

KNEBORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 September 2020 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Charlotte Cosson, Rosemary Conybeare, Philip Farr, Jenny Harrison, Steve Hemingway, Jeremy Godfrey, Paul Jobling, Lisa Nash and Paul Ward

In attendance: The Clerk,

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Charter and Mr Stringer

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensation**

Mr Ward stated that his property is adjacent to the proposed KB1 site.

3. **Public Participation**

None

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 July 2020 as a true record by the Chairman.

5. **To Note the Minutes of Committee Meetings**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 July 2020 and 12 August 2020 were noted.

6. **Planning**

To review application ref 20/01890/SO | Screening Opinion: Proposed residential development of 250 dwellings with access from Park Lane. | KB1 Land North Of Park Lane Knebworth

The Parish Council is not consulted on screening opinions. 250 dwellings is a 25% increase over the NHDC allocation of 200 dwellings for KB1. However the site now includes Martletts, the paddock to the rear of Redwood and 21 Deards End Lane. The application suggests that the number of dwellings will not have a significant impact on Knebworth and does not affect the Conservation area, both are incorrect.

Further hearings are to be held on the NHDC Local Plan. There is a question of the numbers, which the Office of National Statistics states are now 11,900, although NHDC wishes to retain its total provision at 14,200 as a buffer. However this application demonstrates that site numbers will be higher than the NHDC plan so there is already an in built buffer.

7. Allotments

The Parish Council purchase of the allotments was completed at the end of August. A report on allotments management had been previously circulated and the Council agreed that this would be delegated to the Amenities Committee.

8. Christmas Lights

The Council agreed that it would meet the costs to install lights on the McCarthy & Stone building on the High Street.

Government guidelines has reduced the number of people who can gather to six from 14 September 2020. Anyone found not observing the rule will be fined £100. The Council considered that it would be unlikely that any organised event, such as a light switch-on, would be permitted this year, although Friends of Knebworth School were looking at arranging a Christmas event on 27 November.

The Council agreed that the lights would be switched on 27 November.

9. Cycle Racks

A resident has provided comprehensive feedback on the proposal to install cycle racks in the village. It was agreed that hoops were better than the large two storey racks. There was support for cycle racks in the recreation grounds, Kerr Close and the doctors' surgery.

As the fund is for sustainable transport electric vehicle charging points are to be considered at St Martins Road Car Park and the village hall.

10. Recreation Grounds

The Council discussed acquiring equipment to provide temporary shelter, whilst the pavilion is unavailable. It was felt that many clubs already owned this type of equipment, so agreed that it was unnecessary.

11. Clerk's Report

11.1 A Covid business grant of £10000, was finally given to the Council as a result of loss of income on the village hall.

11.2 The website must comply with accessibility requirements by 23 September. It was agreed that 2 Commune would upgrade the site.

11.3 A lorry damaged the roof of St Martins Road Public Conveniences. Although the Parish Council is responsible for maintenance, the damage is covered by NHDC insurance policy.

11.4 The clerk is booked on two HAPTC training courses.

12. Station Pub

The Council reviewed and approved the report previously circulated.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to set the rent at 70% for the next four weeks.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr and

Resolved: to accept the quote from Cadent to install a separate gas supply to the first floor flat.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to accept the quote from Gesti Ltd to install a new boiler in the first floor flat, the current boiler having been condemned.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to accept a quote of up to £2000 to re felt the flat roof.

13. Finance

13.1 To approve accounts paid from 1 July to 31 August 2020

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 July to 31 August 2020.

13.2 To approve quotes

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to accept the quote for annual insurance from Came & Co.

13.3 To approve bank reconciliation to 31 August 2020

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2020.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Mr Farr informed the Parish Council of the news items he proposed to put on the Facebook page.

14.2 There has been a complaint about the hedge outside the school. Ownership is unknown but HCC has been contacted.

14.3 Mr Willcocks requested the Council consider a delegated authority whilst the clerk is absent, at its next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.42 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____