



Edmund de Langley  
&  
Isabella de Castilla

# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Present: Cllrs Button (Chair), Angiolini (Vice-Chair), Anderson, De Silva, James-Saunders, Johnson, Lydon, Rogers.

Also Present: Two members of public.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Morrish, and Lydon.
- 1.2 The Clerk to the Council, Mrs Owen, was also unavailable, having given her apologies. It was agreed that Cllr Johnson would take the minutes of the meeting.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Co-Option

- 3.1 Cllr Sinclair was thanked for his service.
- 3.2 Mr Mark Coxill introduced himself, and explained he had lived in the village for 12 years and in the area for 30 years. He had started taking an interest in the Parish Council 18 months ago and had lobbied for a Speed Indicator Device in Watford Road.
- 3.3 There were no other candidates, and it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Mr Coxill be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- 3.4 Cllr Rogers asked if the Council could know the names of the other three candidates who had withdrawn. After a short discussion about GDPRs, it was established that because the candidates had withdrawn, their names could not be disclosed.

### 4. Public Participation

- 4.1 Mr Faulkner of the High Street, Kings Langley asked a question about a member of staff. The Chair replied the Council could not respond as it concerned a personal matter.

### 5. Planning & Licensing Matters

- 5.1 There were no objections to the application for a dropped kerb at 118 Hempstead Road (23/01713/FUL)

### 6. Other Planning & Licensing Matters

- 6.1 In view of a new member joining the Council, and a member of the public being present, Cllrs Anderson and Johnson declared their 'standing' interests as members of Dacorum Borough Council. No other matters were raised.



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7. Any Other Planning & Licensing Business (not requiring formal decision)

7.1 There was none.

8. Police Matters & Other Services

8.1 The crime statistics report was noted.

9. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (C\Cllr Richard Roberts)

a) Lamp Columns Switching Equipment

The Chair reported that two columns had been fixed, but the third outside St. Laura's remained to be completed. He agreed to follow it up.

b) General Matters

There were none.

10. Highways

10.1 The Chair reported the resurfacing work along the A4251 was due to restart the following evening (6<sup>th</sup> September) for 10 days.

11. Minutes

11.1 The minutes of the Council meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July were adopted as a true record.

12. Matters Arising from the Above Minutes

12.1 There were none:

13. Planning & Licensing Committee Report

13.1 There was nothing to report.

14. Minutes

14.1 The minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August were adopted as a true record.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 Cuts to Police Overtime

The Chair referred to the likelihood of a reduced police presence in the village as a result of Police overtime cuts.

15.2 Funding for a PCSO

The Chair explained he had asked Cllr Anderson to investigate the possibility of paying



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for a PCSO. Cllr Anderson confirmed it was possible, but the Council may wish to consider if he or she would be needed full time or part time, or if other local parish councils may want to share the cost, e.g. Bovington, Chipperfield & Flaunden. However, the Police had reprioritised the PCSO role and the cost could be prohibitive. Members felt it was still worth investigating, and Cllr Coxill volunteered to contact the Police about the principle of contributing to PCSO cover.

## 15.3 Funding for Hedgehog Tunnels

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council would fund £150 for the above.

Whilst on the subject of wildlife, Cllr Anderson gave members an update on the project to install three owl boxes in the Parish.

## 15.4 Cork Signs

The Chair explained that the cork facing on the noticeboard outside St Laura's needed replacing, and that he himself had bought a roll of cork for the purpose.

## 15.5 Village Signs

The Chair provided three options for the style of sign to be used and members chose a 'gate type' design. The sign to the north of the village centre would have to be installed on the south side of Rectory Lane, not on the north side, as there was no longer any room on the north side. The Chair said he would obtain quotes for the chosen design.

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

### 16.1 Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights Festival would take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All councillors were asked to keep the day clear. The Christmas Lights Committee will meet at 11am on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### 16.2 Gardens Competition - Presentation Evening

The presentation evening will take place from 7.30pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Cricket Club pavilion. All councillors were asked to help setup for the evening.

## 17. Clerk's Report

17.1 There was no report, but the Clerk would be asked to ensure the Warden replaces the cork inlay on the main noticeboard outside St. Laura's and wears high vis when on duty.

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

18.1 There was no report.



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## 19. Financial Matters.

19.1 The schedule of payments for July and August 2023 were approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedules for July and August in the sums of £11,813.09 and £15,869.41 respectively be authorised, thereby approving the Clerk to have made appropriate payments.

The payment schedules were signed by the Chair and the Vice-Chair.

19.2 The Chair examined the Council's bank account statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, and on behalf of the Council signed a statement to verify that the accounts had been checked.

19.3 The bank reconciliation statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was approved, balances checked, and signed by the Chair.

19.4 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council would make a donation of £150 to the Hospice of St Francis in memory of Tony Russo.

19.5 Urgent payments under Standing Order 28:

Given the profit made last year, and a substantial grant given to the All Saints PCC earlier in the year, there would be no donation to this year's Beer & Fizz Festival.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council would increase its donation the Kings Langley Carnival to £350.

19.6 Cllr Rogers asked about some of the figures set out in the financial documentation. Cllr Anderson replied that in the Clerk's prolonged absence, stringent efforts were being made to ensure that the financial information remained as accurate as possible.

## 20. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies

20.1 Cllr Johnson gave a short report about the last full meeting of DBC.

20.2 Cllr Anderson added that in his absence Cllr Johnson had kindly asked a question about the fast tracking of planning appeals by planning officers. The fast tracking allows the applicant to provide additional written evidence but excludes neighbours and the Parish Council. The answers received at the time and since were inaccurate and unhelpful.



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## 21. Parish Plan Reports

21.1 The Leisure report was attached to the agenda. There were no other reports.

## 22. Geographical Areas Reports

22.1 There were no reports.

## 23. Village Garden

23.1 A report had been circulated.

## 24. Litter Picks

24.1 A report had been circulated.

## 25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

25.1 There was nothing to report.

## 26. Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

### 26.1 Kings Langley Community Association

Cllr Rogers said there was a meeting the following evening, but the Community Centre was very busy.

26.2 The Clerk would be asked to book the Annual Parish Meeting on a Thursday, which wouldn't be Maundy Thursday, in April 2024.

## 27. Council Surgeries

27.1 A report had been circulated.

## 28. Other Matters (as specified here)

28.1 Village Signs - This had been covered earlier in the meeting.

## 29. Any Other Business

29.1 Cllr Rogers asked about the Old Youth Club. It was noted that HCC Adult Care had planned to redevelop the site to provide specialised residence for those with disabilities.

29.2 In view of the Clerk to the Council's prolonged illness, and excluding any involvement from or by Cllr Anderson, it was,

Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Cllr Anderson be given authority as a covering Responsible Financial Officer to access the Council's bank accounts and to make authorised payments on behalf of the Council.



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- 29.3 As the Council needed to discuss issues that fall under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and concern the private matters of a member of staff, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to move into Part II proceedings.

### **PART II (NOT TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE)**

- 29.4 Members were given the briefest of an overview of the situation concerning the Clerk to the Council. It was agreed that moving forward the Personnel Committee would continue to have delegated authority to deal with all matters relating to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9pm.