



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

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

Also Present: A member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lydon.

1.2 The Clerk to the Council, Ms 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. Public Participation

3.1 Mr Ben Sterling, the planning applicant re 1 The Orchard, advised he was recording the sound of the discussion on his planning application, and he did not want to speak.

3.2 The Chair did not need to advise everybody present that that part of the meeting was being recorded, as the fact had been made clear already.

4. Planning & Licensing Matters

Consideration of Planning Applications as listed here:

Reference	Address	Details	Decision
23/02402/FHA	1 The Orchard	Retrospective approval for roof lights and any other works required by council.	Noted.
23/02440/ADV	Montagues, 40 High Street	Replacement fascia signage.	Noted.
23/02447/FHA	37 High Street	Provision of 2 dormers to detached building.	No objection.
23/02593/LDP	14 Barnes Rise	Flat roof rear dormer to existing chalet bungalow.	No objection.



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5. Other Planning & Licensing Matters

Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan - Regulation 18 Consultation

5.1 There was a discussion about the implications of some of the proposals in the Draft Local Plan that would effect Kings Langley.

5.2 Cllrs Anderson & Johnson volunteered to draft the Parish Council's response to the consultation for consideration at the Parish Council's December meeting.

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

6.1 None.

7. Police Matters & Other Services

7.1 The police report for October had been circulated. It was noted the figures circulated with the agenda did not refer to Kings Langley but to Bovington. The emailed version contained the Kings Langley figures.

7.2 Cllrs Button & Johnson had met with the new local officer, PC Charlie Eke, and had a very encouraging discussion. He hoped to be at the Christmas Lights Festival.

8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (County Cllr Roberts)

8.1 The Chair volunteered to email County Cllr Roberts again about the missing switch equipment / unlit lamp column outside St Laura's, including pointing out that there were now only 24 days to go to the Christmas Lights Festival.

9. Highways

9.1 The Chair reported that he had had a site meeting with County Cllr Roberts to discuss the mudslides occurring at the bottom of the right of way adjacent to Miller & Carters. They had looked at ways of preventing the mud sliding onto the pavement.

9.2 The Chair had also had a site meeting with County Cllr Roberts to discuss the damage done to the verge adjacent to the Rose & Crown by brewery delivery lorries. Attempts had been made to approach the manager of the pub on-site, but he or she had been illusive. County Cllr Roberts had promised to write to the Chief Executive of the brewery to make a complaint and get the verge re-instated.

9.3 County Cllr Roberts' response to Cllr Coxill, concerning removing the traffic lights outside Saddlers Walk and implementing a 3 phase traffic light controlled junction at the nearby crossroads, was noted. Whilst it may not have been County Cllr Roberts' immediate priority, it was noted that the project had first call on the village's significant CIL receipts as a result of the recently implemented Neighbourhood Plan.



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9.4 Cllr Anderson reported that after 12 months and significant disruption, Rucklers Lane had finally become fully open again, as Cadent had completed their project to replace the whole gas pipe network in the road.

10. Minutes

10.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th October 2023 were adopted as a true record.

11. Matters Arising from the Above Minutes

11.1 There were none.

12. Planning & Licensing Committee Report

12.1 There was nothing to report.

13. Minutes

13.1 The minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 19th September 2023 were adopted as a true record.

14. Charter Court - External Wall

14.1 The email messages between Cllr Anderson and DBC officers, which detailed the issues involved, were noted. This included that the Council was legally obliged according to the terms of its lease to carry out the repair work required.

14.2 It was acknowledged only one quote for the work had been received. However, tendering this extent and kind of work was beyond the Council's capability, the quote was subject to DBC's own processes to secure the maximum value for money, and given the amount of work involved, including traffic management, the quote represented clear value for money.

14.3 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That DBC's quote to repair Charter Court's outside wall is accepted, and that the expenditure of £8,730 + VAT is authorised.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 The Chair gave members an update on the staffing situation.

15.2 The Chair reported that he had asked a leading member of the local Fire Service to help with the moving of the heavy planters from Little Hayes into the High Street.



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16. Reports from Chairs of other Committees/Groups

16.1 On Cllr Angiolini's behalf, Cllr Johnson reported that everything appeared to be in hand re organising the Christmas Lights Festival. Cllr Anderson advised that the Council still needed to complete the second stage of the licensing process for the displays on the lamp columns, but this could only be done once the displays had been put up. Speaking of which, it was unusual that the displays had not been put up yet, so he planned to contact the contractor to establish the situation.

17. Clerk's Report

17.1 There was no written report.

18. Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning

18.1 The Council did not have a new warden yet, and clearing the flowerbeds and planting the winter plants was becoming increasingly urgent. Cllr Anderson had asked the Sunnyside Rural Trust if they could, on a one-off basis, clear the beds and plant the winter flowers, as well as supply the flowers. SRT had offered to do so, and Cllr Anderson was waiting for a price. Members could not authorise an unidentified cost, but supported the principle of asking the SRT to do this work.

19. Financial Matters

19.1 The schedule of payments for October 2023 was approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for October 2023 in the sum of £8,358.59 be authorised, thereby approving the Clerk to have made appropriate payments.

The payment schedule was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

19.2 The Chair examined the Council's bank account statements as at 30th September, and on behalf of the Council signed a statement to verify the accounts had been checked.

The balances as at the above date were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£225,810.79
NS&I Investment Account	45,912.60

19.3 Members checked that the bank balances shown on the bank reconciliation statement tallied with those on the bank statements, and approved the bank reconciliation statement, which was duly signed by the Chair.



