

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 June 2021 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Adrienne Charter, Charlotte Cosson, Rosemary Conybeare, Steve Hemingway, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: The Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farr, Godfrey, Harrison, Jobling and Nash.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 May 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from previous meetings

5.1 Christmas Lights

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support a Christmas Light Switch on event organised by Knebworth Village Festival which would help raise funds for Friends of Knebworth School and other local charities.

5.2 Stakeholders Working Party terms of reference approval.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved: to approve the terms of reference for the Stakeholder Working Party.

It was agreed that Councillors Willcocks, Hemingway, Nash and Ward would be members.

6. Issues raised through correspondence

6.1 Tennis Club - upgrading courts.

The Council agreed that it was unable to place the order for the upgrading of the courts.

6.2 Football Usage

The football season has been extended to the end of June and pitch maintenance will then start. It was agreed that Knebworth FC seniors could play friendlies from 23 July and would be charged for each game.

There had also been a request for use of the facilities on Sunday afternoon for a women's team. Unfortunately, the pavilion is not available Sunday afternoon 2pm, but the Council would consider usage at other times.

6.3. Stepping Stone Preschool – licence to operate

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved: to approve a Licence to Operate for Stepping Stone Preschool for the school year 2021/22 with a 3% increase on last year's fee.

The Preschool has written confirming that there are no rights accrued from the use of the pavilion.

6.4 Village Hall - Sound & Light System

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to accept the Clarity quote to install a noise limiter and sound system at Knebworth Village Hall.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The regulation 16 consultation closed on 9 June 2021. NHDC has agreed that the comments will be forwarded to the Council. The earliest appointment of an examiner would be mid-July.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 The easement claim has been withdrawn.

8.2 The recreation ground land owned by HCC is now registered as an asset of community value.

8.3 The library application to register the whole site as an AOCV must be revised after discussion with NHDC.

8.4 The application for a Modification Order to the Rights of Way network to add the footpath which runs alongside the Allotments has been considered by Herts Rights of Ways officer. A report and findings will be issued next month.

8.5 An application for Modification Order to the Rights of Way network to add the footpath requires supporting evidence. Currently there is none for the footpath from Park Lane to Deanscroft.

9. Finance

9.1 To review and approve the List of Payments 1 May 2021 – 31 May 2021

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Cossons and
Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 May to 31 May 2021.

9.2 To consider quotes

It was agreed to accept the TK Ventilation quote to upgrade the village hall extraction unit.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Charter and
Resolved: to accept the Good Cleaning Company quote to clean the public toilets when reopened.

9.3 Hire charges recreation grounds

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mrs Charter and
Resolved: to increase recreation grounds hire fees by 3%.

10. Exclude Public ad Press

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer 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.

11. Station Pub

The Council approved the attached report.

12. Any Other Urgent Business

12.1 Mrs Charter raised her concerns over the potential loss of shops on the High Street. The Neighbourhood Plan protects the retail centre, which the Council will promote.

12.2 Natural England has stated that the proposed development West of Stevenage will have a significant impact on Norton Green Common and has asked for mitigating measures. The Council supported Natural England’s comments.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.17 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____