

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 December 2020 at 8.15 p.m.

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

In attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Public Participation**

None

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Hemingway and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 November 2020 as a true record by the Chairman.

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

The Council noted the committee minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 November 2020.

6. **Neighbourhood plan**

The Steering Group has put forward the Neighbourhood Plan for Parish Council approval.

The Parish Council commended the group on the comprehensive and up-to-date document.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: to approve the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan for submission to NHDC for Regulation 16 consultation.

7. **Allotments**

Mr Stringer reported that the structures on the site had been recorded. All but three of the existing tenants have confirmed that they wish to continue in 2021. The clerk is contacting people on the waiting list to fill the vacant plots.

8. Greening Campaign

Herts County Council is promoting the Greening Campaign to make towns and villages more sustainable. The campaign is phased to allow promoters to do one or more phases. The clerk is to obtain more information.

9. Clerk's Report

9.1 The Local Plan hearings have commenced and Growth Villages was debated on 9 December.

9.2. Off roaders have been driving across Norton Green Common, damaging the SSSI. Stevenage Borough Council is proposing to lay logs along the road boundary To try to resolve the problem.

9.3. A letter has been received from a resident of Baines Lane regarding traffic safety.

9.4. The clerk attended zoom training courses on social media policy and mapping using parish online.

10. Station Pub

The potholes in the car park have been repaired. The work on the Coach House roof has been postponed until the spring.

Exclusion of Press and Public

Proposed by Mrs Charter, 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.

11. Finance

11.1 Hire Charges

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Godfrey

Resolved: to waive the football club charges for November.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mrs Cosson and

Resolved: to allow a 10% discount on the football clubs' current season's fees invoiced to 31 December 2020, subject to settlement of their accounts by 31 December 2020.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and

Resolved: village hall hire charges are to increase by 3% from 1 April 2020.

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and

Resolved: to approve the list of community groups benefiting from additional discount on hall charges.

11.2 Staff

Proposed by Mrs Cosson, seconded by Mr Godfrey and

Resolved: to increase the cleaner's hourly rate.

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Farr and
Resolved: to approve Christmas bonuses as last year.

11.3 To approve a precept for 2021/22

The Council reviewed the draft budget.

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Hemingway and
Resolved: to set the precept for 2021/22 at £161,330 including the CTRS grant

11.4 To approve accounts paid from 1 to 30 November 2020.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved: to approve the accounts paid to from 1 November to 30 November 2020.

11.5 To approve quotes

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved: to approve the Marshall's quote to replace the window and door in the pub wash up area.

11.6 To approve bank reconciliation to 30 November 2020

Proposed by Mr Willcocks and
Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 30 November 2020.

11.7 Station Pub rent

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mr Godfrey
Resolved: to accept the recommendation on the pub rent.

12. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.47 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____