

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 December 2021 at 8.00 p.m. at Knebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Willcocks (Chairman), Adrienne Charter, Rosemary Conybeare, Charlotte Cosson, Jeremy Godfrey, Steve Hemingway, Colin Stringer and Paul Ward

In attendance: the Clerk and one member of the public
: via Zoom Phil Farr and Paul Jobling from 9.00pm

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farr, Harrison, Jobling and Nash.

2. Public Participation

A resident introduced himself as a new resident of the village who had helped with pond maintenance and is keen to contribute to the village

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Stringer and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November 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 10 November 2021.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 RCCG Car Park

There being no further information this was left in abeyance.

6.2 NHDC/HCC Meeting

Mr Ward reported that he and Messer Godfrey and Willcocks and the clerk had met with Helen Flage, NHDC officer for Strategic Masterplanning, Nigel Smith, NHDC, Roger Flowerday, HCC, to articulate issues with the Local Plan proposed major development and discuss the impact of traffic, transport and parking. The meeting was productive, and Helen Flage is to arrange another meeting in the New Year to include landowners.

6.3 Air Quality Study

Mr Godfrey reported that it is recommended that the tubes are in high density traffic areas, such as junctions. The cost per filtered tube for eighteen months is £145 which includes testing and analysis. It is hoped to start monitoring in January 2022.

6.4 Footpath – Park Lane to Deanscroft

The Council reviewed the draft TP1 and is to seek clarification from the solicitor on the retained rights clauses.

6.5 Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan

The examiner has started work on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan and has issued a letter of clarification. The planning consultant has drafted a response.

7. **Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP)**

The Council reviewed the draft LCWIP, which HCC is preparing to improve walking and cycling across the North Herts, specifically looking at Hitchin Letchworth Baldock, Royston and Knebworth. The plan proposes changes which will significantly impact vehicle travel and parking within the village.

8. **CCTV**

In the absence of Mr Jobling this was held over until the next meeting.

9. **Correspondence**

9.1 Tree, Stockens Green

Knebworth Tenants Association is considering planting a large fir tree on Stockens Green to be a focal point at Christmas, which could cost in the region of £1000. The Queens Green Canopy fund will provide grants to the Parish Council but not the Tenants Association. It is also seeking funding from Knebworth Village Trust and the Parish Council.

The Green is privately owned and games and dog walking are not currently permitted.

Mrs Conybeare also requested the Council consider replacing two lost oaks in Stockens Green.

The Council deferred any decision on funding until the next meeting.

9.2 Electric Charging Points

A resident has asked permission to charge his car across the footpath because he does not have an allocated parking space. The resident would require permission from Herts Highways, however this was considered unlikely because the cable would be a trip hazard.

10. Budget 2022/23

This item was held over until the next meeting.

11. Clerk's Report

- 11.1 An allotment working party was held on 28 November with boundaries cleared.
- 11.2 Woolmer Green Parish Council has written to its MP regarding taking land out of Green Belt for development.
- 11.3 A resident of Park Lane has complained about noise from the village hall on a Saturday evening in November.
- 11.4 The inspector has written to WHBC expecting a shortened timetable to adopt the plan early next year.
- 11.5 The Southern Rural Christmas reception has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions
- 11.6 HCC is extending its home library service
- 11.7 Hitchin Girls and Boys Schools are consulting on changing its allocation of places so that proximity is taken into account for rural places. This means that in years of high demand, Knebworth children are less likely to be awarded a place.
- 11.8 The pavilion contract cleaner is proving unsatisfactory. Cleaners are not turning up at the agreed time.
- 11.9 35 bags of small acts of kindness have been collected from Watford and are to be distributed by Link Up.
- 11.10 Luton LLAL has obtained consent for its application 21/00031/VARCON to vary planning consent to increase number of passengers from 18m to 19m including night flights

12. Finance

- 12.1 To Approve Accounts Paid from 1 November to 30 November 2021

Proposed by Mrs Godfrey, seconded by Ms Conybeare and

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

- 12.2 Quotes

The Council approved the quote to service the scrubber drier.

- 12.3 Bank Reconciliation

The Council noted the report prepared by Mrs Cosson.

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 30 November 2021.

- 12.4 Disposal of Equipment

The Council agreed to dispose of equipment on the schedule.

13. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, 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.

14 Staff

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: to approve the HMRC recommended allowances for use of home as office and mileage rate.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mrs Charter and resolved to approve the Christmas bonus this year at last year's rates.

15. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Godfrey 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 Mrs Conybeare asked if the Council to consider extending the allotments.

16.2 Mrs Conybeare suggested setting up a general working party to undertake improvements around the village.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____