High Street was discussed. Cllr Collins asked if the sign was large to which Cllr Johnson said yes. Cllr Button pointed out that 1a was a listed building. Cllr Collins thought that the sign would obliterate the brick work. Cllr McLean pointed out that the Physiotherapists sign was objected to by the council and therefore we should object to this one too. It was unanimously agreed to object to the application.

4. Planning & Licencing Matters.



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Reference	Address	Details of Application	Submission	Reason (if any)
23/00581/FUL	Land at Merceys Wood, Rucklers Lane	The construction of agricultural/forestry management buildings and associated works.	OBJECTION	The Council objected to this application as it is contrary to Kings Langley's Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan. There are no special circumstances for a building with a larger footprint in the Green Belt. Potential damage to the ancient woodland as the Forestry Commission response refers. The two metre high fencing would affect the openness of the Green Belt. The building has been moved closer to the public footpath and a number of dwellings all of which will be adversely affected by noise and smell. The scale, height, materials and cost for a few goats suggest the site is not viable as a basis for this proposal.
23/00687/ADV	1A High Street	Advertisement 2.000 metres wide 900mm deep fixed to the face of the building with the company logo printed on the rectangle.	OBJECTION	The Council objected to this application as they felt that for a listed building the sign was too big, would obliterate the brickwork and set a precedent for other premises in the High Street.
23/00764/LBC	1A High Street	Advertisement 2.000 metres wide 900mm deep fixed to the face of the building with the company logo printed on the rectangle.	OBJECTION	The Council objected to this application as they felt that for a listed building the sign was too big, would obliterate the brickwork and set a precedent for other premises in the High Street.

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

None.

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

None

7. Police Matters and Other Services.

Cllr Button noted the overall low figures of crime this month.

8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters.

There was no report and Cllr Roberts was not present.



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Concern was raised over potential new speed humps in Coniston Road. Cllr Anderson advised that it was one small hump outside the new development of ten houses.

Cllr Anderson reported that a member of the public had raised an issue in Vicarage Lane where parking spaces were blocked by a builder working on a property there. The resident had been advised to report the matter to Hertfordshire Highways.

Cllr Angiolini had received a complaint about vehicles parking around the bend of Abbots Rise. He had asked the complainant to attend the meeting. Cllr Anderson asked if it they had reported the matter to the County Council and if not advised that they do so.

Cllr Button stated that works were progressing in Langley Hill and so far no complaints had been received. He also reported that the red chevron markings on the M25 roundabout were breaking up which was not right considering the amount of money spent on improving the junction.

Cllr Morrish reported that the Vicarage Lane road surface was falling apart. Cllr Anderson reported that a new machine was now being used that can see the state of the road below the surface and those detected to be in a worse state were prioritised. It was generally agreed that the state of roads at the moment was awful.

Cllr Button thought the approach to the new traffic island in Hempstead Road was quite dangerous and thought it would have been better to deviate the road on both sides rather than just the one. Cllr Rogers suggested we encourage residents to report faults to Highways. Cllr Button asked that we publicise on the APM agenda and on Facebook the link for the public to report highway matters to the County Council as a lot of people still seem to be unaware they can do this.

9. Highways

As above.

10. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s).

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that:
The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 7th March 2023 be confirmed and adopted as a true record.
Minutes signed by Chair.

11. Matters Arising.

None.

12. Planning & Licensing Committee.

None.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting(s) held on 7th February 2023 were adopted as a true record.

14. Chair's Reports.

Cllr Button reported that plans for the Annual Parish Meeting were well under way and asked for help on the night from the Councillors, to meet at 6.30pm at the community Centre.

15. Reports from Chairs of other Committees / Groups.

No reports.

16. Clerk's Report.



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Noted.

17. Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning.

As the warden had noted, there were still no posts in Mill Lane.

Cllr Morrish had asked stallholders at the village market to bring plastic or something to stand on to protect the grass.

18. Finance Matters

- a) Schedule of Payments for March 2023.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for March 2023 in the sum of £11,265.60 be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to issue the appropriate payments.

Schedule of payments signed by Chair and authorised Bank Signatory.

