

Langley Parish Council

Annual Report 2020

1. A Report by Langley Parish Council Chairman

In May 2019, 7 Councillors were re-elected to the Council. Sadly, we said goodbye to Simon Reeve and Roger Hunt. Cllr Taylor-Maggio was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Jill Williams as Vice-Chairman. In July, we co-opted David Woodcock and we still have one vacancy remaining.

Planning Applications

We have, as a council, dealt with 18 applications mainly all relating to household changes. In October 2019, we took part in the very initial consultation with Maidstone Borough Council's Call for Sites for the Local Plan Review in 2022. In total 13 sites came forward for Langley and these are currently being reviewed by Maidstone Borough Council as to whether they are viable and sustainable for housing. It is currently expected that a full public consultation will be launched in October 2020.

Police –Our PCSO Shivon De Rose is always available by ringing 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Recreation Ground – Our major project this year was to provide some new play equipment and additional seating in the form of two picnic tables. Grants were obtained from Maidstone Borough Council (£10,000), Eric Hotson our Kent County Councillor (£1,500) and the remainder was funded by the Parish Council. This has been well received by residents and our local children.

We also thank our contractor Steve Waring who keeps this area looking good and has helped us out at short notice with the many odd jobs that require doing to keep the area safe for the public to use.

Football Pitches – this has seen an increase in use with two adult teams and a junior team using the area during the winter season.

Annual Tree Survey – this is carried out every 18 months to ensure that our trees in the recreation ground are inspected for any disease or damage and any issues can be addressed in a timely manner.

Training Councillors have attended courses/conferences held by KALC and Kent Highways throughout the year, these are as always both informative and an excellent networking opportunity.

Donations have been given to the Village Hall towards their roof repairs and CCTV cameras and to St Mary's Church to help with churchyard maintenance.

Finance it was agreed to generate a precept of £20,985 from the tax base figure of 499.8 which equates to £41.99 per band D property. This was a total increase of funding from 2019/20 of £12.66. This increase is mainly for the provision of funds to be put aside to secure the services of a planning consultant in the forthcoming Local Plan – Call for Sites Consultation if required.

Planters – Once again a big thank you to our Councillor Sue Knowles and two residents Mrs Liz Clarke and Mrs Dee Hadley for looking after our planters in the past year. Sadly, due to personal circumstances Mrs Clarke and Mrs Hadley have informed us that they are no longer able to volunteer their services and we hope that other residents may step forward to help out planting and watering the flowers.

Speedwatch – In order to get this project back up and running and to be effective it requires a pool of people to deploy the equipment on a regular basis. An online training session/questions must be undertaken by all volunteers. If you would like to get involved, then please do contact the clerk.

Buses – This year long bus pilot was launched by KCC for the new revised number 13 bus which went live on 17 February 2020. With small minibuses taking residents from Langley to an interchange at Sutton Road, Maidstone on a frequent basis throughout the day. Currently we are unsure how the success of the pilot will be monitored due to the Coronavirus crisis.

Communications: A regular monthly article has been included in the Two Spires Magazine up to March 2020. Since March, magazine production has ceased for the time being. Our Parish website will contain up to date information along with our noticeboards situated around the Parish.

Laptop Donation In our Parish store, we had 6 old laptops that were no longer required which we donated to Maplesden Noakes School in Maidstone. They were able to refurbish them and have been put to good use for children with special educational requirements.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) In March 2020, the Country was ordered into lockdown by the Government. We are grateful to all our residents who volunteered to help our vulnerable people who were shielding, with tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, checking on their wellbeing with timed phone calls and also assisting the health services with the Covid-19 assessment centres, making masks and sewing scrubs. Our Kent County Councillor, Eric Hotson kindly provided a grant of £1,000 towards food boxes and with further financial assistance from the Parish Council we teamed up with Maria Mackelden of the Over 60's club and managed to purchase and distribute 31 boxes in total from the Haven Farm Shop to those in need.

We have adapted to a new way of working and Parish Council meetings now take place via video conferencing.

Thank you to our Borough Member Councillor Wendy Young and Kent County Councillor Eric Hotson who have given their support to our Parish Council throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Councillors and our Clerk for their input, support and willingness to look after our village.

Parish Councillor Details

Cllr Cheryl Taylor Maggio (Chairman) 01622 862962

Cllr Jill Williams (Vice Chairman) 01622 863477

Cllr Kim Chaplin 01622 862149

Cllr Roger Chaplin 01622 862149

Cllr Sue Knowles 01622 861618

Cllr Paul Maggio 01622 862962

Cllr David Woodcock 07548 887735

Cllr Carole Wright 07885 167166

Parish Clerk

Mrs Helen Anderson 07944 668802

16 Chaplin Drive

Headcorn

Kent

TN27 9TN

Email : langleypc@hotmail.co.uk

Bank Reconciliation
Langley Parish Council
Financial year ending 31st March 2020

Prepared by Helen Anderson, Parish Clerk
Date : 1 April 2020

Balance per bank statements as at 31st March 2020 £ 15,125

Less any unrepresented cheques at 31st March 2020

103051	Otham PCC	£	500
103052	Fresh Air Fitness	£	306
103056	HM Revenue & Customs	£	15
103057	H Anderson	£	661
103058	Langley Village Hill	£	300
Subtotal		£	<u>1,782</u>
Net balances as at 31st March 2020		£	<u><u>13,343</u></u>

The net balances reconcile to the cash book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows

Cash Book

Opening balance 1st April 2019 £ 28,280

Receipts in the year

Precept	£	15,000
Interest	£	60
Parish Services Scheme	£	2,419
Play Area Grants	£	11,500
HMRC Unidentified Payment	£	700
ICO Refund	£	40
Allotments	£	233
Misc	£	4
VAT Payments	£	<u>5,470</u>
	£	<u><u>35,426</u></u>

Less Payments in the year

Clerk's Salary	£	7,992
Postage	£	32
Stationery	£	139
Chairman's Allowance	£	40

Insurance	£	1,495
Audit Fees	£	275
Advertising / Website (Two Spires Magazine)	£	500
Village Hall Room Hire	£	300
Subscriptions	£	768
Street Lights - Energy Costs	£	895
Open Spaces	£	3,021
Recreation Grounds - Repairs	£	255
Planters	£	140
War Memorial - Wreath	£	50
Allotments	£	258
VAT	£	5,745
Defibrillator Service	£	65
Burial Ground Grant	£	500
Village Hall Roof Grant	£	1,002
Table Repairs	£	61
Village Hall CCTV Grant	£	2,398
Play Area Equipment Upgrade	£	24,431
	£	<u>50,363</u>
Closing balance per cash book as at 31st March 2020	£	<u>13,343</u>

The proceeding statement are only a draft summary of the accounts. Copies of the full Statement of Accounts is available from the Parish Clerk.

Langley Parish Council accounts are audited internally by Lionel Robbins F.M.A.A.T and the Statutory Annual Return is externally audited by PKF Littlejohn.

The exercise period for electors to inspect the accounts will be from Monday 15 June to Friday 24 July 2020 The requisite Public Notice and a copy of the return will be placed on the Parish Website www.langleypc.kentparishes.gov.uk and on the village noticeboard.