



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5th December 2023.

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

Also Present: Three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Lydon & Rogers.
- 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 As there was a member of the public present who would soon be starting employment for the Council as the Village Warden, Cllr Anderson declared his and Cllr Johnson's standing interests as members of Dacorum Borough Council.

3. Public Participation

- 3.1 Ms Angela Vaux, 15 Vicarage Lane, raised objections to the planning application 23/02781/ROC, which involved removing two conditions from the planning application previously granted for 17 Vicarage Lane. In her view, the previous objections were still valid due to the potential overlooking/lack of privacy.
- 3.2 Mr Peter Faulkner, High Street, asked who was responsible for clearing large piles of leaves which were a 'slip' hazard, particularly in wet weather. Cllr Anderson explained the Village Warden would normally clear the leaves along the High Street that could be cleared by one person, but DBC's Clean, Safe & Green team would be asked to clear larger amounts of leaves. The Chair noted the DBC team had cleared the exceptionally large amount of leaves that had accumulated outside St Laura's care home.

4. Planning & Licensing Matters

Consideration of Planning Applications as listed here:

Reference	Address	Details	Decision
23/02781/ROC	17 Vicarage Lane	Removal of Condition 4 (side window obscure/non opening) and Condition 5 (Dormer windows) attached to planning permission 21//03742/FHA (Single storey rear and side extension and loft conversion).	Objection as the original reasons for the conditions (overlooking/lack of privacy) were not affected by changing the rooms.



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23/02823/RET	7 Beechfield	Retention of a double door on the flank wall at first floor, addition of a Juliette balcony for the same door.	No objection.
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5. Other Planning & Licensing Matters

Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan - Regulation 18 Consultation

5.1 Cllr Johnson had drafted a response that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Whilst welcoming the proposals for Kings Langley, concerns were raised about the level of development along the A4251 corridor, the effects of huge increases in traffic and the lack of infrastructure such as schools. The response was agreed.

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

6.1 None.

7. Police Matters & Other Services

7.1 The police report for November had only received limited circulation before the meeting.

8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (County Cllr Roberts)

8.1 Cllr Coxill reported he had contacted County Cllr Richard Roberts again about the Vicarage Lane j/w High Street crossroads. He had not received a reply. Cllr Anderson noted that this junction was the number one priority in the Parish for HCC's CIL receipts as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, and that it was the responsibility of HCC to obtain its CIL funding from DBC, which was administering the CIL receipts.

8.2 Cllr Anderson advised that for quite some time library volunteers had been trying to get HCC to fix the roof of the library, which was leaking heavily. The volunteers had repeatedly raised the problem with senior library service managers and County Cllr Richard Roberts, and in desperation had recently contacted Cllrs Anderson & Johnson as DBC councillors. Cllr Morrish advised he was aware that HCC was looking at a temporary fix, but that the whole roof may have to be replaced. Cllr Anderson was given delegated authority to compose and send a request from the Council direct to the Chief Executive of HCC that the work is given greater priority.

9. Highways

9.1 There were no further highway matters.

10. Minutes

10.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th November were adopted as a true record.



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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 24th October were adopted as a true record.

14. Charter Court

14.1 It was noted that the works to the external wall had been completed to a good standard.

14.2 Cllr Anderson reported that he had some difficulty getting comparable quotes from potential suppliers to provide the Council's telephony and communication services. It was agreed to defer the consideration of quotes to the next meeting in January.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 The Chair introduced to the meeting Mr Simon Tristram-Walmsley, who would be starting work for the Council as the new Village Warden on 2nd January.

16. Reports from Chairs of other Committees/Groups

16.1 Cllr Angiolini reported that the Christmas Lights Festival had been a great success. 'Sweet as a Button' had won the Atkins Award for the Best Decorated Premises in the High Street, and were donating the £100 prize to DENS. A decision would be taken on the possibility of a runner-up prize when the overall costs of the event were known.

17. Clerk's Report

17.1 There was no written report.

18. Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning

18.1 During setting up for the Christmas Lights Festival, it was found that the Council's two gazebo frames had roofs that did not fit, and the Council was forced to borrow gazebos. Along with sorting the planters outside Little Hayes, overseeing DBC's installation of the owl boxes, fitting a tracker to the van and sorting the noticeboards, it was agreed that sorting the gazebos would be added to the Warden's early list of priorities.



