

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council  
held in Linton Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7:30PM.

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

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

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received MBC Councillors Mortimer, Farmor, and KCC Councillor Stockell.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in Planning Matters.

**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 Firmin 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.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.**

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

**6. Conservation Area Management Plan.**

The Chairman reported that the new Conservation Officer had been in post for a few months, and it was disappointing that the Linton Conservation Management Plan was still not being progressed.

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

**7. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Firmin stated that the interactive sign had been reported to KCC, he said that he would follow this up to seek the timescales for repair.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported on a Highways Meeting he had attended with representatives from Kent Highways. He stated that this was a positive meeting that had been called at the request of the Parish Council due to the increasing number of accidents on the A229.

He stated that they were reasonably receptive to the proposed highways improvements outside of the Village Hall.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that a report of the meeting would be issued to members and he had also circulated the accident statistics for information.

**8. Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were raised.

**9. Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Ward Councillor Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Parish Services Scheme and the dangerous junction on the A229.

**10. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

**11. 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	£22147.15
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Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
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Less Accounts for payment	£718.55
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	£0.00
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<b>Closing Balance on Current Account</b>	<b>£21428.60</b>
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Members approved addition cheques numbers 2124 and 2125 for payment.

The Parish Services Agreement was approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Action: Clerk to return form the MBC.**

**12. CCTV System.**

The Chairman informed members that he had emailed three estimates for the replacement of the CCTV System in the Church Car Park.

These were discussed, and it was agreed that the quotation from QTec, for the sum of £1890 would be accepted by the Parish Council, subject to clarification that the camera resolution was in line with the other quotations. (Whitmarsh/Cresswell).

**Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to progress.**

The Chairman stated that the cost of the CCTV System would be met by Alan Firmin Ltd via their agents, DHA Planning Ltd.

**13. Planning Matters.**

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that Planning Matters would be discussed at the end of the meeting to enable Cllr Firmin to leave the meeting early as he had declared an interest in a Planning application due to be considered by the PC. This was agreed by all present.

**New Applications Received**

<b>17/506515/FULL</b>	<b>Meryville, Linton Hill, Linton</b>
	Replacement of existing windows.

It was agreed that no objections would be raised provided the

Conservation Officer was satisfied that the new windows were in keeping with the character of the building and the conservation area generally.

**No Objections.**

**17/506297/FULL**

**Stilebridge Kennels White House Farm**

Stationing of temporary mobile home on land forming part of White House Farm in association operation of Stilebridge Kennels.

**No Objections.**

Cllr Cresswell stated that he felt that the plans were misleading, and he had sent a comment into MBC, he reported on their response and stated that he would be taking this up with Cllr Mortimer.

**18/500359/FULL**

**Redwall Oast Redwall Farmhouse, Redwall Lane, Linton**

Conversion of Oast House together with a two-storey extension to create a 3-bedroom dwelling.

The Chairman stated that he had looked at this application and he did not feel that there was a problem with the application. Members agreed, and no objections were raised.

**No Objections.**

**18/500214/FULL**

**Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU**

Application for the erection of polytunnels with associated landscaping.

***To be discussed at the end of the meeting as Cllr Firmin declared an interest in this planning application.***

**18/500618/FULL**

**Land South of Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent**

Erection of new doctor's surgery building with associated parking, landscaping, and creation of new vehicular access onto Heath Road.

***To be discussed at the end of the meeting as Cllr Firmin declared an interest in this planning application.***

**14. Parish Litter Pick.**

The Chairman stated that some of the Litter Pick rubbish bags had not been collected by MBC.

Cllr Firmin stated that he had been in contact with MBC and they were due to collect the bags in the next few days.

Members agreed that they felt that the litter picks were beneficial to the parish and they agreed that another one would be arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**15. Member Reports.**

**a. Parish Allotments.**

The following report was received from Allotments Manager Jane Sawyer.

*The Allotment Manager would like to respond to the Parish Council's contention that a 6ft boundary fence on the north boundary of the Allotments would not improve Allotment plotters' security (see Minute 15a LPC Meeting 8.1.18).*

*1 The gate on Wheeler's Lane is in frequent use by ploholders, in full sight of passers-by and adjoining properties, so it is unlikely to be used illicitly. Contingency plans are in place to fit a secure bolt with combination lock should there be any problem.*

*2 The north boundary is not clearly visible from the road or adjacent properties being too distant and would provide covert access to intruders to the area where there are sheds and plots full of produce. Access to Vicarage Field is at present barred from the A229 but if it is to become a development site it would be an easy unsupervised way in to the Allotments.*

*3 It would appear that the cost of a 6ft fence would be negligible and of direct benefit to the Parish Allotments, unlike the £1m offered by the developers to be spent on affordable housing outside Linton Parish. The Allotments are a valuable asset to the village, deserving protection.*

*I hope the Parish Council will reconsider their decision to renege on their original request for a fence, made on 23 June 2015.*

*Jane Sawyer  
10.2.18*

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the boundary fencing to the allotments and stated that the position was unchanged; the developers would be asked to provide suitable fencing and he was happy to liaise with DHA Planning regarding this matter.

