



Edmund de Langley
&
Isabella de Castilla

KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5th March 2024.

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

Also Present: Mr & Mrs Price, C\Cllr Roberts and PC Eke.

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the sad death of former Cllr Peter McDonnell. A minute's silence was held in his memory. Cllr Anderson reflected on Peter's time as a councillor and mentioned how passionate and committed he was in representing the interests of the village.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Lydon and Morrish.
- 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 In view of the attendance of the meeting, Cllrs Anderson and Johnson declared their "standing" personal interests as also being members of Dacorum Borough Council.

3. Public Participation

- 3.1 There was no public participation.

4. Planning & Licensing Matters

Consideration of Planning Applications as listed here:

Reference	Address	Details	Decision
24/00348/FHA	1 Ridgeway Close	Two storey side extension, first floor rear extension. Relocation of front entrance door.	No objection.
24/00327/FPA	Langley Hill Independent School, Langley Hill	Temporary change of use of site to reflect sporadic use by film production companies.	Noted that it had been withdrawn.
24/00366/LBC	Blue Court, 1 Church Lane	Retention of company logo.	No objection.
24/00418/FHA	64 Alexandra Road	Proposed loft extension to create an extra bedroom, bathroom and storage space.	No objection.
24/00448/LDP	14 Shendish Edge	Loft extension with 3 velux.	No objection.



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5. Other Planning & Licensing Matters as specified here:

a) Dacorum Borough Council - Notice of appeal:

Appeal At: 1 The Orchard, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8JR
For: Insertion of two doors and internal layout changes
LPA Ref: 23/01468/LDP
PINS Ref: APP/A1910/X/24/3338702

5.1 The appeal was noted.

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

6.1 None.

7. Police Matters & Other Services

7.1 PC Eke spoke to the crime statistics for February. He explained that, whilst there was an increase in domestic burglaries, there was nothing to suggest it was the work of an organised gang, as there was no pattern in terms of method of entry, day of the week or time of day. There had been a general rise in these crimes, and a county wide police operation was taking place to address this.

7.2 The Chair advised that High Street businesses had been warned about the very occasional appearance of counterfeit £50 notes.

7.3 PC Eke advised that locally the Police had been organising 'Coffee with a copper' events to enable local people to have a chat about any issues. If anybody wanted to setup such a meeting in Kings Langley, it could readily be organised. The Chair volunteered to advertise this on the Facebook group Kings Langley Matters

8. Hertfordshire County Council Matters (County Cllr Roberts)

8.1 C\Cllr Roberts reported 95% of local children had their first choice for a secondary school, although actual numbers had fallen by 13%. The road maintenance budget was being increased so that roads like the section of Chipperfield Road between the village and Chipperfield could be repaired. Work on the roof of the community library was continuing. The budget had included growth of £100m, and only half of the savings required to meet this figure had been identified so far.

9. Highways

9.1 Whilst the amount was reduced from £600 to £400, the Chair thanked C\Cllr Roberts for his division members budget donation towards the cost of installing the new village centre entrance signs. C\Cllr Roberts apologised that it was all he had left in the budget.

9.2 The Chair mentioned the continuing problem with the footpath adjacent to the entrance of Miller and Carter (Right of Way 10). A number of different solutions



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were mentioned, but it was recognised that none of them were really practicable, affordable or proportionate.

- 9.3 Cllr Rogers complained about a number of roadway pothole repairs which had recently taken place in Common Lane. Some potholes had been infilled and not sealed during poor weather, so the rain had washed out the infill again. Whilst others had been left unrepaired within feet of potholes which had been repaired.
- 9.4 Cllr Coxill asked why the tarmac footway between Rockliffe Avenue and Alexandra Road had been recently resurfaced, when there were clearly others requiring attention. C\Cllr Roberts explained that it was likely to have been part of an ongoing programme of work.
- 9.5 Cllr Anderson asked if the section of London Road between Red Lion Lane and the Dolittle roundabout could be resurfaced as soon as possible, as it was in a worse state than Chipperfield Road. C\Cllr Roberts said he would look into the matter.

10. Minutes

- 10.1 The minutes of the Council meeting on 6th February 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 20th February were adopted as a true record.

14. Charter Court

- 14.1 Cllr Anderson referred to the quote received from the landlord's electrician Electrospec to install an electric vehicle charge point at Charter Court at the cost of £1,050 + VAT. This was for the new van the Council was procuring. The electrical network at Charter Court was very complicated and there was an ongoing issue with the loading of the different circuits, the resolution of which was being commissioned by the landlord and would be recharged separately to the Council. In these circumstances, and fearing an alternative electrician adding the EV charge point onto the circuitry in the wrong place, it had made sense to seek only one quote from the landlord's electrician to install the EV charge point. Informal research had also established that this was a typical amount for EV charge point installers to charge. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:



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That the Council commissions Electrospec Ltd to install an EV Charger in the car port at Charter Court at the cost of £1,050 + VAT, from the Charter Court Fund.

14.2 Cllr Anderson reported it hadn't been possible to procure the Council's first choice of new van, because the stock had run out. It was proving difficult to source affordable insurance for the second choice, but efforts were continuing.

14.3 The changeover to a new phone and broadband contract had been completed, though the changeover had required input from the Council's IT support firm, because the supplier let the Council down by failing to provide an engineer for the changeover.

15. Chair's Report

15.1 The Chair introduced Mr Matthew Price to the meeting, and announced the Council would be appointing Mr Price as the new Clerk to the Council from 2nd April.

