

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 March 2021 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Adrienne Charter, Charlotte Cosson, Jenny Harrison, Steve Hemingway, Jeremy Godfrey, Paul Jobling, Lisa Nash, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: The Clerk

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Conybeare and Mr Farr.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Public Participation**

None.

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 February 2021 are a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **To Note the Minutes of Committee Meetings**

The Council noted the committee minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 February 2021.

6. **St Martins Road Car Park**

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mrs Nash and

Resolved: to fund thirty minutes free parking, in St Martins Road Car Park, up to a cost of £3500 for the financial year 2021/22

7. **Local Government Code of Conduct**

The Council agreed that it would consider adopting the new Code of Conduct at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

8. **Rural Crime**

The Council agreed that Councillors Cosson, Jobling and Nash would attend a meeting on rural crime organised by Mr Tubb Wallace.

9. **Meetings**

Government has indicated that it does not propose to extend the legislation permitting virtual meetings being held beyond 7 May 2021. NALC is recommending that

Councils make as many decisions as possible before this date. The Council therefore agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 5 May 2021, which will allow appointment of chair and committees and approval of accounts.

The date of the Annual Parish Council meeting is to be agreed.

10. Facilities

Government guidelines permit grassroots football to recommence from 29 March 2021. Restricted opening of the Village Hall is permitted from the 12 April with no restrictions expected from 21 June 2021.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved: to allow the football clubs to extend the season until the end of June.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved: the monthly charge for football club usage to be discounted by ten percent due to restricted access of the pavilion.

11. Clerk's Report

- 11.1 The volume of litter is increasing in the recreation grounds with a number of other play areas still closed.
- 11.2 There is an issue with personal trainers using the access road for their clients and refusing to move. Equipment and clients obstruct the road and restrict access to the preschool.
- 11.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to North Herts District Council.
- 11.4 HCC is to hold a climate change update for councillors. Mrs Nash is to attend.
- 11.5 CC Thake will arrange for the SID to be moved to London Road and has asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay for the data download from it prior to moving.
- 11.6 Knebworth Tennis Club would like to plant two columnar trees within the leased land. Due to the potential size of the trees a concrete barrier will have to be laid adjacent to the courts. A similar barrier would have to be laid for a tree planted outside this area. The Council decided that two trees within the leased land was acceptable.
- 11.7 Cllr Nash received a request for a skatepark and was informed that there is no suitable space in any of the recreation grounds to accommodate one and there are three in Stevenage. Previous play equipment surveys had also shown that there is little demand for one.
- 11.8 HAPTC would like the Council to comment on Herts County Council proposal to move to a unity authority.
- 11.9 There is a '20 is Plenty' meeting on 18 March.

12. Station Pub

The Council was updated on work undertaken at the pub.

13. Finance

- 13.1 To approve accounts paid from 1 to 28 February 2021.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to approve the accounts paid to from 1 to 28 February 2021.

13.2 To approve quotes.

None.

13.3 To approve bank reconciliation to 28 February 2021.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ward and

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 28 February 2021.

13.4 Exclude Public and Press

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Ward 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.

13.5 To review the Station Pub Rent

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Jobling and

Resolved: to approve the proposed levels of rent with the next review on 5 May 2021.

14. Easement

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to appoint Mr Taylor, of Wellers Law Group to respond to the easement claim.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22.05 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____