

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 7 November 2018 in the Knebworth Village Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Adrienne Charter, Rosemary Conybeare, Philip Farr, Jenny Harrison, Steve Hemingway, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: the Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from and Mr Jobling and Ms Nash.
Absent Mr Trowbridge.

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. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 October 2018 approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. To Note the Minutes of the Committee Meetings

The Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings:

Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2018

Amenities Committee Meeting held on 24 October 2018

6. Matters arising from previous meetings

6.1 Station Pub Appeal Update

The Council discussed the appointment of the barrister to act on behalf of the joint Rule 6 party at the public inquiry commencing 4 December. A barrister is a requirement of a Rule 6 party and the quote is higher than the group anticipated. Revised costs were discussed, some councillors were concerned at the level of expenditure.

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: to agree to cover costs, as estimated, of the Rule 6 party for the Station Appeal public inquiry.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to a virement to cover the public inquiry costs.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Upgrade of bridleway 2 to Restricted Byway

A modification order has been submitted to upgrade bridleway 2 from Bragbury End to Watton Road, to a Restricted Byway. This would permit non-motorised vehicles to use the right of way, which would require the removal of the horse hop and bollard, installed to reduce anti-social behaviour. The clerk is to write to Councillor Thake objecting the upgrade.

8. NHDC Draft Parking Strategy Phase 2

NHDC is reviewing its parking strategy with the assistance of Markides Consultants. Phase 1 has been adopted, phase 2 is currently in draft form. The strategy includes Hitchin, Royston, Letchworth, Baldock and Knebworth.

The recommendations for Knebworth are:

- Review local plan housing growth and existing demand, both on and off-street.
- Discuss future rail demand with Network Rail and the train operator, and consider
- Consultation on extending the existing CPZ.
- NHDC is to seek to identify suitable locations for designated on street bays. These will be located on streets with low daytime parking stress and where parking bays can contribute to residential traffic calming.
- Give consideration for Commuters to be able to apply for premium parking season tickets.

The Council expressed its disappointment that it has not yet been consulted as Knebworth forms part of the scope of the strategy. NHDC has already consulted representatives from the towns. The clerk is to contact NDHC to arrange a meeting to discuss the draft strategy.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Ward reported that objectives and policies are being drafted. The timetable has been reviewed and it is expecting to go out to consultation in February 2019.

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 There have been numerous complaints about the traffic management for the McCarthy & Stone development. Parking bays are regularly coned off, which is affecting local businesses.

10.22 Network Rail has started replacing the chain-link fence on Gun Lane with the green palisade fencing.

10.3 The Planning Inspector has allowed the appeal for the redevelopment of the Entech Site, in Woolmer Green, which will see development of 70 dwellings with offices and shops.

10.4 Stephen McPartland has written to Welwyn Hatfield BC regarding its Green Belt review.

10.5 East Herts District Council has adopted its Local Plan

11. Parish Update

The Council agreed that an update would be issued prior to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

12. Hire Charge Review

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to retain the current village hall charges and discounts until 31 March 2020.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to increase recreation grounds charges by 3% from 1 April 2019.

13. Accounts

14.1 To Approve the List of Payments from 1 October 2018 to 31 October 2018

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: that the list of accounts paid during Accounts Period 7 2018/19 be approved

14. Capital Acquisition

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to include in the 2019/20 budget a sum of £100,000 for major projects.

15. Budget 2019/20

The Council reviewed the combined budget but deferred its decision on the precept until the next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 5 December 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____