

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 11 December 2019 in Knebworth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Paul Ward (Chairman), Rosemary Conybeare, Jeremy Godfrey, Jenny Harrison, Paul Jobling, Steve Hemingway, Colin Stringer and Roger Willcocks

In Attendance: the Clerk plus six members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Charter, Mr Hemingway and Mrs Nash.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

Mr Pellet raised his concerns about the planning application submitted by Bushcraft. The application for a bushcraft school has increased the number of children to 360 with 30 plus staff. It had run in 2019 between April and October with an impact on the flora and fauna.

Mrs Pellet stated that Graffidge Woods has ancient woodland status which is rare and should be protected.

Mr Wise stated that the application site covers 41Ha and is relying on an ecological survey based on only 1.2Ha. It is intended to relocate the campsites anywhere in the site, with appropriate access tracks. A single camp site is 60 square metres and a double campsite covers 2Ha. There are also large structures shown at each campsite with limited information. A spring survey is required to assess the full impact on the ancient woodland.

Mr Hamid stated that he had witnessed the chaos on Three Houses Lane resulting from last year's activities. There was a significant increase in traffic movements with buses and delivery vehicles on a single track road. Quantities of hardcore were delivered to create the hard standing together with large equipment used to clear the woodland areas. There was significant noise with the large number of children which continued well into the evening and disturbed the wildlife. There are red kites in the woodland. He suggested that the campsite be limited to the conifer area, with exclusion zones and restrictions on proximity to properties.

Mr Hamid considered this to be an unreasonable plan. He is aware of the ethos of the camp but believes it will destroy the woodland. He stated that there is no infrastructure to support the site and the local environment should be protected.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mrs Harrison and

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019.

5. **19/02620/FP Graffridge Wood Three Houses Lane Codicote**

Use of land for outdoor adventure camping between the 26th April and the 15th October in any calendar year for up to 360 children on the site including the provision of temporary camp areas, storage areas, shower and toilet areas, drop off, turning and parking areas

In view of the information provided by the residents, further information is required and a spring ecology report necessary to assess the full impact of this application on the ancient woodland. The council therefore **objects**.

6. **19/02528/SU Telephone Kiosk Outside 122 London Road Knebworth**

Removal of Telephone Kiosk

This is a newer style telephone box and the Council noted its removal.

7. **19/02867/FPH 72 Stevenage Road Knebworth**

Single storey rear extension and replacement roofs to existing single storey elements.

No objections

8. **19/02793/FPH 5 Gun Meadow Avenue Knebworth**

Two storey side and rear extensions following demolition of existing detached garage. Alterations to existing roof including front, rear and side dormer windows to facilitate accommodation at first floor level.

No objections

9. **19/02833/FPH 14 Stockens Dell Knebworth**

Single storey front extension following demolition of existing front porch

No objections

10. **19/02921/FPH 23 Sayer Way Knebworth**

Two storey side extension and front dormer window

No objections

11. **Any Other Business**

11.1 The application for the illuminated sign on the new pharmacy is to be discussed by NHDC Planning Control on 19 December. Mr Willcocks offered to speak at the NHDC meeting.

11.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.04 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

DOC 1920034 161219