

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 April 2022 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Willocks, Adrienne Charter, Jeremy Godfrey and Colin Stringer

In attendance: the Clerk and County Councillor Thake

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Conybeare, Cosson, Harrison, Jobling, Farr, Nash. and Ward. Absent Councillor Hemingway.

2. Public Participation

The chairman welcomed CC Thake to the meeting.

CC Thake reported that he had been without a Highways Manager for six months, so some work has stalled.

Regarding development, he has had numerous discussions with the landowner of KB1 & KB2 and is at odds with HCC officers projected traffic flows. He considered a spine road sensible. NHDC rarely go against the Highways Authority, but representations need to be made with the Planning Authority executive members and lead officers. He is supportive of a common-sense approach.

The lack of Local Plan is frustrating developers. The HCC Structure Plan considered development across the county. The numerous smaller developments do not allow the creation of a new town.

The B197 is influential and is the bypass to the A1(M). The Highways Agency is responsible for the A1(M) and HCC for local roads, Even the A1 is at capacity. HCC must not ignore capacity of the A1, B197 and B656.

He recommended that the Parish Council produce a shopping list of what it wants in a climate when people don't want it and to arrange a meeting with NHDC officers, which he would attend.

At a recent development in North Herts of 84 dwellings, HCC recommended the site access should be via a T junction. Residents wanted a roundabout to slow traffic and the developer was prepared to pay for this. NHDC planning officers would not stipulate that it had to be a roundabout but was persuaded to state that it would not object to a roundabout in this location. The roundabout was built together with a new pavilion.

The Chairman thanked CC Thake and he left the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 March 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. To Note the Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Council noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 March 2022.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 RCGG Car Park

There being no further information this was left in abeyance.

6.2 Footpath – Park Lane to Deanscroft

Proposed by Mr Stringer, Seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to approve the TP1 for the transfer of the footpath.

7. Development

The Council discussed the proposals for KB1 & KB2. Messrs Ward and Willcocks are to draft a response.

A meeting is to be arranged with NHDC officers post elections to discuss development, highways issues and community infrastructure.

8. Publication Scheme

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to approve the updated Publication Scheme.

9. Parish Council Email

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to continue with google email address for Parish Councillors.

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 The tractor has broken down and so the Clerk has arranged for the grass to be cut by a contractor.

10.2 A resident of Pondcroft Road has complained that several neighbours have large cars and work vans which means that she is unable to park close to her property, even though she pays for a parking permit. At present residents can purchase numerous permits for any vehicle registered to them. However, in one CPZ in Baldock the number of permits purchased by residents is restricted.

10.3 A resident of Oakfields Avenue has asked the Council if it would consider applying for a TPO on a tree at 14 Oakfields Avenue which will be removed if a planning application is approved.

10.4 The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will take place on 5 May, with the count taking place on 6 May. An agent can attend the count on 6 May.

10.5 The village hall cleaner has resigned.

10.6 There was an incident in Lytton Fields Play area where a child fell off a piece of equipment. At the ROPSA inspection in November 2022 the equipment was considered to be low risk.

10.7 The Parish Council elections are uncontested, with only ten nominations. The Council will be able to fill the remaining two places via co-option.

11. Finance

11.1 Management Accounts

The Council reviewed and approved the management accounts to 31 March 2022.

11.2 To Approve Accounts Paid from 1 March to 31 March 2022

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 March to 31 March 2022.

11.2 Quotes

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved; to approve the Frank Cooper quote to amend the speed bump in the access road.

11.3 Bank Reconciliation

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 March 2022

12. Station Pub

There was nothing to report.

13. King George V Playing Fields

The land at King George V Playing Fields is held in trust by the Parish Council. There is no income or expenditure incurred on the land and is therefore not required to be registered with the Charities Commission. However, there is some suggestion that it may have to be registered with HMRC even if there is no income. The Clerk is to clarify the position.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Mr Willcocks asked if the Council should consider a merchant account to accept credit cards. This is not to be pursued due to the complexities of reconciling receipts.

14.2 A recent document distributed to residents contains misinformation about a Parish Council property. The Clerk is to write to the party to prevent any misunderstanding in the future.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.04 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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