**b. KALC.**

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

He spoke regarding Operation London Bridge, the protocol for this and the changes to Data Protection Regulations.

**Action: Clerk to place Data Protection on next agenda.**

He reported on the MBC Planning Department and stated that PC's could no longer ask for an extension to the deadlines.

He stated that the KALC were looking into the cost of air quality environmental monitoring equipment for parishes.

**c. Playground.**

Cllr Potter circulated a report regarding the playground to all members. This gave an update on the progress of the playground. She confirmed that all agreed work had now been completed at the site.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the surfacing at the playground did need to be replaced at some point and DHA had stated that they would arrange for the developers to undertake some improvements as part of the development project.

**d. Parish Website.**

Cllr Whitmarsh reported on the progress of the Linton Website.

**e. Speed Watch.**

Cllr Cresswell reported that following a leaflet drop of houses in Linton one volunteer had come forward, he stated that there were now six volunteers which would enable two teams to operate. It was agreed that a programme of Speedwatch sessions would be undertaken within the next month.

**f. Neighbourhood watch.**

Cllr Burden gave a Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

*One crime reported in Linton, some plants stolen from a garden on Linton Hill.*

*Several other crimes in and around the area. The search for the elderly lady missing recently has been called off. Extensive searches were carried out without success.*

*I attended the AGM at the Police headquarters in Maidstone on 29th November. This was attended by approximately 45 representatives from a total group of between 300 -400 co-ordinators. Matthew Scott, Police and Crime Commissioner gave a talk and thanked all who helped the police and appreciated the NHW chair who wants NHW to assist the police.*

*Inspector Mark Hedges also gave a talk. Mark is responsible for the Community Policing Team and PCSO's also gave a talk. He expressed thanks to the NHW partnership with the police for helping make communities safer.*

*Two members of the Frontier Engagement Team and Joint Border Intelligence Unit also gave a talk that by its very nature, is on restricted circulation.*

*Inspector Jodie Gagan-Cook gave a talk regarding Police Volunteers and said that they are still looking to increase the number of volunteers in several different roles from as young as 13 years old. Jodie said that although some individuals do not wish to be part of the NHW community, they do report odd matters which, is a help to the police.*

*An award was given to Dave Spitter as Co-ordinator of the year. A raffle was held to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.*

*The date for the next meeting will be announced later in 2018*

**g. Linton Village Hall.**

Cllr Burden gave a report on the Village Hall to members.

*The Trustees held a regular meeting on 22nd January.*

*The end of year financial situation is relatively the same as at the end of 2016. Slightly less income but also less expenditure. It was decided to advertise the Cornwallis Room in the Wealden Advertiser (Committee Room) for four weeks. This is to spread the word that the room is available for hire and from that to encourage people to use it. There is now an oak table in the Cornwallis Room together with wooden chairs. It was decided to put the renovation of the front forecourt and provision of a ramp on hold until 2019.*

*Cindy from Cherubs is delighted with the new cleaning arrangements and although the cost is somewhat greater than previously, it means that committee members do not have to step in when the previous cleaners have not been available for whatever reason.*

*The next meeting is 5th March.*

**h. Community Liaison.**

No matters were raised.

**16. Urgent Items.**

No matters were raised.

**17. Date of next Meeting.**

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

**13. Planning Matters Continued.**

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in the following applications and left the meeting.

**18/500214/FULL      Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU**

Application for the erection of polytunnels with associated landscaping.

Cllr smith spoke regarding this application and stated that he supported this as there was a need to grow fruit in the area.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he shared this view and although polytunnels are unsightly he would reluctantly raise no objections to the application.

Cllr Cresswell raised concerns regarding the materials used for poly tunnels.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that Cllr Smith would look at the application in more detail and circulate his views to members

**Action: Cllr Smith to Action.**

**18/500618/FULL      Land South of Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent**

Erection of new doctor's surgery building with associated parking, landscaping, and creation of new vehicular access onto Heath Road.

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding this application, he stated that there was an exhibition towards the end of last year to show the plans.

He stated that this was a difficult application as medical facilities were desirable but he was concerned about the proposed location for the surgery.

Cllr Webb spoke regarding the views of Coxheath Parish Council, he stated that they would like to see the surgery within Coxheath and within walking distance for the population.

The Chairman referred to an email received from residents raising objections to the application. He stated that he had advised the residents to make their views known to MBC as part of the consultation process.

A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the Parish Council would raise objections to the application by five votes in favour of objecting ,with one abstention by Cllr Carpenter.

The Chairman stated that he would draft a letter for circulation to all members objecting to the application.

**Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to Action.**

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.25pm.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_