

Linton Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council

held by Zoom on 12th April 2021 at 7:30PM.

Councillor's present: *Patricia Burden*
Bernard Cresswell
Peter Lewis
Julie Urquhart

Also, present: *Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington and MBC Councillor Parfitt-Reid and two members of the public.*

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Smith, Gerrish, and Carpenter due to work commitments.

The Chairman spoke regarding the forthcoming elections and stated that Councillors Smith and Carpenter were not standing for re-election. He spoke regarding their past work for the PC and in particular the work undertaken by Cllr Smith as Tree warden and Pond Warden.

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 Burden as a true record, this were 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.

Signage – Wares Farm/ Berry Gardens

Cllr Cresswell reported that he had held a conversation with Michael Firmin regarding the signage for HGVs leaving the Berry Gardens and Wares Farm sites, and he had indicated that he would be willing to install additional signage to direct HGVs to the motorway.

He asked the Clerk to liaise with the Firmings to confirm that this was still the case.

Action: Clerk to action.

PC Facebook Page

Cllr Lewis confirmed that he was still looking into this.

He stated that this was not run by the PC, it was run by a resident and the Parish Council was a contributor.

Annual Meeting of the Parish

It was agreed that the PC would await the decision regarding face-to-face meetings before agreeing a date for the AGM.

CCTV

Cllr Cresswell stated that he would meet with the contractor regarding the CCTV fault in the church.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

She confirmed that there was a uncontested election in Linton and as a result there would be three vacancies after 6th May.

6. Public Participation.

No matters were raised by members of the public.

7. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

MBC Cllr Parfitt-Reid gave her report to the meeting.

- She reported that she had received a response regarding the Linton Crossroads, this did not indicate whether the funds were in place for the improvements or not. She stated that the information was not forthcoming at present due to Purdah.
- She was still looking into the flooding issues.
- She reported that the election cycle at MBC was currently under review.
- A boundary review was also being undertaken by the Boundary Commission to look at Wards within MBC.

8. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Urquhart/Burden).

9. Highways and Flooding.

Cllr Urquhart stated that there had been some communication with Berry Gardens regarding HGV parking. Berry Gardens were due to circulate information to drivers in multiple languages regarding the facilities at the site.

She stated that the issue was the parking when they left the site, and this was not necessary as there were adequate facilities at the Berry Gardens site.

10. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

21/501182/FULL 1 Hilltop Cottages Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent ME17
Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey annexe
(Resubmission of 20/504555/FULL).

No objections.

21/501403/FULL 28 Cornwallis Avenue Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BW
Erection of a replacement porch.

No Objections.

- 21/500517/FULL Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU
Section 73 - Application for Removal of condition 2 (time limiting the polythene coverage of the tunnels) pursuant to application 19/505352/FULL for - Erection of polytunnels with associated soft landscaping and drainage works, including the provision of swales and principle of reservoir.
Additional Information
Objections.
- 21/500335/FULL Land at Rankins Redwall Lane Linton Kent ME17 4AU
Section 73 - Application for removal of part (b) of condition 2 (period of time the polytunnels can be covered) pursuant to 18/506176/FULL for - Minor Material Amendment to condition 9 appended to planning permission ref : 18/500214 (erection of polytunnels with associated landscaping) to enable construction of drainage basins and swales.
Additional Information
Objections.

The additional information for the Land at Rankins Farm was discussed by member's and it was agreed that a further objection letter with additional comments should be submitted in objections to the applications.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he had drafted a letter for members consideration, and he would circulate this for comment.

Action: PC Objection letter to be agreed and submitted.

MBC Applications Decisions

- 21/500416/FULL
Apple Tree Cottage Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4NT
Erection of a detached dwelling house with attached garage. Erection of a two-storey rear extension and enlargement of existing first floor including raised roof to existing dwelling house.
Application Refused
- 21/500924/AGRIC
Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU
Prior notification for excavation to construct an agricultural reservoir, for its prior approval to: - Siting.
Prior Approval Not Required
- 21/500380/TCA
Toke Place Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AP
Conservation area notification to crown reduce one Horse Chestnut to final height of 11m, reducing width to final radial distances of 7m on the west side, 5.5m on the south side, and 5.5m on the north side; Reduce phototropic limbs, over the highway, of one Horse Chestnut by 2 -3 metres leaving 4 metres, raise crown to 5 metres and remove major deadwood.
No Objections

b. Berry Gardens.

The Chairman reported on a meeting that had taken place with Berry Gardens to discuss lorries, noise, and light pollution. He stated that they had acknowledged that that lorries parking overnight at the old site were an issue.

He stated that they were working to reduce the external lighting in by 25% and the internal lighting at the site

He suggested that the Parish Council await the outcome and monitor the situation regarding the reduction in lighting.

He stated that a follow up meeting had been arranged for 10th May 2021.

c. Other Planning Matters.

Reed Court Application

The Chairman reported that DHA Planning had written giving various assurances that there would be no external lighting.

He suggested that the PC should request that this formed part of the planning conditions.

This was discussed by members and Cllr Urquhart stated that the objections from the Parish Council and the residents had not been taken into consideration, she suggested that the Parish Council should reiterate its original objections.

She spoke regarding the objections raised regarding animal welfare and suggested that the PC should respond to the revised plans as the changes did not alleviate the concerns of the PC.

The geology of the area had not been addressed or pollutants going into the River Buett.

A general discussion took place, and it was agreed that the PC would await communications from regarding a possible collective response from adjacent parishes before submitting its revised objections.

11. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Cllr Urquhart reported on an meeting she had attended with Fernham Homes. She stated that the boundary questions had been addressed and Fernham Homes were looking into who held the responsibility for the boundary.

She reported that the paving slabs at the entrance to the allotments would be monitored going forward into winter.

She stated that Fernham Homes had agreed to tidy up the northern boundary that abuts the footpath and the A229, and they had addressed the issue of the lights overlooking residents' properties by putting them on a timer.

She stated that it was a positive meeting, and they were working with the Parish Council.

Cllr Urquhart referred to a report circulated regarding structures on the allotment site.

She stated that an issue had arisen due to a large-scale poly tunnel being erected at the site.

At the time this matter was addressed by the PC and the Tenancy Agreement was amended to cover structures to limit their size. She suggested that this matter should be revisited as there were currently ten structures at the site that appeared to be larger than the permitted size.

She stated that the Tenancy Agreement needed to be revised to clarify what structures were permitted.

This was discussed and it was agreed that structures defined structures covered in plastic structures covered in netting was permitted.

It was agreed that Cllr Urquhart would amend the Tenancy Agreement to clarify this.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to action.

b. KALC.

No matters were raised.

c. Playground.

No matters were raised.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Lewis gave a report on the website.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported that Speed Watch was now permitted, and he would contact the volunteers regarding this.

f. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported that the Village Hall.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Urquhart reported that a socially distanced litter pick was currently being undertaken.

She asked if the Parish Council would consider investing in some litter picking equipment. This was discussed and agreed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Urquhart for her work on the litter picks.

12. Urgent Matters.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the proposed signage to encourage walkers to cross the road up from the Alms Houses as a safer route. He stated that he had progressed this and the cost of the signage was 4 signs at £55 plus vat.

This expenditure was approved by members.

He referred to an email enquiry from a Canadian regarding their ancestry and stated that he would liaise with Cllr Smith re the historical minutes.

He reported that the signage at Vanity Lane, Wheelers Lane and Barnes Lane was missing.

The Clerk was asked to report this to MBC.

Action: Clerk to progress.

13. Date of the next Meeting.

10th May 2021.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the Zoom meeting.

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

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____