

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 April 2019 in the Knebworth Village Hall at 8.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: the Clerk and four representatives from Odyssey Health Club

1. Odyssey Presentation

There has been a change in shareholders of the site and the new owner felt that the approved development was unsympathetic to the site. As part of the s106 agreement an area of green space outside the development site is required to become public green space in perpetuity. The existing design does not take advantage of the open views created by the green space. There were also issues raised by Network rail requiring a minimum of 7 metres from railway land.

The new development proposes houses that look onto the green space, the play area is relocated to the green space and the design of the apartments to include a mansard roof and therefore an additional 16 units. One of the two apartment blocks would be allocated as affordable homes which would equate to 25% of the total development of 86 dwellings. This is the same percentage as the existing development as it was demonstrated that the development could not viably meet the 40% requirement of the emerging Local plan.

The security of the public space was questioned as the title would remain with the owner. An Open Space management plan would be included with the new planning application which would include a financial commitment to maintain the area. Maintenance would be the responsibility of the residents of the development and Odyssey; which would require a contribution of £400-500 per annum per household.

The s106 agreement also required a contribution to play equipment in Knebworth and installation of a bus stop. A request was made for a dedicated cycle route from Knebworth to Stevenage.

The chairman thanked them for their presentation. Cllr Nash left the meeting.

2. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Jobling and Mr Ward. Absent Mr Farr and Mr Trowbridge.

4. Chairman's announcements

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest which requires they leave the room under the Code of Conduct, can speak on the item, but must leave the room before the debate and vote.

5. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 March 2019 and the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 March 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. To Note the Minutes of the Committee Meetings

The Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings:

Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2019

Amenities Committee meeting held on 27 March 2019

7. Station Pub

The Council agreed to form a working party to look at a bid for the pub. Messrs Godfrey, Ward and Willcocks and Mrs Charter agreed to sit on the working party. There are also two residents, with background in pub management who are also willing to join a working party.

Proposed by the chairman.

Resolved: that £3000 contingency be set aside to prepare a bid for the Station Pub.

The clerk is to circulate terms of reference.

8. Speed and Volume Survey

The information downloaded from the SID had been circulated. The Highways Officer has offered a week long speed and volume survey which could be compared with the SID results. It was agreed that the Parish Council requests a speed and volume survey for London Road at a cost of £100.

9. Amenities

9.1 To consider the sound system and lighting quote

A quote has been obtained for replacing the sound and lighting system in the village hall. This is a significant sum and the clerk is to contact White Light for a separate quote. Funding sources are to be sought to assist in updating the system.

The clerk is to arrange for the fuse board to be replaced.

9.2 To consider noise mitigation measures for the village hall

Mr Willcocks is to undertake noise surveys outside the building when there are live bands playing in the hall. The clerk is waiting for details from the fire brigade on putting curtains across emergency exits.

A suggestion to consider air conditioning in the hall was deferred to an Amenities Committee meeting.

9.3 To consider amending access to parking at the recreation grounds.

Mr Stringer has proposed:

A sign is erected at the entrance to the access road to the Recreation Ground to the effect that no overnight parking is permitted and that daytime parking (between 08:00

and 18:00 Monday to Friday) is limited to 3 hours. It should also mention that a £100 fine will be issued for non-compliance with this.

The Council discussed the notice and agreed to restrict parking to three hours with no overnight parking.

The council agreed that Tolent, the library contractor, did not have permission to use the access road as an overflow car park for its workers. The clerk is to write to Tolent.

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 Cones on Park Lane were put out to allow Openreach to replace and remove telegraph poles for the development at 1 and 2 Park Lane.

10.2 NHDC has appointed Hyas associates to undertake a new settlement delivery options study for North Herts, Stevenage, East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield Councils.

10.3 The triple mower is in for its annual service and repairs. Ernest Doe has had a cursory look and as the machine is over twenty years old and parts are not available.

11. Accounts

11.1 To review and approve management accounts to 31 March 2019

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved to approve the management accounts to 31 March 2019.

11.2 To review funds on deposit

16.1 Proposed by Mrs Nash, seconded by Mrs Harrison and

Resolved: to approve the list of payments from 1 January 2019 to 31 January 2019.

11.3 To approve the List of Payments 1 March 2019 to 31 March 2019

16.1 Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to approve the list of payments from 1 March 2019 to 31 March 2019.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Mrs Conybeare gave her apologies for the Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.22 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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