

**KIRK LANGLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL 2024 at 7pm**

PRESENT: Cllr B Whittaker (Chair), Cllr H Leonard (Vice Chair), Cllr K Lymer, Cllr P Ryan, Cllr P Wallis, Clerk – Mrs S Bacon and 9 members of the public

Reference	Agenda Item	
APM/1/2023/24	Welcome	Cllr Whittaker gave the welcome and an explanation of Parish Meetings
APM/2/2023/24	Apologies for Absence	Cllr J Orton (AVBC), C Johnson – Kirk Langley Board Game Club
APM/3/2023/24	Minutes	The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 11 th May 2022 were approved as a true and accurate representation of the meeting having been circulated to member Cllrs and placed in a conspicuous place on the parish website.
APM/4/2023/24	Chair’s Report	<p>Cllr B Whittaker gave the following report:</p> <p>This last year April 23-24 has been a further period of change for PC -new chair, new councillors and new permanent clerk Sian Bacon. She has been with us for 6 months and proved herself very capable, personable, knowledgeable and assured. We are delighted to have her, especially as she brings knowledge and experience from several different parish councils. She has ensured our website, which had quickly become out of date has been brought back up. To the present day. Our website is a useful signposting tool for the community. We can help you to advertise events, for free.</p> <p>What have we been doing? -continued to deal with an unending barrage of planning applications and respond to those as well as the local plan. What is inevitable, is that AV are committed to build here, whatever we say. We can only try to use what we have to influence events which is our NP. Yet, this is an area with little facilities for our community, so we have to do the best with what we have. Otherwise we risk turning turn into a soulless place. The challenge for us is not only to maintain but also build our community, so that people want to join in and feel part of Kirk Langley. That is why it is so important for leaders of our local groups to come together and share ideas. This is one forum for that to happen. The Parish meeting two years ago was the key driver behind our newsletter, which we push out quarterly. Please continue to submit material and photos to me so we can maintain momentum. We are not journalists, so we can’t sniff out stories, although a bit of scandal is always welcome. We can publicise events, provide information and try to encourage participation and volunteering. A community is maintained by giving people opportunities to meet. This is what we are all trying to do.</p>

		<p>As a Parish council one of our key responsibilities relates to improving biodiversity within the Parish. So are looking for opportunities to do that. It could be by providing advice and signposting or changing the way we carry out our mowing responsibilities. The difficulty is that cosmetic changes are not universally popular. Keeping everything short and tidy does not encourage flora and fauna. We have to find the right balance.</p> <p>We continue to maintain our field and pavilion, our play equipment and trees and rubbish collection. None of this comes cheaply. The cost would be greater were it not for the volunteers who carry out the small jobs in the Parish eg painting the phone boxes. The one on the main road will receive attention this year when the weather improves.</p> <p>As ever we need people to engage with us, to provide information about what needs to be done and to exchange views. We welcome participation in meetings -it stops us feeling as if we are talking to ourselves.</p>
APM/5/2023/24	Borough & County Representation	No reports given
APM/6/2023/24	Reports from Local Community Groups	<p>Kirk Langley Board Games Club – sent the following report: Kirk Langley Board Games club is held twice monthly on the second and fourth Thursday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the village hall. I took over the reigns of the club mid 2023 due to the extremely sad loss of our founder Sasa who was a very keen and patient gamer, helping all of us to understand the most complicated of games, we miss her and Chris every week. Since then we have had limited numbers of which are normally made up of four regular families from the village. We charge £2 per person or £5 per family. It is very relaxed group where members can either bring their own games to share and teach the group or simply turn up and join in with the games. Everyone is welcome and we will endeavour to promote this further in 2024 to gain more members.</p> <p>Mama Blossom – Sent the following report for the Mama Blossom classes that run on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings: Bookings have been going well/steady for saying these are brand new classes in the area. However, I have recognised that one class does not book compared to the 11am-12pm class on a Monday morning</p>

