

# KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 11 December 2019 in Knebworth Village Hall at 8.05 p.m.

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

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 Mr Hemingway and Mrs Nash.

**3. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensation**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Charter and

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 November and the extraordinary Meeting held on 27 November 2019 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 13 November 2019 were noted.

**6. London Luton Airport Consultation**

Luton Airport is consulting on its proposals to increase passenger numbers from 18 million passengers per annum to 32 mppa by 2040. This involves building terminal 2, providing the dart train to Luton parkway station and improvements to roads.

There are no planned increases in the permitted number of night flights, which is currently 9,260 between 11.30pm and 6.00am. The freight flights occur during this time and they are noisier due to the use of older aircraft. Luton Airport is to encourage the freight airlines to upgrade their fleet to newer aircraft to reduce the noise impact.

The passenger airlines will also be encouraged to update their planes to newer quieter models which should have a significant impact on noise levels.

There is also a future consultation on flight paths as Heathrow and Stanstead flights impact on the local airspace. The proposals in this consultation may allow aircraft to climb more steeply which would also reduce noise. The consultation for the air space over Knebworth is due to come out in eighteen months.

## 7. Pension

Proposed by Mr Ward seconded by Mr Farr and

**Resolved:** to purchase ill health insurance through the pension scheme.

## 8. Co-option

The clerk reported that two people had expressed an interest in becoming a councillor. Mrs Harrison stated that she too knew someone who would be interested in being co-opted. The Council agreed to defer co-option until the January meeting, with cut-off for expressions of interest being 31 December 2019.

## 9. Clerk's Report

9.1 Mr Sage of the Royal British Legion has confirmed that they would prefer the Legion not to be registered as an asset of community value and will therefore not be providing information to assist in this matter.

9.2 The Neighbourhood Plan front cover was circulated and approved.

9.3 A resident of Swangleys Lane has complained about the long term inconsiderate parking (directly opposite driveways) along the lane which makes it extremely difficult for residents to access their property by car. There are no restrictions on the lane and the Council has no powers to prevent this happening. NHDC is responsible for on street parking.

9.4 A government lobby group is being set up to represent Market Towns and Knebworth Parish Council has been invited to join. The group is trying to get 200 members from across the country. Wheathampsted and Royston have also be approached. There is a membership fee. The Council declined to join.

9.5 The speed sign on Stevenage Road, has been removed, hopefully for repair.

## 10. Finance

### 10.1 Accounts Paid

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer and

**Resolved:** to approve the accounts paid to from 1 November to 30 November 2019.

### 10.2 Quotes

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mrs Charter and

**Resolved:** to accept the insurance quote for the Station Hotel from Came and Co, to commence on exchange of contract.

## 11. Exclusion of Press and Public

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Stringer 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 nature of the business being transacted.

## 12. Staff

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Jobling and

To increase the clerk's wages by 4% and other staff by 3% from 1 April 2020.

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

To increase the clerk's salary by 5% and other staff by 3% from 1 April 2020.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mrs Harrison and  
To increase the clerk's salary by 4.5% and other staff by 3% from 1 April 2020.

There being no further other amendments the Council voted on the last motion

**Resolved:** to increase the clerk's salary by 4.5% and other staff wages by 3% with effect from 1 April 2020.

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Stringer and

**Resolved:** to pay the Christmas Bonus: groundsman £40, village hall cleaner £30, pavilion cleaner £20 and admin assistant £40.

### 13. Station Pub

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Harrison 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.

The premises licence has been granted.

Proposed by Mr Charter, seconded by Mr Ward and

**Resolved:** to approve and sign the overage agreement for unit 10.

Mrs Charter and Mr Ward signed the agreement.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Farr

**Resolved:** that the council explores taking over the sitting tenant prior to the end of his tenancy to assist in an early completion.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mrs Charter and

**Resolved:** The Council delegates the decision regarding the sitting tenant to the Acquisitions Working Party subject to circulating information.

### 14. Budget 2020/21

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mrs Harrison and

**Resolved:** to set the precept for 2020/21 at £156,200 including the CTRS grant.

### 15. Any Other Business

15.1 Mr Willcocks reported that the Neighbourhood Action Plan is aspirational and does not rely on the Parish Council taking items forward.

15.2 It was noted that the pub will have been closed for three years on 3 February 2020.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 8 January 2020.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_