

Linton Parish Council
The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 12th June 2023 at 7:30PM.

*Councillor's present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Caroline Richer
Julie Urquhart*

Also: Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gerrish (work), Urquhart (late), KCC Cllr Webb and MBC Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid.

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 Richer as a true record, 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.

Land at Mullion – Currently with the Conservation Officer at MBC.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to seek the reasons why the PC was not consulted on this application.

Action: Clerk to action.

5. Public Participation.

No matters were raised.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

No applications to consider.

7. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

1. Maidstone's Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony - 19 June

The Mayor, Cllr Gordon Newton, is marking the Armed Forces Day by holding a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 19 June at 10.30 in Jubilee Square, which includes a performance of the Gurkha Khukuri dance. The flag will then fly for the duration of the week from the Town Hall mast.

The mayor would like to invite you and your spouse/partner to join him at the Town Hall for coffee at 10.15 prior to the ceremony. Following the event light refreshments will be served in the Council Chamber. The event is due to finish at approx. 11.15.

Please would you let me know whether your Parish Chairman or Members would like to attend.

2. *Please could you raise with KCC or MBC the problem of the Heath House bus stops on the 89 route in Heath Road, Linton. These are now busier because they are the stops for the new Greensand Health Centre and due to the narrowness of the pavements and encroaching foliage are dangerous for disabled patients in wheelchairs etc. More space needs to be created for them. The stop areas are not marked on the roads and the signs are difficult for bus drivers to see because their posts are hidden in the hedges. The problem is worse opposite the health centre for passengers catching buses to Maidstone; several drivers have said to me that they didn't realise there was a stop there. Please let me know what response you get from the department responsible for marking and maintaining bus stops.*

The Chairman confirmed that this matter had now been passed to the Ward and KCC Councillors.

8. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

Councillors Parfitt-Reid and Webb gave their apologies to the meeting.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members. Proposed by Cllr Burden, seconded by Cllr Richer and agreed by all present.

Members approved an additional cheque for £32.60, cheque number 002386, for the litter pick refreshments.

b. 2021/2022 AGAR and Accounts.

Members considered the 2021/2022 Accounts and Annual Return.

- i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Burden to accept and approve the annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, this was seconded by Cllr Richer and agreed by all present.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2022/23, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2022, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2021/22) to this year (2022/23), the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2, to be submitted to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Burden to approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2022/23, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2023 and the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2021/22) to this year (2022/23) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2. This was seconded by Cllr Richer and agreed by all present.

10. Highways Matters.

The Chairman referred to a meeting with the Highways Liaison Officer regarding the Highways Improvement Plan. He stated that he had indicated that new HGV Restriction signage would be installed at Redwall Lane and Berry Gardens, and a new sign would be installed for the church car park, however, to date no update had been received.

He asked the Clerk to liaise with the Highways Steward to seek the progress of this and clarification regarding the other items on the HIP.

Action: Clerk to action.

11. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

23/501744/FULL - Five Oak Stables Stilebridge Lane Linton Kent ME17 4DE

Siting of 12no. static mobile homes for Gypsy and Traveller use, with associated access track, parking, and landscaping.

Action: PC Objections and further clarification needed regarding the application.

b. Decisions and appeals.

23/501416/TCA

The Bull Inn Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AW

Conservation area notification to cut three Cherry trees back to the boundary and reduce to the following final dimensions: Cherry (T1 and T2) height 4.5m and 4m spread and Cherry (T3) 6m height and 4m spread.

No Objections

22/505947/FULL

Burford Farm Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BD

Demolition of The Granary building and erection of a four-bedroom residential dwelling including landscaping parking and access.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The overly domestic design of the proposed new build dwelling and the associated domestic paraphernalia in this rural location would be harmful to the character and appearance of the countryside. The proposal is contrary to policies SP17, DM1, and DM30 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017, the Landscape Character Assessment (2012 amended July 2013) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

(2) The proposal for a new dwelling fails to provide an adequate standard of design relative to the character and appearance of heritage assets within an historic rural farmstead and the poor design is not outweighed by any public benefit. The proposed replacement dwelling represents substantial reconstruction of the Granary which results in "less than substantial" harm to a non-designated heritage asset. The proposal is contrary to policies SP18, DM1, DM4 and DM30 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017, the Landscape Character Assessment (2012 amended July 2013) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

c. Other Planning Matters.

Fernham Homes Development – The Clerk was asked to report the advertising hoardings to MBC Enforcement as they were still in place and the development was now complete.

Action: Clerk to action.

12. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Cllr Urquhart reported that there were currently 2 vacancy plots and no one on the waiting list. She stated that she would now advertise the plots in other parishes.

She spoke regarding the rent review, and it was agreed that this should be placed on the July Agenda.

Action – Place rent review on July Agenda.

b. KALC.

No matters were reported.

c. Playground.

The Clerk informed members that a third quotation had still not been received despite seeking tenders from a number of playground companies. It was agreed to go ahead with the two quotations already received. As the quotation had now expired, it was agreed that a revised cost should be sought.

Action: Clerk to action.

d. Parish Website.

No matters were reported.

e. Speed Watch.

No matters were reported.

f. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Burden to pass details over to Cllr Paterson.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported in the Village Hall and the decisions of the Management Committee. She stated that the committee was now awaiting the results of the structural survey.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Richer reported on the litter pick carried out on 9th June.

13. Other matters and future agenda items.

Cllr Richer reported on the the Coronation BBQ event in the Parish
The Chairman thanked all concerns for their work on the event.

Annual Meeting – The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Clockhouse for attending the Annual Meeting.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Paul and Michael Firmin for the lunch to celebrate the Linton Volunteers for the late Ian Firmin.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Annual Meeting of the Parish and asked the Clerk to clarify the rules for this so that the PC could consider any ways to make this more popular.

Action: Clerk to action.

14. Date of the next Meeting.

10th July 2023

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____