

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 10 June 2015 in the Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors, Mr Kevin Burr, Mrs Rosemary Conybeare, Dr Graham Fothergill, Ms Carly Gribble, Mr Stephen Hemingway, Mr Rob Procter, Mr Roger Willcocks

In attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public

1. **Apologies**

In the absence of the chairman, Mrs Conybeare took the chair. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Farr and Mr Sleator. Absent Mr Jefford.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Dr Fothergill declared that he is a member of Knebworth Tenants Association, which owns the property adjacent to 14 Stockens Green.

3. **Public Participation**

Mrs Pateman stated that Norton Green Common is in a Higher Level Stewardship agreement and the footpath creation imposes a three metre bridleway on it which is of major concern. Knebworth Estate wishes to create a diversion and to do so certain hurdles have to be jumped to get a good alternative. The ideal length of the alternative route should be about the same as the extinguished routes. Only two people have supported the proposed creation order on Knebworth Estate land, one walker and the manager of the Novotel. A footpath can be scored against set criteria. The Common belongs to Stevenage Borough Council. It originally belonged to the Church Commissioners, who are still Lords of the Manor and decide who goes on to the Common. It is a lovely piece of land sitting between Watery Grove and Cannock Wood.

Mrs Robinson stated that the Hitchin Rural District Council could not approve extinguishment of footpath 108 because it was in Stevenage Borough. She objects to the footpath on to Norton Green Common, stating a common cannot be a BOAT. The proposed footpath will also be close to the cover crop for the shoot

The chairman decided to bring forward item 8.2 on the agenda.

8.2 Footpath Creation

The Council decided that it could not make suggestions to revise the creation order to support it as it does not have the expertise. It agreed that it does not want the path to access the common.

Proposed by Mr Procter, second by Mr Burr and

Resolved that the current position on the footpath be maintained.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Burr, seconded by Mr Procter and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 May 2015 and the Planning Meeting held on 11 May 2015 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning Matters

- 5.1 15/01173/1HH 84 Pondcroft Road
Erection of replacement garage in rear garden following demolition of existing garage.
No objections.
- 5.2 15/001240/1HH Redlap, Gun Road, Knebworth
Two storey side and part two storey part single storey rear extensions.
Two storey front extension.
No objections.
- 5.3 15/01414/1HH 14 Stockens Green, Knebworth
Single and two storey rear extension with dormer window following removal of existing conservatory.
Knebworth Tenants Association objected to the size of the development and the impact on the Conservation Area. As the extension is on the rear of the proeporerty the Council has no objections.
- 5.4 15/01219/1HH 102 Pondcroft Road, Knebworth
Part two storey and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing rear extension
No objections.
- 5.5 15/00973/1HH 19 Westland Road, Knebworth
First floor rear extension (as amended by plan no. WR: 03 A received 18/5/15).
No objection
- 5.6 15/01423/1PN Barn B, Fairhaven Farm, Slip Lane, Old Knebworth, Knebworth
Change of use of first floor to Class B1 (business) use and change of use of ground floor to part Class B1 use and part Class A1(shops) use and alterations to insert windows and doors.
The Council objects to the conversion of the barn on the grounds it is inappropriate development in Green Belt. The barn was built several years ago and is on a quiet country lane with few houses in the area. An application was made last year to convert it to residential accommodation which was rejected.
- 5.7 Naming 111 London Road Development: Constance Court
The Council suggested Hermione Court as an alternative name to Constance Court for the McCarthy and Stone development at 111 London Road.

6. Review of FOI Decision

The Council reviewed its decision on the FOI request and its relevance to the Environmental Information Regulations.

The Council agreed that it would uphold its decision to withhold the information on the grounds that the request is manifestly unreasonable under EIR 12(4) b as the associated work would divert the Clerk from the core business of the Council for too great a length of time.

7. The Council to Note the Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Council noted the minutes of the meetings:

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 3 June 2015

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 May 2015

8. Matters Arising from Previous meetings**8.1 Community Projects**

In the absence of the chairman this was left in abeyance.

8.3 Handrails

County Councillor Thake has obtained quote from Ringway for a handrail on the steps from New Close to Stevenage Road. HCC will only use its contractor. Under the Highways Together project HCC will devolve some projects to Parish Councils however terms and conditions have to be agreed.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Procter and

Resolved: to accept the Ringway quote on the basis of sixty percent funding from the County Council.

9. Standing Orders

Proposed by Mr Procter, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to approve the revised Standing Orders.

10. Publication Scheme

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to approve the publication scheme

11. HCC Traffic Sensitive Scheme

The Council agreed with the routes in Knebworth being identified as traffic sensitive.

12. Clerk's Report

12.1 The Tennis Club has installed the flood lights in the Recreation Grounds.

12.2 The access road work is to commence on 20 July.

12.3 Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan, Employment Land Areas of Search Consultation runs from 26 May to 10 July.

12.4 Resignation of Mr Orme-Kirby. The notice of vacancy has to be advertised until 19 June to give residents the opportunity to call a bye election. If there is no bye election the Council can fill the vacancy through co-option.

12.5 Datchworth PC has asked for a meeting to discuss the representation at the public inquiry.

12.6 HCC offers a half fare Saver card for students under 19 still in full time education.

- 12.7 HAPTC AGM is to be held on 16 July.
- 12.8 Herts Rail Strategy Public consultation runs until 4 August.
- 12.9 Hertfordshire Forward looking to the future is scheduled for 14 July
- 12.10 NHDC is consulting on a statement of gambling principles which runs until 7 August.
- 12.11 NHDC is consulting on a statement on licencing policy which runs until 7 August.
- 12.12 There is a planning application for Barn B, Fairhaven Farm, Slip Lane Old Knebworth, Knebworth to removal of Condition 3 of Appeal Decision APP/X1925/C/03/1121079 which prevents use of the barn for residential purposes

13. Accounts

The Council approved the List of Payments for period 2 from 1 to 31 May 2015.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 A resident, whose property backs onto the recreation grounds, has complained about his fence being damaged by youths and is seeking compensation from the Council to replace the fence at a cost of £700. The Council does not believe it is liable for repairs.

14.2 The new website is to go live on 24 June.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 8 July.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.23p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____