

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 October 2021 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Adrienne Charter, Rosemary Conybeare, Charlotte Cosson, Jenny Harrison, Steve Hemingway, Lisa Nash, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: the Clerk plus one member of the public

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farr, Godfrey and Jobling

2. **Public Participation**

A resident stated that Swangleys Lane is used by HCC as a through route to Datchworth, so it impacts Knebworth. A lot of traffic comes down Swangleys Lane from Datchworth. He urged the Council to use its local knowledge to comment on the outline planning application for Swangleys Lane.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Nash declared that she was objecting to the planning application for land south of Watton Road

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mrs Hemingway, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 September 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 Planning Committee meeting held on 8 September 2021

6. **21/02586/OP Land South of Watton Road Knebworth**

Outline planning permission for up to 230 dwellings (including affordable housing), structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and children's play area, surface water flood mitigation, vehicular access point and associated ancillary works. All matters reserved except for means of access.

The chairman stated that the site is in Green Belt, however this in itself is not enough, based on a recent appeal for a site in Codicote which was allowed due to land supply.

The application is for outline permission with only access via Watton Road and Swangleys being decided. The design appears to be in line with the Garden Village principles and although not being determined, comments should be made.

The design layout prevents future expansion of the existing primary school, although there could be expansion of playing fields, allotments and a community building.

The Council will object to the application and will comment on the following issues: Green Belt development, predetermination, Local Plan SP9; school safety, infrastructure, flooding, design, s106

Mr Ward and the clerk are to prepare a draft and it was agreed the Neighbourhood Planning consultant would be asked to review it prior to submission.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Footpath – Park Lane to Deanscroft

Beverley Homes has agreed that it will transfer the title of the footpath to the Parish Council as it stands, which each party bearing its own costs.

Legal costs are expected to be in the order of £2000.

The Council had concerns about the suitability of the existing surfacing of the path which would cost additional funds to convert.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to agree to the transfer of title of the footpath in its current condition

7.2 To consider RCCG Parking spaces

There was no further information, so the matter was left in abeyance.

8. NHDC Consultation on Councillor Elections

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Cosson to recommend all out elections

Proposed by Mrs Nash, seconded by Mrs Charter, to continue with one third of councillors retiring every year.

The Council voted and the latter proposal was carried.

9. Clerk's Report

9.1 Knebworth Festival Committee met on 29 September and is to organise the Christmas Light switch on. It is also to organise a festival week starting on 5 June 2022 with a picnic in the park to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

9.2 The pond maintenance day was held on 2 October. Vegetation was cleared around the pond and parts of the fence repaired.

9.3 There was vandalism in the recreation grounds on the evening of 2 October. Youths broke several timber pales and a bench in the play area. There is also an increasing quantity of broken glass on the play areas at weekends. The police have been notified. There has also been an incident where a 13 year old was punched in the face, when he asked youths to return his ball. The police have said that they will undertake patrols through the park.

9.4 Liam Gallagher has announced that he will play at Knebworth Park on 3 & 4 June 2022

10. Finance

10.1 To review and approve management accounts

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: to approve the management accounts to 30 September 2021

10.2 To approve accounts paid from 1 September to 30 September 2021

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 September to 30 September 2021.

10.3 To review and approve quotes

Proposed by Mrs Charter, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to accept the quote from Village Trees to fell the decaying beech tree in the recreation grounds.

The Council agreed to renew the PlusNet contract for the village hall broadband.

10.4 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for September was approved.

11. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Stringer 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 the report on the pub.

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mrs Charter and

Resolved: to approve the additional cost for the Coach House roof, subject to the drainage to being reconfigured to align with the contract.

It was agreed that an audit should be carried out for the period to 30 September 2021.

13. Formal Complaint

The Review Panel was confirmed as Councillors Cosson, Godfrey, Harrison, Hemingway, Nash and Stringer and a meeting agreed for Tuesday 19 October.

14. Staff

A village hall cleaner is to be appointed on a three month probationary period from 1 November.

A review of wages will be undertaken at the next meeting.

15. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: that members of the Public and Press be allowed to return to the meeting all confidential business having been transacted.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Steet Lights

Mrs Conybeare reported that the street lights were out on Sayer Way.

16.2 Public meeting

Mrs Conybeare requested that at public meetings when councillors sit on the floor in the hall, rather than the stage, that they should stand up when speaking. It was also recommended that the use of the microphone is essential for public participation.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____