

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council  
held in Linton Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7:30PM.**

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden  
Bernard Cresswell  
James Smith  
Jerry Whitmarsh***

***Also, present: Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillor Webb and Members of the Public.***

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Urquhart, and Carpenter, MBC Councillor Parfitt-Reid.

The Chairman spoke regarding the sad loss Parish Councillor Ian Firmin in December. He stated that Councillor Firmin had served on the Parish Council for the past 25 years and would be sadly missed.

He also spoke regarding the loss of resident David Sawyer who was an active member of the local community and had worked on behalf of the Parish Council and contributed significantly within the parish.

Members paid their respects to Ian Firmin and David Sawyer by holding a minute's silence.

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

Parish Defibrillator – Cllr Smith stated that he would arrange for a label to be placed on the Defibrillator as previously agreed.

***Action: Cllr Smith to action.***

Conservation plan – this item had been removed from the agenda as previously agreed.

This was discussed and it was further agreed that the PC would seek adhoc updates on the progress of the implementation of the plan.

Berry Gardens – Cllr Webb updated members on the current situation Berry Gardens. He stated that a planning application had been submitted for an extension of time to the conditions.

Cllr Cresswell said he was concerned regarding the retrospective part of the planning application and the process used by the applicant.

**5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.**

The clerks report and correspondence were noted by members.

**6. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Cresswell stated that the safety measures and landscaping on Linton Hill was currently with DHA Planning.

It was reported that there was a large pothole along Wheelers Lane, 50 yards beyond Cornwallis Avenue.

**Action: Clerk to action.**

**7. Public Comments and Observations**

Cllr Whitmarsh introduced Norman Springett, representing the Maidstone Rotary Club to the meeting. Mr Springett stated that the Maidstone Rotary Club was working with Maidstone Borough Councillors to identify sites for planting free trees in Parishes to assist with air pollution.

He stated that when sites were identified, a community event could be arranged to plant the trees, and this would be supported by the Rotary Club.

Cllr Smith stated that he would be happy to plant trees on his land and host a community planting event.

A general discussion took place regarding the planting of trees in the parish and ways to encourage residents to plant trees on their own land.

Cllr Whitmarsh suggested that the Parish Council could write to all residents in Linton to inform them of the free trees and encourage them to plant them. It was agreed that a flyer would be placed in the next newsletter as this was due to be issued in the next few weeks.

**Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to produce flyer for inclusion with the newsletter.**

The Chairman summarised the discussion and confirmed that the PC was interested in the free trees. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would liaise with the Rotary Club regarding this matter.

**Action: Cllr Smith to action.**

**8. Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Cllrs Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on correspondence with Berry Gardens and the work that was due to take place along Redwall Lane.

He updated members on the proposed work at Linton Crossroads and stated that he would seek an update on this from KCC.

The Chairman spoke regarding the proposed work and the issues related to this, he said that there was a shortfall in the cost of the proposed work and the developers S106 contribution.

Cllr Webb stated that he would liaise with MBC regarding their failure to support parish litter picks and report back to the next meeting.

He spoke regarding the MBC Local Plan and the Call for Sites.

**9. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

**10. Financial Matters.***a. Financial Statement.*

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Smith/Whitmarsh).

**Bank Balances****Lloyds TSB Account 02332818**

Opening Balance on Current Account	£25900.84
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£1071.05
	£0.00
<b>Closing Balance on Current Account</b>	<b>£24829.79</b>

*b. 2020/2021 Budget.*

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

It was proposed by Cllr Smith that the 2020/2021 Precept was set at £13214, this was seconded by Cllr Whitmarsh and agreed by all present.

**Action: 2020/2021 Precept agreed £13214.**

The Chairman spoke regarding the maintenance of the bank from the car park to the Almshouses and stated that this was tended to by a contractor as and when necessary at a cost of £117.60 a time. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should seek quotations from local companies for this work. Cllr Smith stated that he would forward details of local contractors to the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk to action.**

**11. Planning Matters.**

The Chairman spoke regarding the planning matters and the objections submitted by the PC, he stated that he was no-longer able to attend Planning committee meetings on a Thursday evening due to personal commitments, therefore should an application be reported to the MBC Planning Committee Meeting, a representative for the PC would need to attend to speak on the application.

**New Applications Received**

19/506116/LBC Westerhill Farm Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone Kent  
Listed Building Consent for proposed demolition of existing rear extensions. Erection of new single storey rear extension and garden room with the reinstatement of porch.

