

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 10th February 2020 at 7:30PM.**

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Darren Carpenter
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 MBC Councillor 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 Smith as a true record, subject to an agreed amendment, this were 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.

Parish Defibrillator – Cllr Smith stated that he had now labelled the Defibrillator.

Trees – Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the free trees for the parish and suggested that a notice was placed in the Parish News offering free trees to residents once they had been received.

Cllr Smith stated that he could accommodate 500 trees on his land and store some if necessary, he stated that he had emailed the Rotary Club on this matter and was awaiting a response.

AGM – The Clerk confirmed that the hall had been booked for the AGM on 27th April 2020.

Gate at the Almshouses – Cllr Smith stated that he was looking into this as it didn't appear that the stoppers were the issue.

Action: Cllr Smith to attempt to find with possible solution.

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 KCC for costing, he stated that he would chase Jennie Watson regarding this matter.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to action.

He stated that he would place a item in the Parish Newsletter regarding the traffic works for Vicarage Field.

7. Public Comments and Observations

No matters were raised.

8. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Cllrs Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He stated that a representative from the Village Hall Management Committee had been in contact with him regarding the Village Hall roof and funding sources were being explored.

He stated that he had contacted MBC to seek confirmation regarding their support for the litter picks and would report back when he had received their response.

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

Berry Gardens – He reported that he had attended a meeting at Berry Gardens on 22nd January and their new offices were now fully operational.

He spoke regarding the traffic management for the site and stated that the lorry movements along Redwall Lane were being monitored.

Cllr Cresswell stated that Berry Gardens had sonic fencing to deal with the noise from the generators and they were due to plant trees to mitigate the noise issues.

He stated that they were aware of light pollution and had taken actions to mitigate this.

He said that this had been included in his report for the newsletter to keep resident updated.

Linton Crossroads – Councillor Webb reported that DHA had drawn up the design for the Linton Crossroads and KCC had stated that there were insufficient funds to complete the work and DHA was following this up.

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	£24653.15
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£1055.60
	£0.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£23597.55

11. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

19/506372/FULL Yew Tree Cottage Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent
Conversion of existing detached garage for use as holiday let.

19/503430/FULL Romany Stables Stilebridge Lane Linton
Variation of condition 1 to application 16/506241/FULL for 1 no. timber framed amenity block, 2 no. mobile homes, 2 no. touring caravans with associated parking and 2 no. timber stables - with the addition of 2 No further mobile homes with associated parking.

MBC Applications Decisions

19/506190/LDCEX

Westerhill Farm Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BS

Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of a pool as a physiotherapy business, including private swimming lessons, private family use and the approved tourist use (MA/09/1166).

Application Permitted

19/506115/FULL

Westerhill Farm Westerhill Road Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BS

Demolition of existing rear extensions. Erection of new single storey rear extension and garden room with the reinstatement of porch.

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b. Call for Sites.

The Chairman reported that a letter from the PC ad been submitted to the Borough Council regarding the Call for Sites and he asked if members felt that this letter should be published on the website.

This was discussed and agreed.

Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to place letter on PC website.

c. Other Planning Matters.

No matters were raised.

12. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

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

Following the drainage works, the path has been re-laid. It now has a grass border which improves the appearance. However, several paving slabs were damaged and though these have now been replaced there are slabs missing where they were used for a stand for the MBC garden waste wheelie bin. These will need to be replaced since the bin is too heavy to stand on soil.

There have been complaints from tenants – one is missing an edging board and other boards are broken on his plot (see email of 25 January forwarded to the Clerk). There is no turf between the sheds, leaving a dangerously slippery muddy surface. The top end of the path is shorter than before and uneven grass put down.

The north boundary is more open than ever, since much of the hedging and trees have been cut down and/or grubbed up. This emphasizes the lack of protection for plot holders, their sheds and contents. I understand that a 6ft fence will be erected in due course. The rabbit fence on the west boundary has deteriorated and would benefit by being replaced in order to fulfil the Council's Obligations 3 (2) to keep all boundary fences and hedges on the allotment site belonging to the Council in a reasonable state of repair.

