

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 September 2021 at 8.08 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Charlotte Cosson, Philip Farr, Jeremy Godfrey, Steve Hemingway, Paul Jobling, Lisa Nash, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: the Clerk plus two members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charter, Conybeare and Harrison.

2. Public Participation

A resident expressed concern about the construction of the footpath from Park Lane to Deanscroft, where she fell and broke her shoulder. She did not want anyone else to get hurt.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Hemingway, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 July 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. To Note the Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Council noted the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28 July 2021

6. Footpaths

The Council considered correspondence regarding the new footpath from Park Lane to Deanscroft, which NHDC had approved.

The chairman stated that the Parish Council cannot give legal advice and as the path is private it has no power to enforce any changes.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Nash and

Resolved: to contact the footpath owner to explore the possible transfer of title of the footpath to the Parish Council after it has been made up to a standard.

The members of the public left the meeting.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Swangleys Green

Gladman has notified the Parish Council that it has submitted an outline planning application for Swangleys Green. The Council agreed that a public meeting would be held once the plans were available for comment.

7.2 To consider the Amenities Committee recommendation to install a rail along the Recreation Ground access road

The football club has requested a barrier alongside the access road in the recreation ground to replace the temporary barrier installed by the club at weekends. The Club also felt that it would benefit others.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to permit 900mm wooden posts to be installed alongside the access road but to stop at the car park. A rope could be tied to or threaded through the posts to create a barrier. The posts should have metal collars to minimise damage from strimming.

7.3 To consider the Amenities Committee recommendation to install a 2.4 palisade fence adjacent to the groundsman's store

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to permit a 2.4m palisade storage area to be created adjacent to the groundsman store, subject to planning permission.

7.4 To consider RCCG spaces

This was left in abeyance as there is no further information to date.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 Knebworth Festival AGM was held on 6 September. A number of representatives from local groups attended and a committee was formed.

8.2 There is an issue of e- motorbikes speeding around the recreation grounds. Some incidents have been reported to the police

8.3 A complaint has been received about weeds in the village. The clerk has contacted CC Thake.

8.4 A complaint has been received about an overgrown hedge in Park Lane, Old Knebworth. It was thought that this is Settle's (previously North Herts Homes) responsibility.

8.5 The public toilet in St Martins Road car park was reopened at the beginning of August.

8.6 An organisation has been formed Organisation Against Knebworth Spread (OAKS.)

8.7 Knebworth Estate reported that there has been an incursion onto Norton Green Common.

8.8 NHDC has arranged LGA Code of Conduct Training on 17 September.

8.9 Advertising banners have been installed on Lowe House, an enquiry to planning control has resulted in an enforcement letter being issued.

9. Finance

9.1 To approve accounts paid from 1 July to 31 August 2021

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 July to 31 August 2021.

9.2 To review and approve quotes

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to accept the quote from Village Trees to undertake work on the recreation grounds and allotments.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to accept the quote from MPL to undertake a full tree survey of trees in the recreation grounds and the allotment.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to approve the quote from Lamps and Tubes to undertake repairs to the Christmas lights and install and remove them for 2021.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to accept the quote for annual insurance provided by Hiscox.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to accept the quote from Elliot Cleaning to undertake pavilion cleaning.

9.3 Bank Reconciliation

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2021.

10. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Cosson 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 reviewed the report on the pub.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Nash and

Resolved: to approve the draft agreement with owners of Bridge house (regarding work on the Coach House)

The tenant is seeking to start negotiations to enter into a longer tenancy agreement.

The Council agreed that this would not take place until after the Parish Council elections in May 2022.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____