

KNEBworth PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 13 November 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 9 October 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 9 October 2019

6. Assets of Community Value

Mr Hemingway reported that the Royal British Legion Club in Knebworth was being considered for closure, but has seen increased use with the closure of the Station Hotel. There is concern that with the reopening of the pub that membership may once again decline and it is seeking registration of the building as an asset of community value. The clerk is to request evidence of meeting the social interest test to justify an application.

7. Co-option

The vacancy has been advertised and there will not be a by-election. The Council is able to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

8. Councillor Motion

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: where a councillor wishes to raise an agenda item, it is the councillor's responsibility to draft a clearly-worded resolution for consideration at the meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, this is amended then this should be via the usual amendments process.

9. Pension

Herts Pension Fund has flagged that the Council could be liable for additional contributions to its pension scheme should employees retire early due to ill health. It is suggesting that the potential additional costs could be mitigated via an insurance policy funded out of existing contributions, so the rate remains unchanged. However it would result in a smaller fund due to reduced contributions.

The clerk is to obtain further information before the Council makes a decision.

10. Clerk's Report

- 10.1 Mr Stringer has reported that the resident has withdrawn his offer of support to fund an air quality study.
- 10.2 HCC has confirmed that it will include a seating pod in the new library fit out at a cost of £2,500. The Parish Council had previously agreed making a 50% contribution towards the unit.
- 10.3 Louise Symes, NHDC, has been asked that consideration be given for one hour free parking provision at St Martins Road Car Park in the forthcoming parking review. NHDC would require compensation if approved.
- 10.4 The clerk reported that an application had been made for a buyer's account on contracts finder and is waiting for confirmation this has been approved.

11. Finance

11.1 Hire charge review

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mrs Charter and
Resolved: to approve the village hall hire rates for 2020/21.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Godfrey and
Resolved: to agree the additional discount for specific hirers.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Hemingway and
Resolved: to approve the hire rates for the pavilion for 2020/21

11.2 Draft Budget 2020/21

The draft budget was reviewed, there are a few outstanding issues and a decision was deferred until the next meeting.

11.3 Accounts Paid

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved: to approve the accounts paid to 31 October 2019.

11.4 Bank Accounts

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Charter and
Resolved: to close the Lloyds Bank Current account and to transfer funds to the Unity Trust Account.

11.5 Quotes

It was agreed to renew the pavilion care plan contract with British Gas, with payments via direct debit.

The increase in the toilet cleaning contract was noted. The contact has been in place for a number of years and the clerk is to contact another contractor to compare costs.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Mr Godfrey agreed to review the bank reconciliations.

13. 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.

14. Station Pub

The Council reviewed the land registry document and agreed comments to be forwarded to the solicitor.

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: that under Section 100A (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, that having concluded the confidential business being transacted the Public and Press be permitted to return to the meeting.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved; having reviewed the terms of Henry Cobbold's email dated 13 November 2019, the Council enters into negotiation with Market Homes for the purchase of Unit 10 for the agreed sum plus legal costs and enters into an overage agreement with Knebworth Estate. The total costs being covered by the capital fund.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Stringer

Resolved: as a goodwill gesture in facilitating the acquisition of unit 10 for the benefit of the community, the Parish Council agreed to provide to Knebworth Estate with a parking permit for the village hall car park for the duration of the overage agreement.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2019.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.42 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____