



Edmund de Langley  
&  
Isabella de Castilla

# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

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

Also Present: One member of the public.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Button, De Silva and Rogers. Cllr Angiolini therefore chaired the meeting.

1.2 The Council currently did not have a Clerk, and 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 Peter Faulkner, of the High Street, raised concerns about a response he had received from the Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the lack of any form of police presence in the village. The response had identified a police officer who, according to the website, was not assigned to Kings Langley. Cllr Anderson explained the website had not yet been updated, and the current position, but acknowledged the officer was 'stretched thin' across a number of villages.

### 4. Planning & Licensing Applications

4.1 There were no planning or licensing applications to be considered.

### 5. Other Planning & Licensing Matters as specified here:

Rectory Farm Appeal - to determine Council's participation (see email correspondence from the Chair of Kings Langley & District Residents Association & a quote from the Planning Consultant who provided an alternative service for Tring Town Council).

5.1 Cllr Anderson explained the Council had three options, namely to accept the offer to join the Residents Association's 'Rule 6' participation, to submit a professional planning statement prepared by a planning consultant, a costing for which had been provided, or to do nothing. He added there were potentially enormous financial costs associated with the first option.

5.2 Cllr Morrish felt separate representation would demonstrate a broad spectrum of opposition to the application and the costs associated with the first option were untenable.



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5.3 Cllr James-Saunders asked about the action taken by Tring Town Council and was assured that they had been satisfied with their representation. Moreover, the advantage of a separate statement was that it could be used by the Residents Association, in the same way the CPRE had used Tring Town Council's statement.

5.4 It was agreed in principle to obtain a planning statement for the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry, and to seek further quotes from other planning consultants, so that the Council could meet its financial requirements in this respect.

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

6.1 None.

## 7. Police Matters & Other Services

7.1 The police report for December was discussed. It was noted that ahead of the meeting, the Chair of the Council had raised, in an email to PC Eke, his concern about the number of assaults. Cllr Lydon raised her concern that the report had stated there had been zero drug-related offences, and wondered if these offences had been recorded under any of the other categories. Cllr Anderson offered to arrange an email from the Council to PC Eke to ask about these issues, and to invite PC Eke to the Council's monthly meetings, as a useful means of discussing these concerns.

## 8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (County Cllr Roberts)

8.1 Cllr Morrish reported that the pressure applied by the Parish Council to address the leaking roof at the library had resulted in a swift response, with work due to start in two weeks time, though it did necessitate the closure of the library for two months.

8.2 Cllr Coxill said would be following up with County Cllr Roberts the issue of installing traffic controls at the High Street crossroads. Cllr Morrish suggested the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) being developed by DBC could be a method by which funding could be sought. Cllr Anderson felt more success could be achieved by pressuring County Cllr Roberts to sponsor a HCC bid for CIL funding. Cllr Coxill agreed to seek a rough quote from outside HCC for the works that would be required, so that one could get an idea of the cost involved.

## 9. Highways

9.1 There were no further highway matters.

## 10. Minutes

10.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 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 21<sup>st</sup> November were adopted as a true record.

14. Charter Court

14.1 Cllr Anderson advised that the Council's current telephone service contract had expired in the Autumn, and that he had sought quotes from a range of firms to provide the service. Initially two firms quoted for the service, the Council's current provider, MFD Solutions, and Onecom. BT had not responded to requests to quote for the service. Since the Council's last meeting, the MFD Solutions quote had lapsed, and MFD Solutions had subsequently advised that they could not match or reduce the Council's current costs. It was noted that the Onecom quote would save the Council £160 per year. It was therefore proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council enters into a contract with Onecom to provide its telephone service, and in the absence of a Clerk to the Council, Cllr Anderson is given delegated authority on behalf of the Council to setup the contract.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 In the Chair's absence, Cllr Anderson provided a brief update on the Council's staffing. The Council was now in the process of recruiting a new Clerk as quickly as possible.

16. Reports from Chairs of other Committees/Groups

16.1 None.

17. Clerk's Report

17.1 There was no written report.

18. Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning

18.1 It was reported that the new Village Warden was only one week into the role, and undertaking his induction and immediate tasks.

19. Financial Matters

19.1 The schedule of payments for December 2023 was approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:



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That the payment schedule for December 2023 in the sum of £28,182.65 be authorised, thereby approving the Clerk to have made appropriate payments.

The payment schedule was signed by the Vice-Chair.

- 19.2 The Vice-Chair examined the Council's bank account statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, and on behalf of the Council signed a statement to verify the accounts had been checked.

It was noted that the bank balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were:

Current Account:	£5,000.00
Reserve Account:	£202,979.88
NS&I Investment Account	45,912.60

- 19.3 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council donates £200 to the Herts & Essex Ambulance Service.

## 20.. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies

- 20.1 Cllr Johnson said there had been no substantive meetings since the last parish council meeting. Cllr Anderson reported the current Administration had already delayed the public consultation on parking charges to February, following strong opposition from local councillors and residents. Green refuse bin charges were also being increased, despite election promises to scrap the charge altogether.

## 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 There was nothing further to add.

- c) Parish Plan - Transport Group

21.3 There was nothing to report.

## 22 Geographical Areas Reports

22.1 There was nothing to report.

## 23. Village Garden

23.1 Cllr Johnson reported tidying up work continued when the weather permitted it.



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## 24 Litter Picks

24.1 Cllr Johnson confirmed litter picks remained suspended until February at the earliest.

## 25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

25.1 Cllr Johnson reported there had been further flooding since the last meeting. There was some discussion concerning the potential impact of drainage problems further upstream on this part of the River Gade and Grand Union Canal. The three agencies involved had been notified and Sir Mike Penning MP would be approached again to see if he could broker some joint works to prevent further problems.

## 26 Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

26.1 There was nothing to report.

## 27. Council Surgeries

27.1 Cllr Johnson had circulated a written report from the last surgery in December.

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

28.1 None.

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

29.1 Cllr James-Saunders asked if the dates of the Carnival, Gardens Competition and Christmas Lights could be diarised. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

## 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. Personnel Committee Restricted Minutes

31.1 The restricted minutes of the Personnel Committee meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were adopted as true records.

## 32. Budget 2024-25

32.1 Cllr Anderson reported setting the budget had been made particularly challenging as a result of the higher than expected pay award for 2023-24. However, by reducing



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the planned transfer to the Projects Fund from Christmas Festival expenditure, it would be possible to limit the precept increase to 5.9%. This was welcomed and councillors agreed to recommend the draft budget's approval to the special budget meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.