

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 6th February 2017 at 7:30PM.**

***Councillors present: Pat Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Darren Carpenter
Ian Firmin
Jerry Whitmarsh***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and PCSO Waring.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillor Smith and MBC Councillors Mortimer & Webb.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Firmin – Wares Farm and Vicarage Field planning applications.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh 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.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that the first statutory notice had been placed on the Parish Council notice boards to advertise the vacancy.

It was reported that Maidstone Borough Council would notify the PC of the next stage and whether there would be an election or co-option of a new Councillor.

5. Police Report.

PCSO Ryan Waring attended the meeting and gave a crime report to all present.

He spoke regarding the PCSO cover for the area and informed members that there was a PCSO in training who would cover Linton from the end of March.

He stated that there was a spate of trailer thefts in the area at present and stated that action should be taken by owners to secure their trailers.

6. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

1. Invitation to Mayor's Charity St Patrick's Day Ceili Night - 17 March

The Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone

Cllr Derek Butler and Mrs Mary Butler

Invite you to attend their ST PATRICK'S DAY CEILI NIGHT

Friday, 17 March 2017 - 7.15pm

Tickets: £25 Town Hall, Maidstone

2. Freight Action Plan for Kent Public Consultation

Kent County Council is currently updating its Freight Action Plan for the county. Since the first Plan was adopted in 2012 Kent County Council have implemented a number of measures to reduce the negative impacts of road freight on residents and visitors in Kent. The latest version of the Freight Action Plan outlines what we have already done and what we plan to do next to mitigate these negative impacts, whilst still recognising the positive benefits to our economy. This consultation is an opportunity for people and organisations within Kent to express their views, including the extent to which they agree with our actions and approach to freight issues.

The Plan outlines five major actions which are:

1. *To tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent*
2. *To find a long term solution to Operation Stack*
3. *To effectively manage the routing of HGV traffic to ensure that such movements remain on the strategic road network for as much of its journey as possible*
4. *To take steps to address the problems caused by freight traffic to communities*
5. *To ensure that KCC continues to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic*

The **consultation has launched** today and will run for eight weeks until the **12th March 2017**. More details at: www.kent.gov.uk/freightactionplan.

3. BATTLE'S OVER - A NATIONS TRIBUTE & WW1 BEACONS OF LIGHT - 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

A letter from the Pageantmaster regarding the above event being organised to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on the 11th November 2018 and will represent "the light of hope".

Detailed co-ordination of this begins in April 2017, when a special "Guide to Taking Part" will be published, similar to that produce for HM The Queen's Birthday Beacons in April 2016.

You will need to confirm your involvement to the Pageantmaster as soon as possible to ensure that you are included in the Guide when it is published.

7. Conservation Management Plan.

The Chairman stated that Mike Parkinson, MBC Officer had retired from the Borough Council in December and the Conservation Management Plan was now being handed over to the Planning Department for action. He stated that this was due to be put before MBC on 14th March 2017 and as soon as this had been done, a consultation with all affected residents would take place.

He reported that MBC Councillor Brian Mortimer had stated that funds had been allocated by MBC to finance the consultation in the financial year starting April 2017, and promised a progress report for the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Cresswell reported that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to MBC regarding traffic management and this had been acknowledged.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Firmin reported on the highway matters.

He reported that tree surgery had been undertaken on Linton Hill to remove overhanging tree branches.

He stated that Vanity Lane had been repaired to a good standard.

Cllr Firmin stated that the flag flying responsibility had now been passed to a local resident.

Footpath lighting: it was agreed that we would go ahead with installing an additional light at the car park end of the footpath beside the church leading to the A229.

Action: Cllr Firmin to confirm quote and arrange installation

Linton Crossroads.

The Chairman spoke regarding the plans by KCC to improve the Linton Crossroads and stated that DHA had also put forward some plans as part of their proposals for Vicarage Fields. He stated that he would circulate these to members for information.

He said he did not feel that either scheme would make any material difference to the crossroads, however he suggested that this item should be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

Safe Crossing of the A229

Cllr Whitmarsh circulated a report of a meeting with KCC and DHA Planning regarding a safe crossing of the A229. He stated that the conclusion of the meeting was that a safe crossing was unlikely to go ahead because of visibility issues and DHA would look into the possibility of village gates and an island.

A discussion took place regarding this matter. Cllr Whitmarsh stated that KCC would not support a 20mph speed limit outside the village hall and it was hoped that village gates would help reduce the speed of vehicles through the village centre.

Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to circulate DHA Planning's report when available. Cllr Firmin to liaise with KCC.

9. Public Comments and Observations.

No public comments were raised.

10. Ward Councillors Report.

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

11. KCC Councillors Report.

Councillor Stockell was not present at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Stockell had looked positively at the grant request of £1,000 towards a parish defibrillator. It was agreed that this should be progressed.

Action: Clerk to action.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account	£22,553.14
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£686.50
	£621.50
Closing Balance on Current Account	£21,245.14

The Clerk informed members that the 2017/18 Parish Services Scheme grant was £1525.00. The Chairman signed the Parish Services Agreement for MBC.

