

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 11 April 2018 in the Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Kevin Burr, Rosemary Conybeare, Philip Farr, Graham Fothergill, Jeremy Godfrey, Jenny Harrison, Steve Hemingway, Paul Jobling and Colin Stringer

In attendance: The Clerk.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Ward. Apologies for lateness were received from Mr Farr.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Dr Fothergill and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 March 2018, 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 committee meetings.

Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 14 March 2018

6. Planning Issues

6.1 NHDC Examination in Public

Knebworth Sites have been discussed at the Examination in Public. NHDC proposed several modifications. Both the sites for the secondary and primary schools have increased in size. HCC does not intend to build a secondary school in Knebworth and it was unclear if this would be removed or used for additional dwellings. The primary school site will be able to accommodate a two form entry school. The Parish Council representatives, Messrs Griffiths and Ward, both reinforced the need for a Master Plan for Knebworth to accommodate the significant housing growth proposed in the area.

Mr Farr joined the meeting.

6.2 Proposed parking restrictions

Herts County Council is consulting on proposed Traffic Regulation Order to add to the double yellow lines on Park Lane and Gun Lane on safety grounds.

The Council objects to the proposed addition of double yellow lines on Park Lane.

1. Loss of on street parking, in a village with high demand.
2. There is no clear benefit to traffic flow.
3. The parking around 8 Park Lane was not considered an issue when it was a nineteen room hotel with associated parking. There are now fewer vehicles associated with this site.

4. There is a preschool in the Trinity Church and increased speed arising from the removal of parked cars is a concern.

There were no objections to the extension of the lines in Gun Lane.

- 6.3 To review NHDC response to planning issues

A response has not been received on the issues raised around planning applications, delegated decisions and calling plans in. Councillor Levitt believed that a response had been sent, the clerk is to resend the letter.

- 6.4 Representation at NHDC Planning Control Meetings

It was agreed that Councillor Willcocks would speak at the NHDC Planning Control Committee meeting which is to discuss the Station Pub application.

- 6.5 To consider proposed names for the McCarthy & Stone development on the Chas Lowe Site

The Council considered names for the new assisted living development in London Road. It agreed that Lowes Place or Court would be recommended. It did not approve of any of the names suggested by McCarthy & Stone.

7. Residents' Issues/Requests

- 7.1 To address verge damage as a result of vehicle parking

The resident has stopped parking on the verge in Gun Lane, although parking on the verge is becoming a village wide problem. The clerk is to apply to the Land Registry for confirmation of ownership of the verge in Gun Lane.

- 7.2 To review the relocation of the solar powered speed sign

The highways officer is having difficulty downloading the data from the SID and has contacted the supplier. The Council agreed that it should now be moved to Park Lane to reduce the speed of vehicles coming from Old Knebworth.

8. Christmas Lights

The Council agreed that it would provide Christmas Lights this year. The clerk is to obtain quotes to provide more lights in the tree on St Martins Green and on Station Road. McCarthy & Stone are to be contacted to request hanging lights from the building in the High Street.

9. Clerk's Report

9.1 The planning application for the new classroom and permanent retention of the nursery portakabin has been approved.

9.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is holding two open sessions on 19 and 21 April.

9.3 Holes are appearing on and near the football pitches. It looks as though they are made by animals but this has not been confirmed.

9.4 Significant damage has occurred to the meadow on Norton Green Common as the result of a large vehicle driving across it towards Knebworth Estate land. The Rural Police have been informed and have been patrolling on their quad bikes. Natural England is concerned about the damage and is looking at ways to prevent further incursion on to the SSSI.

10. Accounts

10.1 To review and approve management accounts to 31 March 2018

The management accounts were reviewed and approved.

10.2 To review funds on deposit

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Burr and

Resolved: to place £100,000 on a Barclays Treasury deposit for three months.

Mr Stringer is to identify Challenger Banks to deposit money.

10.3 To approve the List of Payments 1 March 2018 to 31 March 2018

Proposed by Mr Burr, seconded by Mr Jobling and

Resolved: to approve the list of payments for March.

10.4 To approve quotes

The clerk has obtained one quote to paint the village hall toilets, another is to be obtained.

It was agreed to purchase a projector stand at a cost of no more than £150.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Mr Willcocks thanked Dr Fothergill and Mr Burr for their many years of service to the Parish Council.

11.2 Mr Stringer stated that he was willing to be the Knebworth Parish Council representative on the Youth Project.

11.3 The clerk confirmed that the Council can still use the General Power of Competence as it complies with the criteria that a minimum of two thirds of the council have been elected.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 09.41 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Doc PC.171811 12.04.18