

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9 October 2019 in Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Adrienne Charter, Philip Farr, Jeremy Godfrey, Jenny Harrison, Stephen Hemingway, Paul Jobling, Colin Stringer, Paul Ward and Roger Willcocks

In attendance: The Clerk and one member of the public

1. Public Participation

There was no public participation

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Conybeare and Mrs Nash.

3. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Hemingway and **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 September 2019 and be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. To Note the minutes of Committee Meetings

Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 11 September 2019

6 S106 Contributions

NHDC has agreed s106 contributions for the latest proposed development at Odyssey. It is in line with the previous agreement. No additional funding has been forthcoming for an improved cycleway between the development and Knebworth Station, nor parking provision for additional commuters.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Council reviewed the Action Plan prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee and agreed that it is too long. Mr Ward and the clerk are to revise the list as appropriate.

8. Councillor Attendance

Mr Trowbridge has not attended a meeting since 13 February 2019 and has not given any reason for his absence. The absence is longer than six months and therefore under LGA1972 s85 he is no longer a parish councillor. The clerk is to write to Mr Trowbridge and to contact NHDC regarding the vacancy.

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 To consider the Tennis Club request to remove conifers to permit resurfacing of the tennis courts

The Council did not approve removal of the conifers without more information and proposed replanting. The clerk is to contact the club for a formal proposal.

- 9.2 To consider a resident's request for the Council to consider environmental issues.

The Council noted the comments on environmental issues and will forward the letter to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to consider inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 9.3 To consider a request for a petanque piste in the Recreation Grounds

Mr Stringer reported that he had looked at the possibility of locating a piste in the recreation grounds adjacent to the Bowls Club. He considered boules to be a niche activity more suited to a pub location. Mr Hemingway confirmed that there is one at the Plough in Datchworth. The Council agreed to decline the request.

10. Clerk's Report

- 10.1 The council has been awarded a parish paths partnership grant to improve the surface of the footpath from Gun Road.

10.2 An appeal has been lodged for the application for flexible energy plant south of Odyssey Health Club. Mrs Harrison informed the Council that a similar plant already built on Cavendish Road, Stevenage is extremely noisy. She is to obtain more information on the noise complaints associated with the plant.

11. Finance

11.1 Financial Review

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to approve the management accounts to 30 September 2019.

11.2 Draft Administration Budget 2020/21

The Council agreed that the draft administration budget for the year ended 31 March 2021 will be fully reviewed once all draft budgets are combined.

11.3 Accounts Paid

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved to approve the accounts paid to 30 September 2019.

12. Exclusion of Press and Public

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: that under Section 100A (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

13. Staff

The clerk reported that the village hall cleaner will leave at the end of December. It was agreed that the vacancy would be advertised.

14. Station Hotel

Mrs Charter circulated an update on the purchase of the Station Hotel.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr

Resolved: to register with HMRC the option to tax land and buildings on the Station Hotel site.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to accept the quote to produce a Fire Risk Assessment for the Station Hotel.

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to appoint recommended tenants with a five year agreement, subject to meeting necessary background checks.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Jobling and

Resolved: to instruct Gosschalks to prepare a tenancy agreement.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: that having completed the confidential business that members of the public and press may return to the meeting.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Mr Godfrey thanked Mrs Charter and the clerk for their work on the pub.

15.2 Mr Hemingway asked that registration of the Royal British Legion as an Asset of Community Value be added to next agenda

15.3 Mr Stringer stated that a resident was prepared to financially assist with an Air Quality Survey and asked that this be included in the next agenda.

15.4 The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 13 November 2019.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____