

KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: the Clerk

1. Apologies

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

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Hemingway and **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 January 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 meeting held on 12 January 2022 and the Amenities Committee meeting held on 26 January 2022

6. Matters Arising

6.1 RCCG Car Park

There being no further information this was left in abeyance.

6.2 Footpath – Park Lane to Deanscroft

There being no further information this was left in abeyance

6.3 Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan

The examiner has issued his report and subject to his recommendations considers the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan sound. NHDC Cabinet will consider the Plan and report at its meeting on 22 March 2022. If approved the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan it will go to referendum on 5 May 2022.

The Council discussed the examiner's recommendations.

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and
Resolved: to accept the examiner's report and amend the Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan in line with his recommendations so that it can go to referendum on 5 May.

The Parish Council agreed that residents must be reminded that the Neighbourhood Plan is not identifying sites for development but setting planning policies which are relevant to Knebworth.

7. S106

The Council discussed S106 planning obligations for development. NHDC is seeking projects for Land South of Watton Road. The Council agreed that it would seek a community facility to meet the increased demand on the Scout & Guide Group and preschool and an extension to the allotments.

8. Policies

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Hemingway and
Resolved: to adopt the policy making policy.

9. Meeting Schedule

The Parish Council approved the meeting scheduled for 2022/23.

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 The annual newsletter is due prior to the public meeting, content to be agreed.

10.2. A sign post installed in the middle of the footpath adjacent to Lowe House, was quickly removed by Herts Highways once it was brought to their attention

10.3. NHDC is currently reviewing its Greenspace Strategy for the next five years to 2027. The wellbeing section of the Neighbourhood Plan has been forwarded to the appropriate officer.

10.4. HCC has determined that there is insufficient evidence to support modification of the Rights of Way network to add the path from Watton Road to Old Lane. The landowner has confirmed that he will permit access to the allotments via the path off Watton Road.

10.5. The tree that was on the triangular island on Park Lane/ Old Knebworth Lane junction was removed by Herts Highways under its emergency powers because it had safety concerns. These powers supersede any planning requirements. HCC plans to plant three trees as a replacement during the winter of 2022/23.

10.6. A HCC licence application may be required of bunting is to be put up in the High Street. The clerk is to apply for a licence if necessary.

10.7. The air monitoring study should start at the beginning of March.

10.8. NHDC has confirmed that it will move to whole elections from 2024, until that time elections will continue with one third of the District Council. There may be a desire to align electoral arrangements for Town & Parish Councils.

10.9. WHBC has confirmed that it will not accept the examiner's report on its Local Plan and numbers will be reduced to 13,277. It has also removed numerous Green Belt sites from the Local Plan, on the basis that exceptional circumstances have not been demonstrated.

10.10. Luton Rising is consulting on increasing passenger numbers to 32M.

11. Finance

11.1 To review and approve financial risk assessment

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mrs Charter and
Resolved: to approve the financial risk assessment

11.2 To approve the appointment of the internal auditor

Proposed by Mr Willcocks, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved: to appoint Hertfordshire Internal Audit Services to undertake the internal audit for 2021/2022.

11.3 To Approve Accounts Paid from 1 January to 31 January 2022

Proposed by Mr Stringer, seconded by Mr Ward and
Resolved: to approve the accounts paid from 1 January to 31 January 2022.

11.4 Quotes

It was agreed to accept the quote from Peter Wright Electrical to connect two sockets into the sound system.

It was agreed to accept the British Gas the quote to undertake repairs on the village hall boiler.

The Clerk is to obtain energy quotes from EDF to compare to the renewal quote provided by British Gas. It was agreed that the lower of the two, two-year fixed contracts, would be accepted.

11.5 Bank Reconciliation

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mrs Conybeare and
Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 January 2022

Proposed by Mr Ward, seconded by Mr Stringer and
Resolved; to transfer £50,000 to the Hampshire Trust Bank account.

12. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, 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 approved the report. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the landlord before the next meeting.

14. Exclusion of Public and Press

Proposed by Mrs Conybeare, seconded by Mr Hemingway and
Resolved: that members of the Public and Press be allowed to return to the meeting all confidential business having been transacted.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 To review parish councillor email addresses before the end of the council year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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