Action: Clerk to forward to MBC.

13. Planning Matters.

16/508659/FULL Land South of Redwall Lane Linton Kent

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of B8 warehouse building with ancillary offices, dock levellers, access, parking, and landscaping including the creation of new woodland and attenuation pond.

It was agreed that this application would be discussed in detail at the end of the meeting.

17/500174/LBC Rosehill Vanity Lane Linton Kent ME17 4BP

Listed Building Consent for the reinstatement of two original windows and the replacement of remaining poor quality, ill fitting, modern softwood windows (Works Commenced)

No Objections.

Local Plan – Cllr Cresswell reported on the Local Plan.

14. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Allotments Manager, Mrs Sawyer submitted the following written report to the meeting.

Some of the ploholders have started to dig over their plots, though wet and icy weather has made work difficult.

Three sheds have been removed by outgoing tenants so there is now a reasonable space available should any ploholders wish to install a shed in future. To date, no sightings of rabbits have been reported.

George Brooker, who for many years kept an immaculate full sized plot until giving it up in October 2011, died in January. He was a familiar sight trundling his wheelbarrow full of garden tools between Cornwallis Avenue and the Allotments.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he would attend the next KALC meeting.

c. Playground.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that Cllr Butters had been responsible for the playground and he asked if a member would take over this role. Cllr Carpenter stated that he would keep an eye on the play area and report back to future Parish Council meetings.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the website was progressing well and was up-to-date.

e. Speed Watch.

Speed Watch representative Mrs Sawyer submitted the following written report on Speed Watch.

We now have a new volunteer, Cllr Bernard Cresswell, who will also act as liaison between CSW and the Parish Council.

All training is being changed and updated to reflect a more efficient system of working with data in order to facilitate dealing with cross border offenders. All volunteers are now asked to register with CSW to comply with Health & Safety and Insurance requirements and to undertake refresher training.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding Speed watch and his role as Parish Liaison.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave her Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave her Village Hall report to the meeting.

She reported that David Sendles had been appointed as Chairman of the Trustees.

She reported that the refurbishment of the small meeting room had now been completed and it would be in full use in the near future.

h. Community Liaison.

No matters were reported.

15. Parish Litter Pick.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was now in a position to undertake a parish litter pick.

It was agreed that Cllr Whitmarsh would place an item in the Parish News to seek volunteers to take part in the litter pick and Cllr Firmin would coordinate the event and liaise with MBC to obtain suitable equipment etc.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that this would take place on Saturday 29th April 2017 from 10am to 12pm, meeting outside the allotments in Wheelers Lane.

Action: Cllrs Firmin and Whitmarsh to action.

16. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman stated that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on 18th April 2017.

He reported that he had been in contact with Linton Park to see if they would attend the Annual Meeting to give a presentation and he was currently awaiting a response.

17. Urgent Items.

Cllr Cresswell asked when the Honours Board in the Village Hall would be updated. The Chairman stated that Cllr Smith was dealing with this matter.

Action: Cllr Smith to have the Honours Board updated

18. Date of next Meeting.

10th April 2017.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.55PM.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____

Linton Parish Council

Planning Application for Wares Farm

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in the planning application for Wares Farm and left the meeting.

The Chairman spoke regarding the planning application and asked members for their views on this.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he objected to the planning application as he felt that the proposed development was in the wrong location. He stated that MBC had identified employment sites in the Local Plan and this was not one of them.

He spoke regarding the tourism industry within the parish and the loss of the views if the development was approved.

Cllr Carpenter stated that he felt that the proposed development was in an inappropriate location, however he was concerned at the loss of employment in the area if the development did not go ahead and stated that if the business relocated outside of the parish then this would have an impact on local businesses.

He stated that he did not object to the application.

Cllr Burden raised concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure to support development in the Borough. She stated that she did not object to the building as this was within the existing Wares Farm site, however she had concerns regarding the increase in the traffic and HGV's.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he was not in favour of the proposals as he too felt that this was in the wrong location. He stated that he also had severe concerns regarding the transport issues and the impact on the environment.

He stated that this was not a land allocation in the Local Plan. He spoke regarding Planning Policy ENV 28 of the existing Plan that would be retained in the new Local Plan and stated that the application contravened this.

He also referred to Planning Policy DN41 in the new draft Local Plan and stated that this protected the rural economy against the adverse impact of businesses and stated that he felt that this would apply to this application as in his view the business was too big for the parish.

He stated that Hunton Parish Council was also objecting to the application.

Cllr Whitmarsh thanked members for their views and stated that the overall view of the Parish Council appeared to be to object to the planning application, and he asked members to take a formal vote on this.

A formal vote was cast and three Councillors raised objects to the application and one raised no objections, it was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would raise objections to the proposals to develop Wares Farm.

The Chairman stated that he would draft a letter of objection covering the concerns of the Parish Council and circulate to all members for approval before submitting this to MBC.

Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to action.