

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council  
held in Linton Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7:30PM.

**Councillors present:** *Pat Burden*  
*Darren Carpenter*  
*Bernard Cresswell*  
*Linda Potter*  
*James Smith*  
*Jerry Whitmarsh*

**Also present:** *Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillors Mortimer, and Webb. Three members of the public*

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillor Firmin, MBC Councillor Fermor, and KCC Councillor Stockell.

**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 Carpenter as a true record, seconded by Cllr Cresswell 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.**

Honours Board in Village Hall – Cllr Carpenter stated that the honours board had now been updated as agreed. It was reaffixed to the wall prior to the meeting and the Councillors recorded their thanks to Cllr Carpenter for his efforts.

**5. Police Report.**

It was agreed that this item would be deleted from further agendas and replaced by an augmented NHW report.

**6. Clerks Report and Correspondence.**

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

**7. Conservation Area Management Plan.**

The Chairman reported that now the new Conservation Officer had been in post for a few months, it was to be hoped that the Linton Conservation Management Plan would now be progressed.

**Action: Clerk to contact MBC for an update before each meeting**

**8. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Cresswell reported that the damaged interactive speed sign on the A229 had now been removed. It was reported that the school sign at the entrance to the church car park had been knocked over. The Clerk was asked to report this to Kent Highways.

**Action: Clerk to Action.**

The Chairman circulated an update and timetable to all members on the village crossing. He stated that he felt that it was now possible that this project may proceed and be financed from the Vicarage Field and/or Wares Farm developments.

He stated that DHA Planning estimated the approximate time scale for the project to be ten weeks for the design and then three to four months until construction. But there are a number of interested parties and if it took longer, it would not be surprising.

Cllr Cresswell spoke about the cost of the crossing and asked if the Parish Council could be sure that this would be financed from these developments.

The Chairman stated that he had had no written statement to that effect, but DHA and the developer appeared to be happy to continue to progress the crossing and had put a lot of work in already/

The Chairman reported that there had been two incidents of flytipping in the Parish and Cllr Smith mentioned a further two. Cllr Whitmarsh had found papers in the Barnes Lane deposit that included a name and address. He stated that he had reported this to MBC and given them the details to investigate, however to date they had not responded.

Cllr Mortimer stated that he would follow this up with MBC.

#### **9. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the publicity in the local press regarding the A229 and he spoke regarding the recent fatal accidents that had taken place along this route.

A general discussion took place regarding the A229 and the danger of this road.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council contact KCC to ask if there were plans to take action to make the road safer in light of the recent accidents. This was agreed.

**Action: Clerk to Action.**

Mr Butters attended the meeting on behalf of the Alms Houses Trust in Linton to seek a volunteer Trust Member from the Parish Council to join the Board of Trustees. He explained the role and time commitment associated with this. Following a discussion, Cllr Burden offer to join the Board of Trustees to represent the Parish Council. This was agreed by members.

#### **10. Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Ward Councillors Webb and Mortimer gave their reports to the meeting.

Councillor Webb reported that the Parish Services Scheme was due to be discussed after the next KALC Area Committee Meeting.

Councillor Mortimer stated that he would give his report under Planning Matters.

#### **11. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

#### **12. Financial Matters.**

##### **a. Financial Statement.**

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

##### **Bank Balances**

##### **Lloyds TSB Account 02332818**

Opening Balance on Current Account	£24066.94
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£1919.79

	£0.00
<b>Closing Balance on Current Account</b>	<b>£22147.15</b>

b. 2018/2019 Budget.

The Chairman stated that 2018/19 draft budget had been circulated to all members at the previous meeting for consideration and he had not received any adverse comments from members.

He asked members if they were in agreement to increasing the 2018/19 Precept by 2.5% to £12,578.00. This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Cresswell to set the 2018/19 Precept to £12,578.00, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all present.

**Action: 2018/19 Precept agreed at £12578.00.**

**13. Planning Matters.**

New Applications Received

- 17/505915/FULL 1 Davis Farm Cottages, Redwall Lane, Linton  
erection of a 3 bay timber framed single storey detached garage/workshop.
- 17/505888/FULL Land North East of Stilebridge Stable yard Stilebridge Lane Linton.  
Change of use of land for 5 pitches for gypsy/traveller accommodation. The  
stationing of 6 static mobiles and 5 day rooms with associated hard and soft  
landscaping. Alterations to existing access (part retrospective).
- 17/505920/FULL The Willows Stilebridge Lane Linton Kent ME17 4DE  
Creation of new vehicular access.
- 17/505881/FULL Land West Of The Barn Stilebridge Lane Linton  
Change of use of land for the stationing of two static mobile homes for ancillary  
gypsy/traveller accomodation. Erection of a shared day room associated\hard  
standing and soft landscaping.
- 17/506165/LBC Hill Place Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent  
Listed Building Consent for alterations to existing kitchen into a pair of doors.
- 17/506399/LBC Snoads Hole Cottage Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone  
Listed Building Consent for replacement and extension of side conservatory.
- 17/506380/FULL Snoads Hole Cottage Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone  
Application for replacement and extension of side conservatory

Wares Farm, Redwall Lane

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the second Steering Committee Meeting was likely to be held in February 2018. He stated that the traffic work had been started in line with the conditions of planning. He confirmed that he had been informed that some work had already been undertaken along Redwall Lane to round out the dangerous corner opposite Davis Farm Cottages and improve sight lines.

### Vicarage Fields

The Chairman referred to an email he had received from a resident and had circulated to all members for comments. He stated that he did have concerns about the upcoming Planning Committee Meeting and some of the wording in the report prepared by the Officers.

