



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 6th February 2024.

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

Also Present: PC Eke, C\Cllr Roberts and nine members of public.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lydon.

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 Former Cllr Collins of Hempstead Road echoed concerns raised under item 9 (b), concerning the state of Right of Way 10 between the Miller & Carters Restaurant and Whitlars Drive, particularly in wet weather. Cllr Anderson explained the responsibility for the maintenance of the footpath was complicated, but in the simplest summary, Dacorum Borough Council was responsible for maintaining the pathway as an agent on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. Cllr Johnson added the Parish Council had raised this issue on a number of occasions, but it was one of numerous similar footpaths across the Borough which could only be managed with the resources available. C\Cllr Roberts supported the approach being taken by both Dacorum Borough Council and Kings Langley Parish Council to remove as much mud and detritus as possible following heavy rainfalls, recognising that they would inevitably slide down the path from the woods.

3.2 Whilst not a resident, a High Street trader, Mr Jeff Folkins, was permitted to address the Council concerning Dacorum Borough Council's proposals to introduce charges for parking in the High Street, and to limit the length of stays in the off street car parks. Mr Folkins was upset that the High Street traders had not been consulted specifically, and that there was no understanding of who was responsible for parking management, or how to influence those responsible. Mr Folkins complained that the proposals would kill the businesses in the High Street, as they would penalise the customers and employees who didn't live near the High Street and had to rely on using their cars. It would also impact residents and the businesses where customers needed to park for longer than an hour. Whilst there was a recognition that a parking charge regime was not unreasonable, Mr Folkins said, as occurs in other places, the first hour should be free. He felt such a scheme would be easy to implement and easy to enforce.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

- 3.3 Cllr Anderson advised that the Administration controlling Dacorum Borough Council, which he and Cllr Johnson opposed, was responsible for parking management in the Borough.
Cllr Anderson set out the various proposals and consultations which had taken place so far. There was no requirement for Dacorum Borough Council to consult the traders specifically, as the consultations had been conducted in the same way as any of the other general consultations undertaken by the Council. Moreover, it hadn't been possible to implement a first hour free regime before, and other councils were removing first hour free regimes elsewhere, as they raise less revenue than they cost to enforce.
- 3.4 However, Cllrs Anderson and Johnson were strongly opposed to the proposals, due to the considerable harm they would do to the High Street, and they were already doing everything they could as local ward members to oppose them. The next day they were attending a meeting of the relevant Dacorum Borough Council overview and scrutiny meeting to speak out against the proposals, and there was a Dacorum Borough Council cabinet meeting the following week at which one of the traders could register to speak. Cllr Roberts was so concerned about the proposals, and the strength of feeling, that he said he would take up the matter directly with the Chief Executive of Dacorum Borough Council.
- 3.5 Mr Gary Ansell, of Belham Road and Chair of the Kings Langley and District Residents Association, spoke concerning item 19 (f) and the Association's request for funding support towards the cost of an additional expert witness for the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry. Mr Ansell withdrew the Association's request, but asked if the Association could be advised what the Council was doing for the enquiry, so the opposition to the appeal could be better co-ordinated. Cllr Anderson confirmed that, as previously promised, the Association would be sent a copy of the Council's professional planning statement, as soon as it is sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

4. Planning & Licensing Matters

Consideration of Planning Applications as listed here:

Reference	Address	Details	Decision
24/00193/FHA	Coombe House, Langley Hill	Re-roofing with installation of 3 new rooflights, replacement of windows and construction of front porch. Create new ground floor rear opening and alteration of 2 front openings. Construction of terrace to rear and driveway to front of house.	No objection.

5. Other Planning & Licensing Matters as specified here:

- 5.1 None.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

6.1 None.

7. Police Matters & Other Services

7.1 PC Charlie Eke introduced himself as the new local Police Officer, and invited those present to speak to him after the meeting should they wish to do so. He ran through the latest crime statistics provided for the month of January, adding that generally local crime was opportunist rather than the result of gang activity. In response to a question raised at the January Council meeting, PC Eke advised that there was a considerable level of proactive police activity ongoing in relation to drug offences.

8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (County Cllr Roberts)

8.1 C\Cllr Roberts said the increase in the County Council's share of council tax for 2024/25 would be 4.99%, which would raise an additional £100m. However, £29m of savings would also be required. These savings would be found by making significant efficiencies that result in no loss of front-line services.