19/506115/full Westerhill Farm Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone Kent  
Consent for proposed demolition of existing rear extensions. Erection of new single storey rear extension and garden room with the reinstatement of porch.

**MBC Applications Decisions**

19/504742/FULL

Willow Court Wheelers Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BN

Erection of a single storey rear extension and front porch, including installation of a new front access gate.

Application Permitted

19/505475/LBC

Rosehill Vanity Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BP

Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement of non-historic windows on first and second floors and re-installation of two previously blocked up windows.

Application Permitted

19/504779/SUB

Home Farm Linton Park Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AN

Submission of details to Discharge condition 4 (Joinery), for planning permission 14/504899/FULL (resubmission - previous details approved under 17/506329/SUB).

Application Permitted

19/504105/FULL

Stilebridge Kennels White House Farm Stilebridge Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4DE

Variation of condition 2 of 17/506297/FULL (Stationing of temporary mobile home on land forming part of White House Farm in association operation of Stilebridge Kennels.) to allow the mobile home to be occupied for an additional 2 years until 19th March 2023.

Application Permitted

### **Other Planning Matters.**

#### **MBC Call for Sites**

Cllr Cresswell reported on the meeting that he and Cllrs Urquhart and Whitmarsh had attended a meeting on behalf of the Parish Council at the MBC Council offices.

He stated that the sites in Linton were discussed and MBC seemed to be looking at larger sites.

He stated that the Parish Council would submit a formal response to MBC, and he would draft a this and circulate to members for approval.

He spoke regarding infrastructure and stated that there was no capacity for the current development in the local area let alone what was being put forward in the call for sites. KALC proposes a pause on all development to allow the infrastructure to catch up.

Cllr Smith reported on the Highways Seminar he had attended and spoke regarding their investment in the Borough. He stated that KCC were not able to object to planning applications unless they could prove a severe impact on Highways.

He stated that he would draft a report to be included in the Call for Sites response to MBC.

Landscaping Proposals opposite Village Hall – The Chairman stated that the proposals were still with KCC for costing.

He suggested the locations for the signage directing residents to the safe crossing point and stated that this would be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

## **12. Member Reports.**

### **a. Parish Allotments.**

A written report from the allotments manager was noted as follows:

*As usual the water supply to the Allotments was turned off in early December and will not be reinstated till March, to avoid frozen/burst pipes.*

*There have been a series of delays to the drainage works which started a good month behind schedule. There are now further delays because the compound where the plant was stored in Vicarage Field was broken into. The digger being used was damaged and has to be repaired before recommencing the work. This has been an inconvenient and stressful time for plot holders, now getting behind with their cultivation plans. The verge to the right of the path is extremely muddy, slippery and dangerous. It would be appropriate to seek compensation for the delays and difficult conditions in the form of additional paving slabs to add to the right-hand side of the path all the way along to the double slabs near the gate. I hope this can be progressed by the contractors. It was feared that security on the Allotments would be a problem (see previous reports) and a 6ft fence should perhaps be erected along the North boundary when the work is finished, to protect the plot holders' tools, plants and other property.*

**b. KALC.**

No matters were reported.

**c. Playground.**

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the developers had expressed an interest in undertaking work in the play area and at some point, a site meeting should be arranged to discuss the work.

**d. Parish Website.**

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the website and the future of the EIS website.

The Clerk stated that she was due to attend a training event regarding the website accessibility regulations and she would report back to the next meeting.

**e. Speed Watch.**

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

**f. Neighbourhood watch.**

Cllr Burden reported that she attended the NHW AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, she reported on this.

**g. Linton Village Hall.**

Cllr Burden reported on the progress of the Village Hall.

She stated that major work had recently been undertaken in the hall roof.

**h. Litter Pick**

Cllr Cresswell reported that the next litter pick had been arranged for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**13. Urgent Items.**

Members discuss the possible date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Following discussions it was agreed that this would take place on Monday 27th April 2020.

***Action: Clerk to book hall.***

Cllr Cresswell stated that concerns had been raised by the residents of the Almshouses being disturbed by the gate at the church car park banging.

Cllr Smith stated that he would insert rubber stoppers in the gate to prevent it from banging.

***Action: Cllr Smith to action.***

**14. Date of next Meeting.**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

***There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.20pm.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_