

# KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 29 January 2020 in Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

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Present: Councillors Colin Stringer (Chairman) Rosemary Conybeare, Jenny Harrison and Steve Hemingway

In Attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public

## 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Farr and Mr Willcocks.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Public Participation

### 3.1 Football Club – Football Development

Mr Corke stated that he is newly appointed on the football committee. As the club has grown the facilities around are limited and the club has been able to hire Woolmer Green football pitches. The Club is aware that using too many pitches at the same time creates parking problems in the surrounding roads and to club tries to manage this. The use of a verti drain to improve the pitches was discussed, although the council is not proposing to undertake this work

He also requested storage facilities for the new goals purchased by Knebworth Old Boys FC. The committee agreed that the area adjacent to the preschool storage unit could be gated if an appropriate size.

### 3.2 Knebworth Tennis Club – Removal of Trees to permit improvements to courts

Mr Maresh, Knebworth Tennis Club chair, raised the two issues of concern to the club.

1. The courts require resurfacing and the club would like to convert to all weather courts.
2. The trees between the courts are damaging the surface of the lower courts, which is preventing refurbishment.

A contractor has been found to surface the upper courts and it was agreed that work could commence when ground conditions improved. A route for the contractor was agreed.

The lower courts cannot be converted without the removal of the existing trees. The Club would propose replacement with deciduous columnar trees, to minimise shading. Conifers are not recommended near all-weather courts because the debris from the trees gets into the nylon surface and the courts then require regular brushing.

To dig the roots out completely and lay a tarmac surface for the all-weather court will cost in the region of £15,000. The Club has obtained a quote of £1,200 to fell and remove the trees. Replacement trees would cost about £50 and root barrier treatment £2000.

The committee agreed that it would recommend to the Parish Council that the trees are felled and replaced. However assignment of costs would be the council's decision.

#### **4. Minutes**

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Hemingway and  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 30 October 2019 be approved and signed.

#### **5. Playground Inspection**

The committee noted the reports for each playground. The recreation ground was given a moderate to low risk rating. It was agreed that the single post for the parallel bars would be removed to remove the moderate risk. Lytton Fields and King George V Playing Fields were both considered to be low risk sites. The play surfaces are to be sprayed with moss killer to improve them.

#### **6. Maintenance**

##### 6.1 Pavilion

The changing room drains are problematic and the committee agreed to have them cleaned at a cost of no more than £500.

##### 6.2 Village Hall

The toilets need painting after the work on the dpc. The clerk is to obtain an upto date quote.

Link Up has requested chairs with arms for its members. Currently there are four garden chairs available. It was agreed that the committee should purchase up to twenty chairs. The clerk is to identify suitable stacking chairs.

Mr Stringer agreed to produce a questionnaire for hirers.

#### **7. Financial Review**

The committee reviewed and approved the management accounts for the recreation grounds and village hall for the nine months to 31 December 2019.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Mrs Conybeare requested wood chips are placed on two rights of way.  
The clerk is to contact HCC rights of way to request improvements to the two paths.

8.2 Mrs Harrison asked for an update on CCTV, this is to be reviewed at the next meeting.

8.3 The speed bump has not been installed on the access road as the clerk has been unable to find someone to install it.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.37pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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