

**Linton Parish Council**  
**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council**  
**held by Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7:30PM.**

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

***Also, present: Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington and MBC Councillor Webb.***

***The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.***

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith, who was unable to attend due to work commitments. His apologies and reasons for not attending were accepted and approved by members.

**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 Urquhart as a true record, subject to an agreed amendment, this were seconded by Cllr Burden 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.**

List of businesses in Linton – The Chairman reported that letters had been sent to all businesses in Linton, inviting them to engage with the Parish Council and sign up to receive copies of the newsletter. He stated that disappointingly he had only received one response back. This was discussed and members agreed to repeat the mail shot again next year.

It was also agreed that Cllr Cresswell would follow this up with some businesses to ensure that they all received their letters.

Mowing of bank near church – Cllr Cresswell stated that a quotation from a local business had been received for the maintenance of the bank near to the church and this would be considered when looking at next year's budget.

Missing litter bin – The Clerk confirmed that the replacement of the bin was on the MBC schedule to be actioned, MBC had stated that should this be damaged again then it would not be replaced.

The Chairman stated that the road had subsided near Linton Park due to the lorries parking in the area. He suggested that this area should be monitored.

Planning Matters – Cllr Cresswell stated that Ward Councillor Webb was due to establish how MBC dealt with Parish Councils, when an application was adjourned at a Planning Committee Meeting.

Cllr Webb stated that he had raised this with MBC Officer Ryan O'Connor, Democratic Services Manager. He had confirmed that if there was an overspill from a Committee Meeting to another day, then the person that the PC has registered to speak at the original meeting should still attend to speak on the application, as this was still considered to be one meeting. He stated that he was working with the Democratic Services Manager to try to resolve these issues.

Playground, Vicarage Field – Cllr Cresswell reported that DHA Planning was taking this matter forward and was currently seeking quotations for the refurbishment of the play area.

Historical Minutes – Outstanding action for Cllr Smith to contact Richard Butters for retrieval of historical minutes.

Linton AGM – The Chairman reported that the Certificates of Recognition for nominated residents would be presented to them in the near future.

**Action: Cllrs Urquhart and Cresswell to progress.**

Flooding issues – Cllr Urquhart stated that she had met with KCC, and they had agreed that they were going to write to the landowners to remind them of their responsibilities regarding riparian rights, and how they could manage ditches and drainage on their land. She stated that she would seek an update on this matter.

Planning Matters re The Cherry Patch – The Chairman stated that following the approval of members, a letter was sent to MBC regarding the development at The Cherry Patch that was undertaken without permission. He stated that he was disappointed with the response from Planning and Enforcement. He said that he had now brought this to the attention of Ward Cllr Parfitt-Reid to find a satisfactory resolution to the matter.

## **5. Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

The Chairman informed members that there was currently one vacancy on the Parish Council. He stated that MBC had now given the approval to Co-opt a councillor for this.

He stated that there was one application for the vacancy, he introduced resident, Patrick Gerrish, to the meeting.

Members considered the application put forward by Patrick Gerrish, and it was proposed by Cllr Cresswell that he be Co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Urquhart, and agreed by all present.

The Clerk informed Mr Gerrish that the paperwork, and Acceptance of Office forms, would be put in the post to him for signing by the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk to send forms to Mr Gerrish.**

## **6. Clerks Report and Correspondence.**

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

**7. Public Participation.**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**8. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.**

MBC Cllr Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He stated that MBC had now given the go ahead for litter picks to resume.

He reported that the Call for Sites had now been narrowed down and was due to be put before the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Agenda on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed work at the Linton Crossroads. He stated that DHA Planning had over handed over significant funds from the landowners to pay for KCC to design the new layout, and they were now taking this matter up directly with KCC.

**9. Financial Matters.**

*a. Financial Statement.*

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

*b. CCTV Maintenance Contract.*

Members discussed the benefits of having a maintenance contract to cover the CCTV in that Church Car Park. The Clerk was asked to establish further details and the costs from the CCTV Suppliers.

**Action: Clerk to action.**

**10. Planning Matters.**

*a. Applications Received.*

20/503150/FULL      Stilebridge Kennels Stilebridge Lane Linton Maidstone  
Demolition of all existing kennels and cattery buildings and erection of 4no.  
dwellings with associated landscaping.

*Objections submitted.*

20/502347/FULL      3 Stone Cottages Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent  
Revised Plans

*b. Wares Farm Conditions.*

The Chairman spoke regarding the planning conditions for the Wares Farm site and stated that there was an issue with noise pollution from the diesel generators used for the refrigeration units in the lorries when parked at the front of the site. He stated that this had been raised with the Planning Officer who had responded to seek confirmed as to whether the PC wish to raise the issues as an enforcement matter.

