

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday
26 January 2022 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

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

In Attendance: the Clerk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

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

4. Financial Review

The committee reviewed and approved the quarterly accounts for the recreation grounds and village hall to 31 December 2021

5. Playground Inspections

The Committee reviewed the annual playground inspections. There are a few minor repairs to be undertaken and some monitoring of equipment. The clerk is to arrange for the repairs to be completed.

6. Sound System

The new sound system has been used on a few occasions. A noise complaint was received from a neighbour and the noise limiter has subsequently been adjusted so that it is more sensitive to base noise. A disco was held post these adjustments and no complaint was received.

The contractor is to return to amend the system to remove the dead spot, when using the microphone. A hirer holding a children's party used the Bluetooth connection to play music and was impressed by the system.

7. Hire Charges 2022/23

The hire charges were reviewed, the committee noted the significant increase in energy costs which will occur in April once the fixed term contact ends.

Proposed by Mr Farr seconded by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to increase the hourly charges for the village hall by 3% for 2022/23 .

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to increase the charges for recreation grounds hire by 3% for 2022/23.

The committee agreed that Knebworth JMI will not be charged for rehearsal time for its year 6 production, only for the day of the production. Rehearsals are undertaken when the hall is not regularly booked. Should an enquiry be received for a rehearsal time Knebworth JMI's booking will be rearranged, so there is no loss of revenue to the Council.

8. Maintenance

8.1 Village Hall

It has been estimated that it will cost approximately £2000 to change the kitchen cupboard doors. The current kitchen as installed in 1998 when the annexe was rebuilt.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to replace the kitchen cupboard doors at a cost of up to £2000.

The scrubber drier has been declared beyond economic repair. A cabled machine would cost between £1500-£2000. It was agreed that a battery machine was not suitable.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to purchase a replacement scrubber dryer at a cost of no more than £2000.

The committee agreed that it would not install a defibrillator at the hall at present; there is one available at the railway station which is within 200m.

There are problems with the central heating programmer, and it was agreed that it should be replaced with a smart controller. The clerk is to arrange this.

The committee looked at different chairs for the village hall and agreed that the existing chairs are both practical and cost effective.

8.2 Pavilion

The pavilion cleaning contractor has confirmed that it is unable to provide a cleaner for Sunday afternoon. The cleaning is being covered by a third party but this is only a short term solution. An updated quote is to be sought from another contractor and the vacancy is to be put on Facebook.

Quotes are to be obtained to paint the exterior of the pavilion over the summer.

8.3 Recreation Grounds

The grounds have suffered over the winter with wear on the football pitches. Some top dressing work is to be undertaken at the end of the football season.

8.4 Treework

The majority of the commissioned tree work has been completed. The work on the allotments has been delayed until March to allow the ground to harden, as access is required over the neighbouring field

9. **Parking**

Several commuters and contractors are parking all day on the access road. Cllr Harrison was concerned that on street parking would get worse if restrictions were imposed.

The committee agreed that it should have some control over parking on the access road and considered the self-ticketing option used by St Martins Church a positive way forward. The Clerk is to write to Herts County Council, as landlord, to seek permission to erect signage to restrict parking to three hours with no return in two and no overnight parking from 10.00pm until 6.00am. If granted the Council will engage the services of a parking management company with a self-ticketing option.

10. **Any Other Business**

10.1 Energy Contract

The energy contracts are up for renewal in April and renewal quotes issued. Energy prices are volatile at the moment and the committee considered a two-year fixed agreement would be optimum. The clerk is to obtain other quotes.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Doc: Amenities.24: 02.02.22