

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held by Zoom on 13th July 2020 at 7:30PM.**

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Peter Lewis
Julie Urquhart***

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Adoption of addendum to the Parish Councils Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Cllr Urquhart to adopt the addendum to the Parish Councils Standing Orders, covering Remote meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed by all present.

2. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

Cllr Cresswell informed the meeting that Councillor Jerry Whitmarsh had resigned from the Parish Council during the lockdown period.

He spoke regarding the service of Jerry Whitmarsh, and his work for the Parish Council. He stated that the Council was grateful to him for his long and excellent service to the parish, that was above and beyond expectations of any councillor. He stated that he would be missed. and wished him and his wife good luck on their new adventure.

3. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Highways Landscaping – Cllr Cresswell reported on the highways landscaping and road safety projects. He stated that the two projects were being split into two separate projects.

The highways landscaping was scheduled to be undertaken during this financial year. The landscaping outside of the church and the relocation of the bus stop would be undertaken when budgets allowed.

List of businesses in Linton – The Chairman reported that letters had been sent to all businesses in Linton, inviting them to engage with the Parish Council and sign up to receive copies of the newsletter.

Salt Bin in Church Car Park – Cllr Cresswell stated that the salt bin had been removed by Cllr Smith as agreed at a previous meeting.

Mowing of bank near church – Cllr Cresswell stated that Cllr Smith was seeking a quotation from a local company to carry out this work. He stated that he would follow this up with him.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to action.

Missing litter bin – Cllr Cresswell reported that the litter bin was still missing from the lay-by opposite Tote Place and he asked the Clerk to follow this up with MBC.

Action: Clerk to progress.

KCC Councillors Report – The Chairman reported that the grant application to KCC, for the interactive sign was not being progressed, as KCC would not install any new speed signs until a speed survey had been undertaken. They were not willing to undertake a survey until the programmed work had been completed. Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the history of the site.

Planning Matters – Cllr Cresswell stated that Ward Councillor Webb was due to establish how MBC dealt with Parish Councils, when an application was adjourned at a Planning Committee Meeting. He stated that he would follow this up with Councillor Webb.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to action.

Playground, Vicarage Field – Cllr Cresswell reported that DHA Planning was due to contact Fernham Homes to ensure that the agreed work would be undertaken at the play area. It was agreed that Cllr Urquhart would liaise with Fernham Homes regarding this matter.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to action.

Cllr Urquhart spoke regarding the gate at the play area leading onto the new development, she stated that a lockable gate was due to be installed to ensure that it was not used as a shortcut by residents.

Parish Website – The Chairman reported that the new website was now up and running, and he thanked Peter Lewis for doing this.

Historical Minutes – Outstanding action for Cllr Smith to contact Richard Butters for retrieval of historical minutes.

Linton AGM – The Chairman reported that the AGM was cancelled due to the pandemic, and therefore he had produced an Annual Report which was now on the website and would be advertised in the summer edition of the parish newsletter.

He stated that the Certificates of Recognition for nominated residents would be presented to them in the near future.

Flooding issues – Cllr Urquhart stated that she had met with KCC, and they had agreed that they were going to write to the landowners to remind them of their responsibilities regarding riparian rights, and how they could manage ditches and drainage on their land. She stated that she would keep the Parish Council updated on this matter.

6. Ratification of decisions made under delegated authority.

1. April 2020 Financial Statement.
2. May 2020 Financial Statement.
3. June 2020 Financial Statement.
4. To hold over the Annual Meeting and Offices until May 2021.

The above items determined under delegated authority were proposed by Cllr Cresswell, seconded by Cllr Urquhart, and agreed by all present.

7. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Chairman informed members that following the loss of Cllr Firmin and the resignation of Cllr Whitmarsh, there were now two vacancies on the Parish Council. He stated that MBC had now given the approval to Co-opt a councillor for one vacancy.