Councillor Mortimer stated that he had also been concerned about the Officers' approach to this application.

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the crossing outside of the Village Hall and stated that the report did not include this as part of the s106 proposals, however he believed the applicant was still willing to finance this, the CCTV system in the Church Car Park, and also some improvements to the Cornwallis Playground next to the site..

He stated that he felt that the crossing should have been included in the s106 agreement.

Councillor Mortimer reported that the planning application was due to go before the MBC Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> January and stated that he would be speaking on this matter.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he would also attend the meeting to speak on behalf of the Parish Council and he asked the Clerk to book a slot for him to speak.

#### **Action: Clerk to Action.**

The Chairman referred to correspondence received from the resident regarding the Vicarage Fields development. He stated that a relatively short response time had been provided for the application which fell between two parish council meetings. A site meeting had been held by members to discuss the planning application and a vote had been cast in favour of not objecting by five votes to one, when the views of councillors not able to be present were included. He confirmed that at the time this had not been minuted as the application had been considered during the August recess. However following the site meeting a letter had been drafted which was approved by all eligible councillors, sent to MBC detailing the PC View, and this was published on the MBC Website and included in the Planning papers attached to the application.

The Chairman asked members to confirm that they were still in agreement with the content of the letter, and this was agreed by all present.

It was agreed that the Chairman would respond to the resident on behalf of the Parish Council and he would circulate the draft response to all members for approval.

#### **Action: Chairman to Action.**

Cllr Potter asked if the PC had ever been approached about having street lighting in Cornwallis Avenue. The Chairman stated that this had never been raised. Linton is a rural parish and with the possible exception of Heath Road, there was no street lighting in Linton and his impression was that on the whole, residents preferred it that way

#### **14. Parish Litter Pick.**

The Chairman stated that a third Parish Litter Pick had been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. He confirmed that the meeting place would be the Church car park at 10am. Cllr Smith offered to arrange transport to drop off the volunteers at various locations around the parish.

#### **15. Member Reports.**

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

The following report was received from Allotments Manager Jane Sawyer.

*The compost bin for the newly sub divided plot has been ordered and delivered. The invoice has been forwarded to the parish clerk.*

*The majority of plot holders are keen compost makers; in addition to LPC bins, several have their own bins and have constructed compost bays.*

*The one outstanding rent has been paid.*

*Several plot holders are concerned about security because of possible housing development on Vicarage Field, abutting the north boundary, after a spate of plant thefts from the new development in Cox Heath. It has been agreed that the Chairman would reiterate the request for a 6 foot boundary fence, originally made by the Parish Clerk in her letter to the MBC Planning Officer on 23 June 2015. This would afford protection and privacy to plot holders, their sheds and crops.*

*Jane Sawyer  
Allotments Manager*

A discussion took place and the need for a suitable boundary fence between Vicarage Fields and the Allotments duly noted. It was felt however that it would not improve allotment holders' security in any material way, given that entry was freely available through the gate from Wheeler's Lane

**b. KALC.**

Cllr Cresswell reported on the recent KALC AGM Meeting he had attended.

**c. Playground.**

Cllr Potter circulated a report regarding the playground to all members. This gave an update on the progress of the playground. She would liaise with Mick Brooker regarding the outstanding works. She reported that the pathway at Cornwallis Avenue was covered in moss again.

**Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.**

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding surfacing of the play area and stated that he would liaise with DHA Planning to see whether this was something that the developers could assist with.

**d. Parish Website.**

Cllr Whitmarsh reported on the progress of the Linton Website.

He stated that it had been brought to his attention that the PC contact details on the MBC Website were out of date and needed to be updated.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**e. Speed Watch.**

Cllr Cresswell reported that following a leaflet drop of houses on Linton Hill, the Speedwatch Team now had two new volunteers. It was agreed the leaflets and accompanying letter would now be distributed to the rest of the parish to encourage more volunteers to come forward.

**f. Neighbourhood watch.**

Cllr Burden gave a Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

She stated that there had been no crimes within Linton to report in the last month.

**g. Linton Village Hall.**

Cllr Burden reported that the next Village Hall Committee Meeting would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018. None had taken place since the previous PC meeting.

**h. Community Liaison.**

The Chairman informed members that Kath Cooper was considering producing a Parish Magazine once a quarter. He asked members if the Parish Council would be willing to assist with the printing of the publication for parish distribution, through the use of the parish printer. This was agreed by all present.

He spoke regarding the historical information held by residents in the Parish and in particular the photos etc. left us by Mary Price. He suggested the appointment of a Linton Archivist to hold this information in a central point, to act as a point of reference, and hopefully, to improve the stock by use of archive paper etc.

He suggested that resident, Mr David Sendles was a suitable candidat to be appointed as the first Linton Archivist, to hold the information on behalf of the Parish Council and with members agreement, he asked Mr Sendles if he would be happy to accept this role.

Mr Sendles accepted this position.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council would set aside a £100 budget to cover and printing and expenses associated to the role.

The Chairman spoke regarding the annual Parish Meeting and suggested that Mr Sendles was invited to give a presentation on the history of Linton at this meeting. This was agreed by all present. Mr Sendles agreed to give a presentation at the Annual Meeting.

**16. Urgent Items.**

CCTV – Cllr Carpenter informed the meeting that he had sought an estimate for a new CCTV System and this was for £2500 - £2600. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, further quotations would be sought and sources of funding investigated.

***Action: Clerk to place as an agenda item for February PC Meeting.***

**17. Date of next Meeting.**

12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.15pm.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_