		<p>(baby massage). My aim for the next round which is due to start in early May is to advertise both slots on a Monday morning as the same class and see if I can get more bookings on to the first slot.</p> <p>The earlier slot on the Wednesday evening is also the most popular (pregnancy yoga). My current aim is to continue with my offerings and keep liaising with Michelle about what is running and what isn't. I don't have any upcoming one off events or any requests for the council.</p> <p>Village Hall Committee – Richard Benfeild gave the following report The Hall continues to host diverse groups. Mama Blossom and Moo Music provide a continuous income. Moo music is held on a Tuesday and both groups have to have the full hall space clear so the committee has replaced all the old tables and chairs with ones that are easily stacked for groups to use who need them. The boardgames club wish to continue and it would be nice if more groups were attending. Cllr Whittaker suggested a newsletter piece for the club. The Clerk will contact the organiser. Mr Benfield reported that the hall is getting a good and regular income and finances are stable. However, the energy costs and annual insurance are just over £1000 for the building and there are still slots during the week mostly in the day time. The Management committee are looking for new members and any one is welcome to join including a new potential chair. Mr Benfield would like to see the hall developed as a community hub. The coffee open morning is regularly attended by 20-30 people but these are mostly familiar faces and the hall would like to encourage newcomers to attend. Please can everyone encourage people to attend on the 1st Saturday of every month.</p> <p>Live and Local – Richard Benfield gave the following report: Residents should look out for the promotion of 3 or 4 shows this year with one coming up in May. Julia Titus the singer will be telling the story of her life with and accompanying reggae band so could all please book tickets.</p> <p>Drama Club – Richard Benfield gave the following report: The club is still going well with 15 or so members. There will be a show on in autumn but not one in spring as the members have been doing training instead to improve their abilities to put on better shows. Anyone interested in joining should contact Mr Benfield.</p>
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		<p>to be manned but contact details for the organisations will be required. Cllr Whittaker offered help from the Council.</p> <p>Church Biodiversity – Godfrey Meynell All are welcome to join the house group. Meetings are every Thursday. The focus is on biodiversity for the churchyard so the church does its bit. There are three areas in the churchyard one mown area, one wild flowers area and one area with bird seed. It is hoped to have a Kirk Langley school area where they engage in planting sunflowers, wildflowers etc. The church leaving some areas unmowed resulted in 60 young oak trees which have been potted up and the group has the aspiration to approach local landowners to get the trees planted into areas in the parish. The young oaks ideally would be planted into hedgerows and volunteers may be needed to look after them. Godfrey is meeting in May with a landowner but it is early stages and the trees would need maintenance. Perhaps people could be assigned to a tree? It was asked how to get people engaged with it and it was suggested that it could be advertised in the newsletter. Godfrey will keep the Parish Council informed after the meeting. It was noted that flailing damages hedges and a better way would be an every two years cut then there would be more hawthorn development. It was agreed to do a newsletter Hedgerow article. It was noted the groups need to build partnerships with farmers and landowners.</p> <p>Big lunch – Godfrey Meynell gave the following report: The Big Lunch will be Saturday 1st June and will be held on the community orchard. Attendees to arrive from 12.30pm for a 1pm start. The details are in the village newsletter. All can come and bring food to share and chair. If it rains the event will be held in the Church.</p> <p>Kirk Langley Cricket Club – Kate Wallis gave the following report: I am the designated safeguarding officer and in charge of teas. There are 2 senior men's teams at present. We have postponed the season this year due to the weather. We will be running all-stars sessions for 5-8 year olds from the end of May for 6-8 weeks weather-dependent. Some attendees are from the school and some are from outside the village. We are always looking for new members and ladies for a ladies team. Cricket is held on a Saturday afternoon and all are welcome.</p>
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<p>APM/7/2023/24</p>	<p>Public Questions/Comments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was noted that the 11 limetrees on Moor Lane have a had a TPO put on that can be appealed against and previous removals have happened in the past. The developer has spent a lot of money and residents don't think will stop the development. Cllr Whittaker noted that she thought the TPO is a positive step and AVBC clearly don't want the trees removed. If it is appealed against then there is not much the Parish council can do. It was noted that at the May Parish Council meeting the developers are coming to give a presentation. The Parish Council has put in their objections to the current plans. 2. Connect Fiber will be putting in the infrastructure for fiber broadband in rural areas including Kirk Langley. There will be a public meeting to inform residents. They will use the current infrastructure as much as possible. Mrs Matthews reported that there is a map of connectivity issues and the Clerk will look for that. Some roads within blackspots may well be closed by the project. The Parish Council will advertise the works. 3. Potholes – it was noted that these are very bad at the moment and please can everyone report on the DCC website report it section? It was asked can the village manage potholes and it was noted that to do roadwork you must have a licence from DCC. There are, it was reported, currently 30 teams out for DCC filling in the holes. 4. Stiles on some of the gates need modifying to swinging gates to enable better access. The DCC was offering free gates at one point. It was noted that this has been in the newsletter. Damaged or difficult stiles should be reported but gates are up to the Landowner. The Government has encouraged Landowners to do it because it is safer but it is not a legal obligation to change to gates. Some in the village have done so. It was noted that gates can be

		left open even with springs and having lambs causes reluctance more often. Footpath signs are disappearing as well DCC has replaced a few. It was requested that residents please bring issues to the Parish Council or report to DCC themselves.
APM/8/2023/24	Finance Report	<p>The Clerk gave the following finance report:</p> <p>As we approach the financial year end we are in a fairly healthy financial position ending the year with circa £15k in reserve. The best practice for a Parish Council of this size is to hold approximately 12 to a maximum of 24 months cash flow in reserve. Our precept has been set for 2024/25 at £20,075.00 so there is some way to go.</p> <p>Over the course of the last 3 months we have completed our budget setting for the forthcoming financial year and some of our reserves will be used to forward projects in the parish including the repair of the Mapplewell gate.</p> <p>We operate a system of complete transparency, and every month we publish a full payment schedule which appears in the minutes, and a bank reconciliation for each meeting.</p> <p>Over the last 12 months, we have been using a bank account operated by Unity Trust. This account is administered online and requires two authorised signatories for each transaction, which gives an additional layer of security when administering any transactions using public funds. Essentially a transaction can be requested or authorised by one person, but there must be two separate signatories for the transaction to be successful.</p> <p>Internal and external audits will take place in April/ May 2024 and anyone wishing to inspect the annual accounts should contact me in the first instance to arrange a mutually convenient time.</p> <p>If there are any questions regarding a specific transaction, please ask as I am only too happy to share relevant information and paper trails to support transparency when required.</p> <p>GB Barrington field it was noted, is separate. With a different set of rules and the Clerk is not in place on this yet but she will take over in June. It was reported that the finances are not great for the GBB Field as it was hit by the loss of the Field Day last year.</p>
APM/9/2023/24	Closing Comments from the Chairman	Thank you to everyone who has attended this evening, it is good to hear from all, and thank you all for your hard work. I hope you continue to support each other and encourage each other. Thanks again.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.