

Linton Parish Council
The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held by Zoom on 11th January 2021 at 7:30PM.

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Patrick Gerrish
Peter Lewis
Julie Urquhart***

Also, present: Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Smith and Carpenter due to work commitments, and MBC Councillor Webb.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Burden as a true record, this were seconded by Cllr Urquhart and agreed to by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Historical Minutes – The Clerk confirmed that these were being held safely until they could be delivered to Kent Archives.

Pedestrian signs for rural lanes – Cllr Gerrish stated that Firmins had offered to finance pedestrian signs for the rural lanes if necessary.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

6. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

7. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

MBC Cllr Webb gave his apologies to the meeting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with MBC Cllr Parfitt-Reid regarding an update on the issues he had raised with her on the two sites included in the MBC Local Plan and the work at Linton Crossroads.

Action: Clerk to action.

8. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Urquhart/Burden).

b. 2021/2022 Budget Report.

The Clerk circulated a draft budget and report to all members for consideration.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Lewis to set the 2021/2022 Precept at £13875, this was seconded by Cllr Burden and agreed by all present.

Action: Precept agreed £13875.00

Action: Clerk to send form to Chairman for signing and submit to MBC.

9. Highways and Flooding.

Cllr Cresswell reported that the road safety scheme had started at Linton Hill. The Gateway Feature had been installed at the junction near to the Church Car Park, but this was in the wrong position. He confirmed that this had been discussed with the contractor and had now been removed and would be reinstated in the correct position.

He stated that he had also been in contact with KCC Highways regarding the rumble strips, as they did not seem to be as effective as they should be.

He reported that the replacement bin had not yet been installed in the lay-by opposite Tote Place. The Clerk stated that she would liaise with MBC regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC.

Flooding – Cllr Urquhart spoke regarding the issues relating to the flooding of properties in the Parish, she circulated a draft letter to Firmins, to seek to have the ditches maintained. She asked for members approval to send the letter, as this would give Firmins the justification to ask the land tenants to tend to the drainage ditches on their land, as this would assist with the flooding issues in Linton.

This was discussed and approved by members.

Action: Clerk to send letter to Firmins as approved.

10. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

20/505751/EIFUL Reed Court Farm Hunton Road Marden Tonbridge Kent

Erection of a new free-range egg farm consisting of 3no. hen houses with extensive outdoor ranges and fencing, formal vehicle access from Hunton Road and associated parking, landscaping, woodland and tree planting, drainage, and other associated works.

b. Reed Court Farm Planning Application.

Members discussed this planning application for Reed Court Farm, and the objections that should be raised by the Parish Council.

The Chairman spoke regarding his discussions with adjacent Parish Councils and their opposition and concerns regarding the planning application.

He stated that the application would have an adverse visual impact on the Parish and the River Beult, also a public health issue.

He stated that he and Cllr Urquhart has drafted objection letters to the application and suggested that these were circulated to members for further comment. Subject to further comments, he asked the Clerk to amalgamate both letters into one objection letter to submit to MBC.

Action: Clerk to progress.

c. Berry Gardens.

The Chairman reported that the planning meeting with Berry Gardens to discuss their planning conditions and the Parish Councils lighting concerns had been cancelled due to Covid. He stated that he had contacted them again to try to discuss the ongoing issues, but without success.

He had since discussed the concerns with KALC, and they were in the process of drafting a letter for the Parish Council to consider regarding the light nuisance.

The Chairman outlined a legal option that the PC could consider, also for a fee, a letter could be drafted by experts for the PC to consider sending to MBC.

The options were discussed, and it was agreed that the PC would await the outcome of the KALC letter before considering further action. The option of the Parish Council taking legal action against Berry Gardens was not agreed.

Members reported on the research that they had carried out regarding light pollution, and the documents and information they had reviewed, none of which were of assistance.

d. Other Planning Matters.

MBC Applications Decisions

20/504555/FULL

Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two storey annexe

Application Refused

Poly Tunnels enforcement action – Cllr Urquhart reported that Planning Enforcement had sent a letter regarding enforcement action on 23rd December 2020, and they had 28 days to respond to this. She stated that a planning application may now be submitted to keep the poly tunnels in place all year.

11. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Cllr Urquhart gave a report on the allotments.

She stated that the annual Seed Swap event was being considered for the Spring with social distancing.

She stated that the rabbit fencing at the site was in a poor state of repair, this was due to be inspected by Cllr Gerrish, and progressed in due course.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported on the recent KALC minutes and the enforcement of HGV's by KCC.

c. Playground.

Cllr Gerrish spoke regarding the litter in the parish near to the playground and asked what action could be taken regarding this. Cllr Urquhart suggested that this area was included in the next litter pick. This was agreed.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Lewis reported on the website.

e. Speed Watch.

The Chairman stated he had forwarded the training details to the two new volunteers for speed watch.

f. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW, she stated that she had received a request from a resident to be a coordinator.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported that the Village Hall Management Committee was currently in the process of seeking advice and funding streams regarding the roof of the Village Hall, as this was in need of replacing.

Cherubs were now the sole hirer of the Village Hall due to Covid.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Urquhart Reported that she was in the process of setting up a virtual litter pick, whereby areas would be allocated to volunteers to clear. She stated that an item would be Pam ed in the next newsletter.

12. Date of the next Meeting.

8th February 2021.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the Zoom meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.45pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____