

# KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9 November 2022 at Knebworth Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: Claire Graham, Clerk

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Nash and Mr Jobling.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

None

3. **Public Participation**

None.

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr and

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 October 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 12 October 2022  
Public meeting held on 2 November 2022

6. **Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan**

The Council discussed the proposals in the consultation to improve walking and cycling around Knebworth.

Whilst it supports the underlying principle of the consultation it was unable to support any proposal which would impact the viability of the High Street.

The Council felt it unsatisfactory at the lack of empirical evidence for the basis of the proposals. It felt that a fifteen minute neighbourhood for Knebworth was irrelevant. There was no information on how the proposals fit with public transport and trains. The impact of loss of parking on the village centre had also not been considered.

Mr Willcocks asked if the Council would support a spine road through the developments for development traffic to travel north south without impacting the High Street. No discussion took place.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer and

**Resolved:** that in principle the Parish Council supports changes to promote walking and cycling as sustainable modes of transport, as already noted in our Neighbourhood Plan policy KBT1. It is also in support of reduction in the speed limits on the B197 at either end of the village.

However it has significant concerns about impacting the commercial viability of the village centre retail environment, reflected in our Neighbourhood Plan policy KBLE3. Therefore at this time it cannot support changes to the following without further analysis of the impact:

- Changes to the parking arrangements in the 'High Street'
- Signals at the Walton Road/Stevenage Road roundabout

In particular if not satisfied that it can see sufficient consideration in detail of the impact of the additional sites from the Local Plan. It would like to see more specific work undertaken and evidence produced to identify specific expected cumulative issues in the village due to the additional load of these sites, including the primary school, in line with the site KB1,2,4 requirements.

#### **7. NHDC Supplementary Planning Document – Planning Obligations**

The Council approved the response to the consultation

#### **8. Solar Together**

The Council reviewed the quotes and agreed that it would not be pursuing solar panels and additional batteries on its properties at the moment.

#### **9. Development**

North Herts adopted the Local Plan, with modifications on 8 November. All Knebworth sites remain in the plan and the Council is to move forward to gather more information on its s106 requirements. The Council is to seek some local expertise .

#### **10. Clerk's Report**

10.1 DC Mandi Tandi has arranged for free parking in St Martins Road to be discussed at the next Southern Rural Committee meeting on 20 December at 7.30. A Parish Council representative can speak for 5 minutes.

10.2 The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 13 November at 12.30. The Clerk has arranged the road closure and liaised with Dr Fothergill regarding the organisation of the service.

10.3 A resident of Old Knebworth is lobbying the Parish Council to get HCC to replant trees on the verge at Old Knebworth Lane/Park Lane.

10.4 The air hockey table was sold however the person decided he could not collect it. It was agreed that the table can be disposed of.

10.5 The Lytton Arms has been removed from the register of Asset of Community Value because of the five year rule. Assets of Community Value will be discussed at a future meeting.

10.6 The updated boundary review is out for consultation until 9 January

10.7 Lamps & Tubes is experiencing issues with Ringway's requirements for the Festive Lights licence. The lights are to be installed tomorrow and switched on on 19 November.

10.8 An allotment plot holder is seeking compensation for damage to her allotment plot. This is to be discussed at the Amenities Committee meeting.

10.9 The Clerk has arranged for bags of kindness to be collected from Watford and distributed by Link Up.

10.10 Warm hubs are being set up to provide warm spaces for residents. The Council considered the library was a good space; it being open five days.

## **11. Finance**

11.1 To review and approve management accounts

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

**Resolved:** to approve the management accounts to 30 September 2022

11.2 To prepare draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2024

Proposed by Mr Farr seconded by Mr Stringer and

**Resolved:** that subject to the proposed amendments the Council approved draft administration and pub budgets 2023/24 to calculate the precept.

11.3 To approve accounts paid

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Ward and

**Resolved:** to approve the accounts paid to 31 October 2022

## **12. Exclusion of members of the public and press**

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Hemingway 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.

## **13. Station Pub**

The Council reviewed and approved the report.

## **14. Wage Review**

This item was deferred

## **15. Recruitment**

The advert has been placed to recruit a new Clerk.

**16. Exclusion of members of the public and press**

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

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

**17. Any Other Business**

17.1 Mr Hemingway asked if there was an update on the damaged play equipment. This is to be installed at the end of November, weather permitting.

17.2 Mr Kugathasan reminded councillors that another pond maintenance day is to be held on Saturday 12 November.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_