There are still ongoing problems with plot 12a, I would suggest that the tenant's Agreement is terminated under Condition 1. (4) (b) with 28 days' notice.

The report was discussed, and it was agreed that the Allotments Manager should take any action she felt necessary regarding plot holders not tending to their plots.

The Chairman stated that the work on the Easement had now been completed and the remedial work was still to be undertaken. He stated that there was an issue with mud at the Allotments and the work would be undertaken when the weather was better.

He stated that he had inspected the boundary fence and he felt that this was in a satisfactory condition and no action was needed at present.

It was agreed that Cllr Whitmarsh would liaise with the contractor regarding the remedial work.

Cllr Cresswell reported that whilst inspecting the Allotments it was noted that the water had been turned on and an additional pipe had been installed to Vicarage Field, it appeared that the contractors were using the allotment water supply without the permission of the Parish Council. He stated that a request to use the water on a temporary basis had been received from the developer, but no permission had been given.

This was discussed, it was noted that the water had been turned off at the Allotments over the winter period and Cllr Whitmarsh was asked to discuss this with the developer.

It was agreed that the Clerk would forward all water bills to Cllr Whitmarsh to enable him to discuss the water issues with the developer.

It was reported that a manhole cover was pouring with water at the Wheelers Lane gate entrance of the Allotments, he stated that he would discuss this with the Allotment Manager.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the pipe had been laid on a gravel and sand base and this was acting as a drainage point for excess water on the Allotments.

It was agreed that this matter should also be raised with the developer.

Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to discuss issues raised with Fernham Homes via a site meeting.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported on the issues raised in the KALC minutes.

c. Playground.

Cllr Cresswell asked the Clerk to liaise with Linda Potter to see if she was still willing to inspect the children's playground on a regular basis.

Action: Clerk to Action.

d. Parish Website.

The Clerk reported on the Accessibility Regulations that the PC needed to comply with regarding the parish website.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he would recommend that the Parish Council transferred their website to a Hugo Fox website, and he suggested that members look at other Hugo Fox parish websites.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would need to find someone to update the village pages on a regular basis. It was agreed that a item would be placed in the newsletter to try to find a volunteer.

The Chairman spoke regarding businesses in the parish and suggested that the PC had a list of these as it would be beneficial for them to have copies of the parish newsletter. Cllr Webb stated that he may be able to assist with this.

Action: Clerk to contact mbc to enquire if MBC will release info.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW matters.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported on the progress of the Village Hall.

She stated that there was an issue with the roof leaking and the Village Hall was looking at funding sources to try to assist with this.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Cresswell reported that the litter pick had taken place on 8th February 2020 and 30 bags of rubbish had been collected.

He thanked Loddington for their contribution and Berry Gardens for their team of six volunteers.

He stated that the next litter pick would take place on 2nd May 2020.

13. Urgent Items.

Friends of Linton Church AGM – 25th March 2020

Parish Annual Meeting of the Parish – 27th April 2020 – the Chairman stated that he had arranged for a Guest Speaker from Linton Park to attend the AGM.

Almshouses salt bin – the Chairman stated that an unofficial salt bin in the Church Car Park to the rear of the Almshouses was causing an issue as it was now being used as a rubbish bin, he stated that this needed to be removed. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would arrange for this to be removed.

Action: Cllr Smith to progress.

It was reported that a portable toilet had arrived in the church car park and the Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC to establish why.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Chairman spoke regarding the old parish council minutes that were currently being held by past Parish Councillor Richard Butters. He stated that the PC should arrange for these to be returned to the PC and placed in storage. He asked members to consider where these should be stored for future reference.

Cllr Smith stated that he would contact Richard Butters regarding the return of the minutes.

Action: Cllr Smith to Action.

The Chairman spoke regarding the crash debris littered in the parish and stated that the PC should establish a contact at the Borough Council who was responsible for the clearance of this. This was discussed and Cllr Webb stated that he would liaise with MBC and report back.

Action: Cllr Webb to Action.

14. Date of April PC Meeting.

The Clerk inform members that the date of the April PC meeting had been changed to 6th April to avoid Easter Monday.

15. Date of the next Meeting.

9th March 2020.

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

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Date _____