

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday
28 July 2021 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Dee Banks, Stuart Biddle (Knebworth FC) and Marc Rawlings
(Knebworth FC)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Farr.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mrs Harrison and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2021 be approved.

4. Football

The chairman permitted Knebworth FC to present its proposals.

Knebworth FC had been awarded three stars under the new accreditation scheme for grassroots clubs. It has 420 members of which 90% is from the Knebworth Community. The Club has a good social media presence, is looking to set up a women's team and would like to invest money in the recreation grounds and upgrade their goals.

4.1 Storage Area

The Club would like to erect a 2.4m high fenced paved storage area next to the groundsman store ensuring there is adequate room for the groundsman to move equipment in and out of his store. It is hoped that the 2.4m green palisade fence would deter youths climbing into the area. A sliding gate would ensure that it does not impact on the footpath from Stevenage Road.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to recommend to the Council the installation of a 2.4m high fenced storage area adjacent to the groundsman store subject to planning approval and which does not impact on the groundsman's access to his store.

4.2 Barrier

Mr Rawling requested the installation of a road side barrier to improve safety. Currently Knebworth FC erect poles and ropes at weekends and when the ground is hard it is a lot of work for parents. He also thought it would benefit other recreation

ground users. He agreed that ongoing maintenance costs would be undertaken by the Football Club and he expected a lifespan of 10-15 years

The Council considered maintenance, height of the rail, possible passing places and replacement costs should it be damaged.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: to recommend to the Council the installation of a waist height barrier along the roadside.

4.3 Additional Car parking

Mr Rawling presented a proposal for an additional twenty car parking spaces along the roadside, which would not only benefit the football club but also other recreation ground users. He proposed the use of grass grid mats so that grass would grow through them.

The Council agreed that it did not approve of the Club's proposal because it did not want to turn the recreation grounds into a car park. It was suggested that the Club should encourage people to walk and cycle to the grounds.

The Club currently informs visitors that parking is limited.

4.4 Women's Football

Knebworth FC asked the committee to consider approving a women's team using the recreation grounds on Sunday afternoon. This had been rejected due to cleaner's hours. The Club had found a contractor that could undertake the cleaning on Sunday evening. It suggested that any additional cleaning costs due to the unsociable hours should included in the fees. It undertook to ensure that the cleaning was to a standard and rotation of the adult pitches.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Cosson

Resolved: to allow a Sunday afternoon women's football team with an acceptable cleaning contract in place with the football club covering any additional cleaning costs arising as a result.

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to set charges at the same level as a single adult team excluding additional cleaning costs.

5. Finance Review

The committee reviewed the quarterly accounts to 30 June 2021.

6. Maintenance

6.1 Village Hall

The clerk is seeking professional advice on the condition of the beam above the main entrance. A number of repairs have been undertaken by a volunteer.

Mr Stringer suggested that the rafters could be cleaned when the sound system is installed using their scaffold tower.

There was no other work planned.

6.2 Recreation Grounds

The chain link fence has been damaged, and the clerk is seeking quotes.

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: to accept Frank Coopers quote to cut and mark the football pitches, when the groundsman is on holiday.

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to approve jet washing the pavilion drains.

6.3 Norton Green Common

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to approve Frank Cooper's quote to cut and collect 75% of the common.

6.4 Pond maintenance

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to hold pond maintenance days on the first Saturday of October, November, December and January.

7. Allotments

7.1 Plot holder meeting

Mr Stringer reported on the first plot holders' meeting.

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to purchase a 100L tank at approximately £150.

7.2 Tenancy Agreement

The committee reviewed the tenancy agreement and agreed that no changes would be made for 2022.

7.3 Rent

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mrs Hemingway and

Resolved: not to increase the plot rent for 2022.

The charge for water was deferred until provision for next year is confirmed.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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