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19. Financial Matters

19.1 The schedule of payments for November 2023 was approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for November 2023 in the sum of £18,374.73 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 31st October 2023, and on behalf of the Council signed a statement to verify the accounts had been checked.

19.3 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council approves the cost of Remembrance wreaths, and a donation to the Poppy Appeal, totalling £150.

19.4 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council donates £250 to the Kings Langley Bowls Club to help the club purchase a new gazebo.

19.5 Members noted that this was not the first time that the Bowls Club has asked for financial assistance and that the request for financial support did not enclose any details on the club's means. It was agreed that the guidelines for seeking financial assistance needed to be updated to advise those seeking financial support that the Council needs to see a summary of the organisation's finances before a grant can be considered.

20. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies

20.1 Cllr Johnson reported that very little business had been transacted at the last full meeting of the Borough Council.

20.2 Cllr Anderson advised that the long running saga over the introduction of parking charges was coming back to DBC's Cabinet meeting the following week. The agenda report proposed implementing parking charges in Kings Langley's High Street, starting at the minimum amount of £2. Cllr Anderson felt this was the last thing the High Street needed when one considered the amount of direct and indirect damage caused by the recent business rates revaluation exercise. Even if one felt charging was needed to increase the footfall, the amount of £2 was far too high for those popping into the village briefly for examples to get their prescriptions or their lunch. Cllr Anderson said he would be attending the Cabinet meeting to oppose the proposal, and expected that the proposal would cause some controversy.



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21. Parish Plan Reports

a) Parish Plan - Environment Group

21.1 There was nothing to report.

b) Parish Plan - Leisure Group (written report circulated)

21.2 Cllr Morrish asked about the Repair Shed project. Cllr James-Saunders replied that there were concerns Abbots Langley Parish Council was considering alternative uses of the site which would generate income rather than only provide a community benefit.

c) Parish Plan - Transport Group

21.3 Cllr Morrish reported that as the section of canal towpath between Red Lion Lane and Water Lane had now been resurfaced, he was focusing on trying to get the Canal & River Trust to get quotes and funding for the sections between Red Lion Lane and Two Waters and between Water Lane and Home Park.

22. Geographical Areas Reports

22.1 Cllr Johnson reported the extensive gas works in Hempstead Road had been completed.

23. Village Garden

23.1 Cllr Johnson confirmed work on the flint wall along the Church Lane side continued.

24. Litter Picks

24.1 Cllr Johnson reminded members that litter picks had been suspended for the Winter.

25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

25.1 Cllr Johnson reported that a minor flooding issue had been addressed, but vigilance would be necessary over the coming Winter months.

26. Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

26.1 There was nothing to report.

27. Council Surgeries

27.1 No council surgery had taken place in November, but they were to resume in December.

28. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda)

28.1 Dates of Meetings 2024 - With the addition of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 18th April 2024, the dates proposed were agreed.



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28.2 Christmas & New Year Office Opening Hours 2023-24 - The proposed hours, that the office is closed, were agreed.

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

29.1 Cllr Coxill advised the website should be the primary focus for publicising Council business and activities. Cllr Anderson agreed, but the Chair felt Facebook was a far more effective tool. Cllr Anderson explained the goal was not to rule out Facebook altogether, but to adopt a hybrid model whereby one published information on the website and used Facebook to distribute links to it. The first step was to organise a new website, and whilst the Council had the financial resource to afford a new website, it would be a while before the Council had the staffing capacity to organise it.

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 Cllr Anderson apologised that he had had to spend so much time covering for the Clerk he had not yet had the time to produce an outturn and budget for the Council to consider. As a result of the Council's staffing difficulties, however, he had been keeping an extremely close eye on the Council's financial outturn for 2023-24.

31.2 Very approximately, the Council was currently over-budget on the following items. Office staffing £12,500, elections £1,700, intruder alarm £810, outside wall £8,730, Christmas Lights safety inspections £525, and the Warden's Van £1,020, making a total of £25,285. On the other hand, the Council was currently under-budget on non office staffing by £6,000 & had received a business rates refund windfall of £35,000. The Council had therefore lost £19,285 or 55% of the £35k windfall. Whilst this was regrettable, events beyond the Council's control had conspired against it, and it was just as well the Council had the windfall to cushion the financially speaking terrible year.

31.3 Members did not propose any items of savings or growth for next year's budget.

Meeting closed at 9pm.