9. Highways

9.1 The Chair asked C\Cllr Roberts if, from his division members budget, he could assist financially with the cost of installing the new village centre entrance signs, perhaps half the cost. C\Cllr Roberts said he had some funding left in this year's budget, and in principle was happy to contribute the £672.50 involved.

9.2 C\Cllr Roberts set out the 'spend' on highway works in Kings Langley, funded by the County Council and including the M25 roundabout, resurfacing of roads and pavements.

9.3 Cllr Morrish said he had spoken to Andrew Freeman from Herts Highways. Whilst the earlier suggestion to 'tap into' funding for Dacorum's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Vicarage Lane/High Street traffic lights project would still be pursued, there was an alternative route. The Parish Council's Transport Group would compose a problem statement in order to obtain a credible quote, as a prelude to carrying out a feasibility study. One alternative option might be to pursue a "continental" junction.

9.4 C\Cllr Roberts felt it was an infrastructural issue, and that something tangible was needed to access CIL funding. Cllr Anderson said that it was a safety issue; that quotes hitherto had been over-stated, not least as traffic light cables had already been laid during the High Street improvements in the 1990s; that there wasn't enough room at the junction for a continental junction; that a continental junction would not work at this location; that it was down to Hertfordshire County Council to make a bid, which he and Cllr Johnson would support strongly as Dacorum Borough Council councillors, to Dacorum Borough Council to release the CIL funding for the project; and that he welcomed any method by which the project could happen.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

9.5 Members noted that the concerns raised by Ms Fyson concerning Right of Way 10, between the Miller & Carter Restaurant and Whitlars Drive, had already been covered under Public Questions (item 3).

9.6 C/Cllr Roberts reported on the outcome of the recent consultation on putting a one way system in Vicarage Lane. Residents in Vicarage Lane had supported the proposal, but a greater number of residents in the neighbouring roads where more people lived were opposed to it. For that reason, he was not minded to take the project any further. Cllr Anderson said he was very disappointed because the very real and significant problems being experienced in Vicarage Lane were not of any concern to the neighbouring residents, and most of the traffic that the neighbouring residents feared was diverting onto their roads already anyway.

10. Minutes

10.1 The minutes of the Council meeting on 9th January 2024 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 December were adopted as a true record.

14. Charter Court

14.1 Cllr Anderson reported that installing fibre broadband had proved more problematical than anticipated, and that a full survey and project plan would be required, as the building and its telecoms were quite complicated and needed a complete overhaul.

14.2 Meanwhile, Dacorum Borough Council's electrician was taking steps to fix a problem with the heaters and to provide a quote for installing an EV charge point.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 The Chair reported that first interviews for the Clerk's position were taking place on Friday 16th February.

15.2 The owl boxes bought by the Council had been installed, and a vote of thanks to the Dacorum Borough Council staff who put up the boxes was agreed unanimously.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

15.3 The Chair advised he planned to continue the Environmental Award for the Annual Parish Meeting in April. It was noted two Community Awards were being considered, and organisational arrangements would be finalised at the next Council meeting.

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 The Chair reported the new Warden had been very active. Amongst other tasks, the Warden had sorted litter picked around the village into recyclable and non-recyclable materials, and had prepared the new village centre entrance signs for installation.

19. Financial Matters

19.1 The schedule of payments for January 2024 was approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for January 2024 in the sum of £27,031.66 be authorised, thereby approving the Clerk to have made appropriate payments.

The payment schedule was signed by the Chair.

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

19.3 The current Income and Expenditure Statement for 2023-24 was received, and on behalf of the Council the Chair signed a statement to that effect.

19.4 The Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st December 2023 was approved, and on behalf of the Council the Chair signed a statement to that effect.