Cllr Cresswell stated that the noise condition had been refused discharge (sought by DHS planning soon after the site went live) as readings had not been taken from all the external sensors as judged necessary by the statutory consultee. Noise readings are due to be undertaken soon, which will result in either another application for discharge, or a problem-solving exercise by Berry Gardens to reduce noise levels.

The lighting remains a big problem and the was acknowledged by the applicant and more importantly by the director of operations at Berry Gardens that there is significant light pollution. Worryingly this has not prevented an application for discharge being submitted and granted by MBC last year.

Cllrs Urquhart and Cresswell have scrutinised the conditions and identified another of concern to the Parish - the monitoring of HGV movements. Given the above two examples of applications to discharge where problems remain, there is a major concern that this also has been discharged and Cllr Creswell suggested that the PC should request MBC carry out the function to have the movements reviewed, if need be by the Parish council, to ensure that the condition has actually been complied with.

These matters were discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the Planning Officer.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

c. Fernham Homes – Vicarage Field.

The Chairman stated that MBC had consulted with the PC regarding the suggested name of Firmin Mews for the naming of a road at Vicarage Fields.

This was discussed by members; it was agreed that the PC would support the name of Firmin Close as they felt that this was more appropriate.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC.**

d. Other Planning Matters.

MBC Applications Decisions

20/502591/FULL

Redwall Farmhouse Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AX

Demolition of porch, 2no. extensions and 1no. boiler room. Erection of detached cart lodge/garage, front porch, part single, part two storey extension to West and single storey side extension to East.

Application Permitted

20/502347/FULL

3 Stone Cottages Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AR

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a two storey rear extension and detached double garage with extension of driveway.

Application Permitted

## 11. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

A written report from Cllr Urquhart was noted.

*Jane Sawyer retired as allotment manager on 31<sup>st</sup> August, with Julie Urquhart taking on this role. Jane has overseen the allotments for many years and is to be thanked for her dedication and care in ensuring the allotments are keep in good order.*

*To support Julie, three current allotment holders, Ben Dixon, Les Watt, and Roger Collins help with the day to day management. They will also take responsibility for the monthly water meter reading.*

*Since the last report, Plot 12 has changed hands as the current holder is unable to continue due to health and family reasons. This plot has now been let out to a new family, who will take over from 1 October. They are experienced allotment growers and are very keen to get started on the plot. They will also take on half of Plot*

*11a, on an informal basis, as the current holder is unable to manage the full 4 rods but does not want to give up the plot altogether. Plot 6 will also become available from 1 October and this has been offered to the first person the waiting list.*

*Most ploholders have spent considerable time on their plots during lockdown and the majority are very well kept and highly productive. Unchecked weeds are an issue on several plots, but these plot holders have been asked to trim them as a matter of urgency to avoid seeds transferring to adjacent plots. Due to issues with security with strawberry and cucumber crops being taken from plots, a combination lock has been installed on the gate. A bonfire clear up was held on 8 September, with the autumn tidy up planned for November.*

*The rent review was discussed at the July Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that there would be no increase in rent.*

*There are concerns about security on the northern boundary with the new development, and who will be responsible for maintaining the trees on this boundary once the development is completed.*

*The rabbit fencing along both east and west boundaries needs replacing, as in many places it has collapsed and is thus ineffective.*

**b. KALC.**

No matters were raised.

**c. Playground.**

No matters were raised.

**d. Parish Website.**

Cllr Lewis stated that he had taken a backup of the old parish website was due to close in November/December.

The Clerk spoke regarding the Accessibility Regulations and the changes that would be implemented to the HugoFox PC website.

**e. Speed Watch.**

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

**f. Neighbourhood Watch.**

Cllr Burden reported on NHW, she stated that she had no contact with the police regarding crime reports and had emailed the Police NHW Coordinator to follow this up.

**g. Linton Village Hall.**

Cllr Burden reported on the Village Hall and the actions that had been taken to make the hall COVID safe.

**h. Litter Pick**

Cllr Urquhart reported that as MBC were now supporting litter picks, she would now arrange one. She stated that MBC were only loaning enough equipment for 6 and it was therefore necessary for the PC to consider purchasing its own litter picks etc.

This was discussed and Cllr Gerrish suggested that his company would sponsor the PC litter picks and purchase the equipment for the PC.

Cllr Urquhart thanked Cllr Gerrish for his offer, she stated that she would take this forward on behalf of the PC. This was agreed.

**12. Date of the next Meeting.**

12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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 9.40pm.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_