He stated that there was one application for the vacancy, he introduced resident, Peter Lewis, to the meeting.

Members considered the application put forward by Peter Lewis, and it was proposed by Cllr Cresswell that he be Co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Urquhart, and agreed by all present.

The Clerk informed Mr Lewis that the paperwork, and Acceptance of Office forms, would be put in the post to him for signing by the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to send forms to Mr Lewis.

8. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

9. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

10. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

MBC Cllr Webb gave his apologies to the meeting.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2019/2020 Accounts and Annual Return.

The 2019/20 Accounts and Annual Return were circulated to members for their consideration.

The Clerk informed members that the accounts had been audited in line with the regulations, and the Annual Return and Exemption Certificate completed for approval and signing by members.

These were discussed by members, and it was proposed by Cllr Cresswell to accept, and approve the accounts as read, this was seconded by Cllr Burden and approved by all present.

The Accounts, Annual Return and Exemption Certificate was signed and dated by the Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council.

12. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

New Applications Received

20/500661/FULL

17 Cornwallis Avenue Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BW

Create a hard standing to front garden to include a cross over from a minor road.

- 20/500659/FULL Barn A Northwest Of 2 The Paddocks Loddington Lane
Conversion of agricultural barn and associated land to 2no. residential dwellings.
- 20/501152/FULL Land Adjacent to The Cherry Patch Linton Hill Linton
Erection of a 3-bedroom detached dwelling.
- 20/502347/FULL 3 Stone Cottages Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent
Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a two-storey rear extension and detached double garage with extension of driveway.
- 20/502591/FULL Redwall Farmhouse Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent
Demolition of porch, 2no. extensions and 1no. boiler room. Erection of detached cart lodge/garage, front porch, part single, part two storey extension to West and single storey side extension to East.

b. Call for Sites.

No matters were raised.

c. Other Planning Matters.

MBC Applications Decisions

20/501152/FULL

Land Adjacent to The Cherry Patch Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AP

Erection of a 3-bedroom detached dwelling.

Application Refused

Cllr Cresswell stated that the PC objected to this application, which had now been refused, he stated that he would like to put a follow-up letter to Maidstone Borough Council regarding the fencing and the removal of trees at the site.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that Cllr Cresswell would draft a letter, and circulate to members for comments prior to sending to Maidstone Borough Council.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to progress.

20/500659/FULL

Barn A Northwest Of 2 The Paddocks Loddington Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AG

Conversion of agricultural barn and associated land to 2no. residential dwellings.

Application Permitted

13. Member Reports.

Parish Allotments.

A written report from the Allotments Manager was noted.

Allotment Rent Review – It was agreed that the rental charge for the allotments would remain unchanged, and there would be no increase this year.

Allotment water usage – The Chairman stated that the Parish Council were currently paying for the water usage by direct debit, and it appeared that the water company advanced charged for this based on estimates. He stated that regular meter readings were now being undertaken and submitted to the company, to ensure that the correct usage was charged for.

Allotment Bin – The Chairman stated that at present Mrs Sawyer stored a large bin for the allotment holders use at her property, however the contract was now being reviewed, and Mrs Sawyer had asked for this to be removed. He asked for members views.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that Mrs Sawyer should ask for the bin to removed, and the allotment holders should be responsible for the disposal of their own rubbish.

Allotment Manager – The Chairman stated that Mrs Sawyer currently looked after the allotments in the role as Allotment Manager, and she had now indicated that she wished to give up this role, therefore the Parish Council needed to identify somebody to take over from her.

This was discussed by members and Cllr Urquhart agreed to take over the role from Mrs Sawyer, with the assistance of Cllr Burden.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to liaise with Mrs Sawyer regarding this matter.

Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

Litter Pick

Cllr Urquhart Reported that the litter picks were on hold at present as Maidstone Borough Council were not yet allowing these to be arranged.

14. Date of the next Meeting.

14th September 2020.

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 9.00pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____