19.5 Cllr Anderson advised that four planning consultants or consultancy firms were asked to quote for providing a formal, professional Planning Statement for the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry, namely Mr Trevor Standen, Oak Planning, PrinciPlanning and David Lane Associates. Mr Trevor Standen had quoted £5,400 without any VAT, David Lane Associates declined to quote as they carry out work elsewhere for the appellants, and the other firms did not reply. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Council commissions Mr Trevor Standen to draft a Planning Statement for the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry at the cost of £5,400, from the Projects Fund.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

- 19.6 Cllr Anderson advised that because the Planning Inspectorate had imposed a much earlier deadline for comments in connection with the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry than previously envisaged, Mr Standen had already drafted the Planning Statement, which was distributed to members over the weekend before the meeting. Members were very impressed with the Planning Statement and grateful for Mr Standen’s expertise. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the Chair is given delegated authority to submit the Planning Statement as drafted, as the Council’s contribution to the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry.

- 19.7 It was noted that under Public Questions (item 3), the Kings Langley and District Residents Association had withdrawn its request for financial assistance in paying for an additional expert witness for the Rectory Farm appeal enquiry.

- 19.8 Members discussed the offer from the Council’s insurance firm concerning the current vehicle written off as a result of a road traffic collision, and the merits of the nine quotes which had been received for leasing a new vehicle. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the insurance firm’s offer for the pre-accident value of the current vehicle less the accident excess of £100 (£4,620) be accepted, that the ninth quote be accepted at the value of £129 per month, and that should the ninth quote be no longer available, the sixth quote be accepted at the value of £189.44 per month.

- 19.9 The Chair reported that, too late to be included on the agenda for the meeting, the Council had a received a quote from the Hertfordshire County Council highways contractor Ringway to install the two new village centre entrance signs at a cost of £1,345 + VAT. Cllr Anderson advised there wasn’t any prospect of being able to obtain any lower quotes for the service, as it involved working on the highway, and any other quotes would have to include an additional cost for being licensed to work on the highway. Authorising the expenditure would have to be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting, but the contractor had offered to get the installation done by the end of the month if the Council commissioned the work now. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That Ringway are requested to proceed with the installation of the village centre entrance signs at the cost of £1,345 + VAT, and that the expenditure is determined at the next meeting of the Council.

20.. Dacorum Borough Council and Other Public Bodies

- 20.1 There was nothing to add to what had already been discussed under Public Questions (item 3).

21. Parish Plan Reports

- a) Parish Plan - Environment Group
There was nothing further to report.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

- b) Parish Plan - Leisure Group (written report circulated)
Cllr Johnson explained that Dacorum Borough Council would allow a 'Friends' group to litter pick only in the woods and on the Common. He added that he would be making a bid to the Prosperity Fund to cover the cost of the Youth Survey.

- c) Parish Plan - Transport Group
There was nothing further to report.

22 Geographical Areas Reports

- 22.1 Cllr Morrish reported that he had managed to get Cadent to commit to paying for the resurfacing of the pavement on one side of Rucklers Lane between the Community Hall and the traffic lights, as an apology for the disruption caused over a 15 month period.

23. Village Garden

- 23.1 Cllr Johnson said pruning and tidying up had continued, with valuable work from local residents.

24 Litter Picks

- 24.1 Cllr Johnson confirmed litter picks would re-commence later this month.

25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

- 25.1 Cllr Johnson reported there had been three flooding episodes in January. A site meeting, with the Herts County Council Bridges Team and two allotment holders, had established the cause of the problem and a potential solution. The Bridges Team representative undertook to establish with their legal department who was responsible for protecting the weir from floating debris before it reached the culvert.

26 Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

- 26.1 Cllr Rogers said the Community Association running the Community Centre would be installing new outside signs; refurbishing the small hall, to be called the Green Room; clearing the storage area under the stage; and re-developing their website. He added that the Community Centre defibrillator had recently been used but not returned.

27. Council Surgeries

- 27.1 Cllr Johnson had circulated a written report.

28. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda)

- 28.1 It was confirmed that the Carnival would be held on 22nd June, that the Best Kept Gardens Competition judging would be held over the weekend of 27-28th July, that the Best Kept Gardens Competition presentation evening would be held on 18th October, and that the Christmas Lights Festival would be held on 23rd November.



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

29.1 Cllr Rogers said he had been speaking to the manager of St Laura's care home, and they were keen to participate in more village activities and would welcome getting involved.

29.2 Cllr Rogers asked about resuming live streaming of council meetings. Cllr Anderson confirmed these would be resumed once the new Clerk was appointed.

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 Minutes

31.1 The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 19th December 2023 were adopted as a true record.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.