15.2 The Chair referred to the damage being caused to the grass verge at the bottom of Mill Lane. Cllr Anderson explained that the Council had commissioned DBC to install wooden posts to prevent grass verge damage along Hempstead Road and at the bottom of Mill Lane. The Hempstead Road posts had been completed quite some time ago, and payment requested. However, the Mill Lane posts had not been implemented, so payment had been withheld. Only the day before the meeting, DBC had advised that it could not implement the posts in Mill Lane, due to the presence of water supply pipework, and would be sending a reduced invoice for the Hempstead Road posts only.

15.3 The Chair felt the Council should now seek the enabling of parking at Mill Lane, rather than its prevention. Members discussed the various options. Cllr Anderson advised tarmacing the verge wasn't affordable, and felt the verge should be protected, not least as the bulk of the verge damage was being caused by large service vehicles, and/or those visiting/serving the rear entrance of Willow Edge, rather than residential parking. Cllr Coxill felt the verge should be protected rather than developed. The Chair urged members to visit the location and to consider the options for further discussion.

15.4 The Chair advised the Environment Group had discussed wildflower planting and felt there were locations around the village where it could be done. A number of sites were suggested including parts of Hempstead Road and Coniston Road. It was agreed that Cllr James-Saunders should raise this with DBC's CSG team in the first instance.

16. Reports from Chairs of other Committees/Groups

16.1 None.

17. Clerk's Report

17.1 There was no written report.



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18. Village Warden's Activities, Priorities and Planning

18.1 The Chair reported the new Warden had been very active around the village, including doing a lot of litter-picking. It was noted that the Warden had done an excellent job of cutting to size and applying a special type of glass on the meeting hall doors at Charter Court, to restrict visibility and provide privacy to hall users.

19. Financial Matters

19.1 The schedule of payments for February 2024 was approved.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:

That the payment schedule for February 2024 in the sum of £16,393.19 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 January 2024, 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 Treasury Policy document, as tabled with the agenda, be adopted as the Council's Treasury Policy for 2024.

19.4 Cllr Anderson advised that he had hoped the Council would have received Ringway's invoice for installing the new Village Centre Entrance Signs in time for the meeting, but it still hadn't been received. It was understood that the cost had been reduced from £1,345 to £795, but the expenditure could not be approved until after the invoice had been received. Members were again happy to support the expenditure in practise, so it could be paid promptly, but it would still have to be authorised by a later meeting.

20. Dacorum Borough Council

20.1 Cllr Johnson reported that all three scrutiny committees had considered the budget, which had subsequently been discussed at the Full Council meeting. With the exception of increases in a range of charges, including the green bin charge, the budget for the previous year had effectively been 'rolled over' for the 2024-25 financial year. The Council had erred in sending out details of council rent increases before they were agreed at the budget meeting. There wasn't any further news concerning parking charges, but the issue was still ongoing, with the last consultation due in May.

21. Parish Plan Reports

a) Parish Plan - Environment Group

21.1 There was nothing to add to the written report tabled with the agenda and that which



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was covered earlier in the meeting under the Chair's Report.

b) Parish Plan - Leisure Group

21.2 There was nothing to report.

c) Parish Plan - Transport Group

21.3 Cllr Coxill reported that the Problem Statement concerning the High Street crossroads had been submitted to Andrew Freeman at HCC/Herts Highways.

22. Geographical Areas Reports

22.1 There was nothing to report.

23. Village Garden

23.1 Cllr Johnson said pruning and tidying up had continued, despite the wet weather.

24. Litter Picks

24.1 Cllr Johnson had already distributed a report on February's litter-pick.

25. Sunderland's Yard Allotments

25.1 Cllr Johnson reported there had been three more flooding episodes in February. The discussions between the parties had continued in an effort to find a resolution to the problem. Cllr Anderson said he had been invited to a separate meeting with the Environment Agency re the re-routing of the River Gade in Gadebridge Park, and said he would be asking about the Kings Langley flooding problem at the meeting, as he wondered if the two flooding problems were connected, and every opportunity had to be taken to put pressure on the Environment Agency.

26. Kings Langley Parish Council Representation on Other Bodies

26.1 There was nothing specific to report on the Community Association, but Cllr Rogers said the recent Local History & Museum Society talk had been very successful with fifty people attending. The KLLHMS AGM would be held on Saturday 13th April and would include another talk.

27. Council Surgeries

27.1 Cllr Johnson had circulated a written report.

28. Other Matters (as specified on the agenda)

28.1 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED:



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That the proposed Sunderlands Field Allotments Agreement 2024-29, as tabled with the agenda, be approved and adopted as the rental agreement between the Council and the Allotments Association.

- 28.2 Members discussed and agreed arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at the Community Centre on 25th April. It was noted that a projector and screen would be needed for the Grand Union Community Energy presentation. The Chair was happy to test in good time before the meeting whether his own laptop would work with the Council's projector, and Cllr Rogers agreed to find out from the Community Association whether there is a screen at the Community Centre which could be used.
- 28.3 Cllr Johnson had already drafted the Kings Langley Charities report for the meeting, and volunteered to draft the DBC report. Cllr Anderson volunteered to draft the finance report and advised the Administrative Assistant was doing her best to reconstruct the minutes from last year's meeting. The Administrative Assistant was also organising the same food & drink arrangements as previously, namely a cheese & wine arrangement.
- 28.4 Moving the April Full Council meeting from 2nd April to 9th April, and the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting from 16th April to 23rd April, were both agreed.

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

- 29.1 There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.