- b) Examination of schedule of payments made in the previous month and reconciled against bank account/s.
- c) Examination and signing of the Council's Bank Account Statements as at 28th February 2023. Members had received copies of the summaries.

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:	£121,430.95

Cllr Anderson noted that dates had not been put on the payments list and requested that this be done so in the future.

19. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies.

None.

20. Parish Plan Reports.

- a) Parish Plan – Environment Group. There had not been a meeting.
- b) Parish Plan – Leisure Group. There would be a meeting this week.
- c) Parish Plan – Transport Group. Cllr McLean was impressed with progress made.

21. Geographical Areas Reports

Cllr Collins reported on mud just past Taylors Tools and near the Rose and Crown and also the state of the ground in Hempstead Road where the roadworks had taken place, that didn't look as if it had been seeded. Cllr Button said he was not concerned as further work would be carried out when the lights were installed. Cllr Sinclair wondered how much the new island had cost.

Cllr DeSilva reported that the front wall had been smashed on London Road/Shendish but was being repaired.

22. Village Garden (Cllr Johnson).

Cllr Johnson reported that minor works were taking place mainly filling in the gaps in the flower beds where plants had been killed by frost.

23. Litter Picks

The last litter pick was abandoned due to rain.



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24. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

Cllr Johnson reported on thefts at the allotment site. Thieves had entered from the canal side and broken down the fence. They had gone through all the sheds and taken any power tools. Quotes were needed for the fence repairs as the fence was the Council's responsibility.

25. Kings Langley Parish Council Representatives on Outside Bodies.

Kings Langley Community Association – it was acknowledged there had been a very good show put on recently.

26. Council Surgeries.

There would be no surgery before the election in May.

27. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda).

- a) To review/update asset register – Cllr Anderson proposed we accept as is, agreed by all.
- b) To review/update financial regulations – it was agreed no changes were needed.
- c) Village signs – a claim had been made with regard to the Watford Road sign which had been obliterated by a vehicle accident. Cllr Anderson reported that the sign in Hempstead Road was now too big for the site and was leaning and in danger of falling down the bank. A further discussion ensued about the new road layout in particular whether it should deviate on both sides. At the moment it does slow traffic down going into the High Street but curves dangerously near the bus stop layby. Cllr Anderson said we should take credit for the pedestrian crossing. He thought we should publicly and formally ask the question of who should pay for the sign. A further discussion took place about replacing the sign as it was or going for something more radical. A gate was suggested. Cllr Rogers believed it should be something substantial. Cllr Button was concerned with safety whilst working on the flower beds and Cllr Sinclair said it would need traffic management with an increased cost. Cllr McLean suggested brick piers with a sign in between as in Berkhamsted. It was agreed to wait until the lights had been installed. There was a suggestion of moving the Watford Road sign nearer to Wayside Farm.
- d) Cllr Button asked that the roundabout on Watford Road be reported as now about half of the bricks on the surround were broken. The administrative assistant agreed to do this.
- e) Cllr Button raised the question of replacing the noticeboard in the High Street with a new better quality one. Cllr Anderson suggested replacing the cork lining stating that a new glass/perspex board could get smashed. The problem was finding a lining that was waterproof. Members were asked to come up with ideas.
- f) Cllr Johnson bought up the issue of the green bins at All Saints Church. The church's Fabric Committee did not want to pay the new fee for green waste as they say they are cutting the grass for DBC. An idea put forward to share the cost with the Parish Council had been refused as was any idea to compost. The issue was ongoing.

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

Cllr Anderson reported all work for the internal audit should be finished in March. He pointed out that three agenda items had been missed and that the agenda should have been checked against the agenda of a year ago. He recommended the Friends of All Saint's Ceilidh which was taking place on 21st April stating that it was a great fun event.

Cllr Morrish raised the question of what was happening at the trout lake as a new fence had been erected along the canal. The Administrative Assistant reported that she had raised the issue with Planning Enforcement at DBC.

Cllr Johnson advised members of the nominations for the Community Awards. All agreed with the selection.

Cllr Anderson marked the fact that it was the last meeting of the Council before the election and said it was a pleasure working with the Councillors and hoped they would meet again.

Meeting closed 8.40pm