

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 12 October 2022 at Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Charlotte Cosson, Phil Farr, Jeremy Godfrey, Paul Jobling, Steve Hemingway, Praba Kugathanan and Paul Ward

In attendance: Dee Banks plus 9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Lisa Nash, Adrienne Charter

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Public Participation

The chairman welcomed Mr Goodhew plus eight neighbours of Deards End Lane and stated that 15 minutes would be allocated to their presentation for the closure of Deards End Lane to vehicle through traffic.

The residents have great concerns over the Parish Council's September 2022 reasoning in its response to not support their proposal, and to the ongoing effect it will have on the lane and request the Committee to review their decision.

Mr Goodhew again raised issues of safety for walking and cycling. He believed cutting back hedges would only increase speeds. There is a consultation on 25 October.

The chairman stated that the Parish Council could not support the closure at this time due to North Herts Local Plan and the LCWIP consultation.

Councillor Ward said the Parish Council have urged North Herts and Councillor Thake to carry out a safety survey. Highways are the experts and the Parish Council will put pressure on them.

The public left the meeting.

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Cosson and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 September 2022 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 Planning Committee held on 7 September 2022

6. NHDC Local Plan

The Council noted the Inspector's Report and his proposed modifications to the Local Plan.

Councillor Ward suggested that the Council finds out who is undertaking the cumulative impact study and engage NHDC on how they are involving developers so that the Parish Council can be involved. The Council should also agree Section 106 requirements from development.

Councillor Ward will draft an email to Councillor Richard Thake.

7. Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan

Councillors discussed the proposal and need to know how the LCWIP will integrate into the Local Plan. A response will be agreed after the public meeting on 20th October. The Clerk is to contact NHDC to confirm who will be at the engagement event.

The consultation meeting will be publicised on social media. A decision will be made after the consultation meeting on whether to have a public meeting on 2 November.

8. Grants

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to award a grant of £500 to Knebworth Tenants Association to plant a tree on Stockens Green.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to award a grant of £500 to Playaway toddler group to support the group the make it more accessible. It was noted that this is a one-off payment.

Mr Hemingway suggested that the policy should be amended to limit applications from a group to one every three years.

9. Clerk's Report

9.1 The new fence in the recreation grounds has been vandalised. This has been reported to the police.

9.2 North Herts Cabinet discussed parking tariffs at a Cabinet meeting. Although the Parish Council's request for 30 minutes free parking at St Martins Road Car Park was raised by an officer, members did not discuss it.

The Clerk is to contact DC Mandi Tandi for an update on progress she has made.

9.3 A Climate Emergency Workshop is being held in November a at a cost of £120.

Councillor Ward to attend, the Clerk to advise on date.

9.4 CMS are offering green space audits to Parish Councils.

9.5 The change of use of 131 London Road to residential is to be discussed at North Herts Planning committee on 13th October. Councillor Willocks Is to attend.

10. Finance

10.1 To review and approve external audit

The external audit was unqualified, however the auditor stated that because King George V Playing Fields is not registered with the Charities Commission it could not carry out interim tests. Only charities with income over £10,000 are required to be registered. The Parish Council is to seek advice on whether it is meeting its obligations.

The notice of conclusion of the audit has been published.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: to accept the external auditor's report.

10.2 To approve accounts paid

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: Subject to the correction of the service charge, to approve the accounts paid to 30 September 2022

10.3 To consider quotes

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer

Resolved: to accept the quote for Henry Booth to replace doors at the Station Pub.

11. Exclusion of members of the public and press

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mrs Charter 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.

12. Station Pub

The Council reviewed and approved the report and quotes.

13. Exclusion of members of the public and press

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: having completed the confidential business, that members of the public and press could return to the meeting.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Councillor Kugathasan was approached by a resident who has set up a change.org petition for step free access to the railway station. The Parish Council will add a link to the petition on social media.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____