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- 19.4 Members considered the quotes received for new Village Centre Entrance Signs, and it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council orders two 5 bar gate design signs from Glasdon, at the total price of £4,345.16 + VAT, and contacts the party which accidentally destroyed one of the existing signs and had offered to reimburse the Council for the cost of replacing it.

- 19.5 It was noted that at the Best Kept Gardens Awards Presentation Evening, £309 was raised and collected for the chosen charity of the evening, the Sunnyside Rural Trust. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council donates £350 to the Sunnyside Rural Trust.

- 19.6 Members noted the external auditor's annual governance and accountability return final report and certificate. It was noted that next year the Council would need to ensure that the accounts are open to inspection by the public for the strict time period required.

- 19.7 Cllr Anderson reported that the Council had been in dispute with ADT UK Ltd concerning an invoice for an intruder alarm repair which took place in May. For 26 minutes work and the replacement of a number pad, the Council had been charged £674.85 + VAT. The company had been repeatedly asked how it could justify the amounts it was charging, and the Council had been forced to turn down the offer of a 20% discount because that would still have made the cost £540 + VAT. Suddenly on 7th November, solicitors for ADT threatened legal action, giving the Council just 3 days until 10th November to pay the invoice, plus a penalty charge of £40 for the solicitor's letter. Cllr Anderson had emailed the Chief Executive of ADT UK to appeal to him to intervene, but as yet had not received a reply. Cllr Anderson planned to arrange the posting of an appropriate comment on ADT's facebook page on the afternoon of 9th November, barring any intervention to make the full payment at lunchtime on 10th November, and to seek quotes for a new intruder alarm system from alternative suppliers. These plans were endorsed by the Council unanimously.

20.. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies

- 20.1 Cllr Johnson reported that the only recent meeting of the Borough Council had been to launch the new Local Plan consultation discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 20.2 Cllr Anderson explained proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Support scheme, which involved raising the maximum council tax benefit from 75% to 100%, and that this would have to be paid for by all other council taxpayers. He hadn't been notified this was peculiar to Dacorum, so he assumed it was happening across the country.

21. Parish Plan Reports

- a) Parish Plan - Environment Group

- 21.1 There was nothing to report.



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b) Parish Plan - Leisure Group

21.2 Cllr Johnson reported that the group were due to meet quite shortly.

c) Parish Plan - Transport Group

21.3 Cllr Morrish reported he had been invited recently to the photo-shoot to celebrate and publicise the opening of the new canal towpath South of Red Lion Lane. Upgrading the canal towpath was a cause close to his heart as he had spent 10 years campaigning for it. At the photo-shoot, he had met the Chief Executive of the Hemel Garden Communities project, who had been instrumental in obtaining the bulk of the funding from the Government, and she was quite encouraging about the scope for obtaining more funding for the other sections of the local canal towpath that still needed upgrading.

22 Geographical Areas Reports

22.1 The Chair said that he had reported to DBC the fallen leaves which had collected on the pavement outside St Laura's in the High Street. Cllr De Silva said that he had reported to HCC two unlit lamp columns which had made a section of London Road very dark. Cllr Coxill said that the canal towpath South of the village had become quite badly flooded by a canal overflow, and Cllr Johnson said he would contact the neighbouring landowner about the problem.

23. Village Garden

23.1 Cllr Morrish said Christian Aid were holding a Carol Service in the Village Garden on 16th December and had asked him if the Council's Public Liability Insurance would cover it. He had advised them that they needed their own insurance.

23.2 Cllr Johnson reported that the Church Lane wall had been repaired by a volunteers.

24 Litter Picks

24.1 Cllr Johnson advised that the litter picks had been completed for the year.

25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

25.1 There was nothing to report.

26 Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

26.1 Cllr Rogers reported that the Community Centre had had to increase its charges, which had not proved popular with some regular users.

27. Council Surgeries

27.1 A report had been circulated.



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28. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda)

28.1 Remembrance Services - Arrangements for events on Saturday & Sunday were in place.

28.2 Council Facebook Account (Temporary Admin Arrangements) - The immediate need to be able to post comments on Kings Langley Matters corporately had passed, though it was recognised that this was something that needed to be researched for the future. Cllr Coxill volunteered to look into how this could be achieved.

29. Any Other Business (not requiring a formal decision)

29.1 Cllr Rogers raised the potential loss of income because the monies deposited in interest savings accounts was not being maximised.

29.2 Cllr Anderson replied that the interest was being maximised because there was an automatic system in place which kept the current account at £5,000, and transferred any excess or shortfall to the reserve account, so that the interest received on the reserve account was maximised. But, the bank had recently started introducing charges on our accounts, and in the process of market testing our banking, he would be looking to see if there would be a simpler way of maximising the Council's interest receipts. However, the Council didn't currently have a Responsible Finance officer in place, and there were more pressing priorities before this could be looked into.

29.3 Cllr Rogers re-iterated his concern about the Council losing potential interest income, and was advised by members that there were more urgent matters that needed resolving first.

30. Exclusion of the Public

30.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with KLPC 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 view of the nature of the special and/or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public is temporarily excluded, and instructed to withdraw.

31. Budget 2024-25

31.1 Members were asked to propose items of savings or growth as the budgeting process starts. There weren't any proposals, and Cllr Anderson warned members that because this year's annual cost of living increase had been double than previously anticipated, there was likely to be a very large rise in staff pay.

Meeting closed at 9pm.