

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 February 2021 at 8.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: The Clerk

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Charter.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Public Participation**

None

4. **Minutes**

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 January 2021 are a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Council noted the committee minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 January 2021 and the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27 January 2021.

6. **Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan**

The Council confirmed the joint appointment with Woolmer Green Parish Council of Mr Griffiths, planning consultant, to prepare a response and attend the WHBC Local Plan hearing regarding site WGR3. Mr Griffiths' submission, based on Mr Farr's draft, was also approved.

7. **Meeting Schedule**

The Council approved the schedule of meetings for 2021/22.

8. **Highways Issues**

8.1 To consider the "20 is plenty campaign".

The Council agreed that the campaign for 20mph speed limits on side roads would be beneficial. Mrs Nash is to lobby, where necessary, on behalf of the Council.

8.2 To provide feedback to HCC on the COVID-19 measures

A draft response was circulated, discussed and approved subject to revisions by Mr Ward.

9. Land

In response to the County Council's request a solicitor has recommended a letter and the cost estimate to prepare a letter was approved.

The County Council land agent suggested a sign for the access road, however the Parish Council decided that the wording was not correct and agreed not to erect a sign. The clerk is to inform the land agent.

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 The Council has been copied into an email to DC Deakin Davies, regarding concerns about the Deards End Conservation area and potential development around Redwood.

10.2 A resident of Broom Grove would like the salt bin reinstated in the road. The bin at the top of Gipsy Lane is too far and he has nowhere to store salt from the HCC Winter Help scheme. The clerk is to lobby CC Thake for additional bins for Broom Grove and Wadnall Way.

10.3 A resident has complained about speeding in London Road and would like the speed sign reinstated outside St Thomas More Church. The clerk is to request that Herts Highways relocates the sign at the Village Hall to London Road.

10.4 A letter from the NHDC enforcement officer states that it has been assured by Beverley Homes that the footpath will be installed 'per the wording of the planning inspectorate's report – it will be opened when the ongoing construction works have been completed'. The site is now accessible by the public, however the access via Deanscroft is still blocked by fencing.

10.5 Mr Ellis, NHDC, has not responded to the Council's letter regarding the headroom into Lowe House not complying with the approved plans. The clerk is to write to Mr Ellis for a response.

10.6 WHBC is consulting on imposing an Article 4 directive on certain employment areas in the borough to remove permitted development rights to convert offices to residential.

10.7 NHDC is seeking to submit a bid for government funding for Design Codes for Knebworth. The Council supported the bid if it is to look at the cumulative effect of the development proposed in the village.

10.8 Knebworth FC secretary has complained that she was not informed about the content of a Facebook post regarding the Council waiving its fees whilst football is not played at the Recreation Grounds. The clerk had already informed the club's chairman.

11. Station Pub

The boundary fence panels with Florence Court are wet due to the ground level of the development being above the gravel boards. The clerk is to flag this to Beverley Homes.

12. Finance

12.1 Review Financial Risk Assessment

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and
Resolved: to approve the financial risk assessment.

12.2 Appointment of internal auditor

Proposed by Mr Godfrey, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved: to appoint Mr Vine as internal auditor for 2020/21.

12.3 To approve accounts paid from 1 to 31 January 2021.

Proposed by Mr Hemingway, seconded by Mr Godfrey and
Resolved: to approve the accounts paid to from 1 January to 31 January 2021.

12.4 To approve quotes.

Proposed by Mr Jobling, seconded by Mr Godfrey and
Resolved: to accept Black & White quote to service the fire alarm.

12.5 To approve bank reconciliation to 31 January 2021.

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded Mrs Cossons and
Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 January 2021.

12.6 Exclude Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Ward 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.

12.7 To review the Station Pub Rent

Proposed by Mr Farr, seconded by Mrs Cossons and
Resolved: to continue with the same level of rent until the next meeting.

The clerk is to arrange a meeting with the tenant.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.15 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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