

# KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 11 March 2020 in Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: The Clerk

**1. Public Participation**

There was no public participation

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Charter, Mr Jobling and Mr Farr.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 February 2020 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Planning Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020 were noted.

**6. Parking**

**6.1 Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The Council discussed whether Knebworth is a destination place to use a charging point. NHDC is requesting installation in new developments and Lowe House and Florence Court are both to have charging points in their car parks. However it is not known if these will be available to non-residents. NHDC has installed points in its town car parks and the Parish Council is therefore to request that one is installed in St Martins Road Car Park.

**6.2 Parking provision**

**6.2.1** The Council considered the information provided by NHDC on the costs to provide half an hour and one hour free parking in St Martins Road Car park.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mrs Nash and

**Resolved:** for the Parish Council to fund half an hour free parking for one year capped at £3500, with a review at the end of the year.

The clerk is to approach businesses to gauge support and possible funding.

6.2.2 Mr Godfrey tabled a proposal to provide an improved cycle way and additional parking provision on Stevenage Road.

There was support for the proposal to try to address parking issues but there were concerns about commuter use and safety issues. The Council agreed to engage interested parties and the clerk is to try to set up a meeting with NHDC and HCC.

## **7. Development**

7.1 The government provides funding to councils based on the number of dwellings provided per annum. This is called the New Homes Bonus and in 2017/18 NHDC received approximately £1M.

East Herts Council has resolved to give a percentage of the NHB to Parish and Town Councils affected by development. Currently North Herts District Council retains the full amount. In light of the Local Plan and the five 'growth villages' taking 11% of the districts development until 2031 the Council agreed that it should lobby NHDC to act like East Herts and pass on a percentage of the NHB fund to the affected parishes.

7.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is out for consultation from 14 March until 9 May 2020. The Council agreed that a meeting with landowners would be beneficial and the clerk is to arrange this within the next month.

## **8. Meeting Schedule**

The meeting schedule for 2020/21 was approved.

## **9. Consultations**

### **9.1 North and South Central Transport Plan Consultation**

The North and South Central Transport Plans aim to improve sustainable travel. There are four projects which will directly affect Knebworth.

PR27 Bus route 300/301 improvements (implementation 0-2 years)  
To work with partners to improve the service

PR28 journey time reliability through Knebworth London Road/ High Street (0-2 years)  
Highways layout changes on Knebworth High Street in order to improve bus journey time reliability.

SM93 (SC- SM98) Stevenage to WGC cycle route (implementation 2-5 years)  
Development of sustainable transport corridor along B197, including cycleway/ footway improvements, traffic calming and bus priority measures.

SM98 Connections to Knebworth development (2-5 years)  
Ensure direct and attractive cycling and walking routes are provided from new development surrounding Knebworth to the rail station and Stevenage to WGC cycle route.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Nash and

**Resolved:** that the Parish Council supports the interventions in principle however it is concerned that implementation may have a detrimental impact and be contrary to the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan policies. It therefore welcomed engagement.

## 9.2 Rail Strategy

The County Council Rail Strategy was noted.

## 10. Clerk's Report

- 10.1 The Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan regulation 14 consultation commences 14 March and ends on 9 May 2020.
- 10.2 McCarthy & Stone has offered to install a noticeboard along its frontage to replace the one damaged on demolition.
- 10.3 Secondary School allocation for Knebworth resulted in ten pupils not being given a school of their choice. They have been allocated Barnwell School and their names can be added to the continued interest register at the school of their choice.

## 11. Finance

### 11.1 Review Financial Risk Assessment

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

**Resolved:** to approve the risk assessment.

Mr Stringer, is to prepare the next risk assessment.

### 11.2 Appointment of internal auditor

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mrs Nash and

**Resolved:** to appoint Mr Vine as the internal auditor for 2019/20.

### 11.3 Accounts Paid

Proposed by Mr Godfrey seconded by Mr Stringer and

**Resolved:** to approve the accounts paid from 1 to 29 February 2020.

## 12. Footpaths

Beverley Homes has offered the Parish Council the title of the footpath it is to create on the pub garden from Deanscroft to Park Lane. The Council discussed the offer and agreed it would only consider it if the path had a permanent surface and lighting was installed.

## 13 Exclusion of Press and Public

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, Seconded by Mrs Nash 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.

**14            Station Pub**

14.1            To receive an update on the refurbishment of the pub and consider additional work

Mr Hemingway raised a suggestion regarding sponsorship of tables. The Council agreed that this is for the tenant to decide.

The Council has been approached to convert the coach house to a microbrewery. Mr Willcocks stated that he had been informed that it is not large enough. The Council has also agreed that it will be converted to a Parish Council office.

14.2            The Council noted that an agreement had been reached with Beverley Homes.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and

**Resolved:** that having completed the confidential business, the public and press could return to the meeting.

**15.            Any Other Business**

15.1            Mrs Conybeare requested that her proposal for extending the double yellow lines in Gun Lane be discussed at the next meeting.

15.2            The next meeting is scheduled for 8 April 2020.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 09.31 p.m.

Chairman            \_\_\_\_\_

Date                    \_\_\_\_\_