

# KNEBORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 18 July 2018 in the Knebworth Village Hall at 8.30 p.m.

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Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Rosemary Conybeare, Jeremy Godfrey, Jenny Harrison, Stephen Hemingway, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: The Clerk plus one member of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Jobling and Ms Nash

**2. Chairman's announcements**

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest which requires they leave the room under the Code of Conduct, can speak on the item, but must leave the room before the debate and vote.

**3. Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Harrison and

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 June 2018 and be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. To Note the minutes of the Parish Meeting**

The council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2018.

**5. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**6. Station Pub**

The Council discussed the acquisition of the pub should it come onto the market. From the report produced. If the Council borrowed money to acquire the pub, once up and running, a lease could cover any cost of borrowing, so any impact on the precept should not be long term.

The pub valuation included in the report was based on pubs for sale in the area. It was felt that a proper valuation should be obtained before any decision is taken.

Mr Hemingway stated that the Save Our Station Pub group is raising funds to oppose development and ultimately be in a position to purchase the pub, by forming a Community Interest Company. There are also wealthy investors who may consider buying the pub. If the Parish Council bought the pub, it would be underwriting it.

The Council briefly discussed the potential of borrowing funds to lend to the SOS group. The clerk is to obtain more information.

Mr Godfrey suggested asking residents if it would support the Council. It should also ask for the SOS group for documents to consider a purchase, without spending Council money on valuations and business plans. The clerk is to request information from the group.

The Council agreed to discuss the matter at the September meeting.

## **7. CCTV**

The purpose of the CCTV was discussed: its use to collect evidence and act as a deterrent. The benefit of a monitored system having the ability to contact the police, was thought to be minimal, an unmonitored system was not a real deterrent.

Gating the park and closing at night was not considered effective as often it encourages people to get in because no one else will be about. A neighbourhood watch rota was suggested.

Mrs Harrison said that as there is money in the budget it should be spent, with updating the existing system and having cameras on the play area in the recreation grounds.

The Council agreed that a monitored system is a large expense. The clerk is to get updated quotes for an unmonitored system in the recreation grounds around the pavilion and the play area.

## **8 Rail Service**

Mr Ward apprised the Council of the changes to the rail timetable in May 2018 and the impact on the service to and from Knebworth. Trains have been removed from the timetable, are regularly cancelled, and the service off peak is now hourly. The local service is extremely poor with a bus replacement service at times. It is too soon to comment on the revised timetable introduced on 15 July 2018, however off peak is still an hourly service.

## **9. Social Media Policy**

This item was deferred.

## **10. Clerk's Report**

10.1 HCC is currently consulting on its Flood Risk Management Plan until 10 August. It is also holding a workshop in July

10.2 The clerk attended the Highways Liaison meeting on 12 July, which gave a report on HCC safety training, which includes cycle lessons for adults and children, North & Central Transport Plan, Repairing footpaths and highways.

10.3 The clerk met with SBC regarding the ditch work at Norton Green Common and it was agreed that further work is required.

10.4 HCC has confirmed that the McCarthy & Stone contractor does have a hoarding licence. There have been a few complaints about dust and noise from the site, which is not currently registered with the Considerate Contractors Scheme.

10.5 HCC propose to undertake tree maintenance on an Oak Tree outside 32 Stockens Green.

10.6 Deards End Lane and Gun Road are to be closed to permit vegetation to be removed from the bridges.

10.7 The Parish Paths Partnerships has awarded the Council a grant to produce a Parish Map.

10.8 The architect has produced plans for the office at the village hall, which he considers are ready to be submitted for a planning application. The Quantity Survey has also costed the development.

10.9 The football foundation have offered free software for a year to manage pitch bookings. After the trial period there is a monthly charge of approximately £50.

**11. Accounts**

11.1 Financial Review

Proposed by Mr Ward seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

**Resolved:** to approve the management accounts to 30 June 2018.

11.2 To approve the List of Payments 1 June 2018 to 30 June 2018

**Resolved:** that the list of accounts paid during Accounts Period 3 2018/19 from 1-30 June 2018 be approved

**12. Any Other Business**

12.1 Mr Stringer reported that the redevelopment of the library site is unlikely to start before October 2018.

12.2 Mrs Conybeare reported that she had set up a bin email account for people to report missed bin collections.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 1 August 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.22p.m.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_