

# **LINTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the LINTON PARISH COUNCIL held at 7.30pm in the Linton Village Hall, Linton on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

### **PRESENT**

Cllrs C.Baxter ,Mrs.Sawyer, Mrs M. Price, I. Firmin, J. Smith and J. Whitmarsh (vice Chairman)

Borough Councillors J. Wilson and B. Mortimer

Cty Cllr Mrs P.Stockell

PC G.Shaw

M.D. Stevens Parish Clerk

There were 2 members of the public present.

Before formally opening the meeting the Chairman, Cllr Baxter, thanked the vice Chairman Cllr Whitmarsh for 'standing in' for him at the Remembrance Day Service and for laying the Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Cllr.C.Parr.

### **2. MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Monday 7th September 2009 which had been previously circulated to all Members, and after the clarification of two points, they were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Before taking Matters Arising, the Chairman invited PC G Shaw to give his report. PC Shaw stated that there had been three crimes in the Village since the PCI met i) Interference with a vehicle (tractor) at Westerhill Farm ii)An attempted burglary with intent to steal in Vanity Lane and iii) Theft by finding, Electricity Cable in Wheelers Lane.

An reminder was given to be constantly vigilant during the festive season and to ensure that cars and other machinery, together with sheds and outhouses etc were kept secure.

Speed checks had been carried out on the A229 on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009, one ticket being issued and three drivers given advice. This was in addition to the regular checks by the Speedwatch team. Cllr Whitmarsh enquired if there was any evidence to indicate whether the various Speedwatch Checks out and around the Borough were having any effect making motorists aware of their speed. PC Shaw indicated that as far as he was aware there were no indications, as such, however he felt that in due time an analysis of the data currently being collected would make it possible to give a view.

He asked to be informed when the Speedwatch Teams would be operational. The Clerk agreed to speak to Dr Coutts and arrange for him to let PCShaw have the information.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

Conservation Management Plan  
Nothing had been received

Coxheath Traffic Calming.

Action had been taken to remove some of the Traffic Buildouts which seemed to be offering a slight improvement although it was evident that the distance between two of the Buildouts was possibly too short and therefore still dangerous. The new arrangements were to be reviewed in six months time.

Westerhill

The Clerk reported that he had again been in contact with Kent Highways re the above and their reply had been circulated with the other papers. Concern was again expressed about one section of the Hill which clearly required attention and was getting worse. Cllr Mrs Stockell indicated that a small sum of additional funding had become available to do 'one off' small jobs and agreed to take up the case. Copies of past correspondence with Kent Highways were given to her

Cllr Mrs Stockell commented on the fact that the Gullies on the A229 had now been cleared and that there had been a recognition by Kent Highways that more regular cleaning programme was essential due to the amount of materials that were washed down the hill.

It was reported that potholes and some road repairs had taken place in Wheelers Lane and Redwall Lane

Cllr Firmin reported that he attended a training session held by Kent Highways and that Linton PC was now 'on line' with Kent Highways. He possessed the password and was now able to report problems 'on line' Would Councillors therefore, who wished to report a Highway matter please contact him.

\* Any other matter arising would be dealt with under the relevant Agenda Items

#### **4. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

See items in 3 above Matters Arising

#### **5a. COMMENTS by the PUBLIC**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to hear comments from the public.

Attention was drawn to the need for an additional Litter Bin on the Children's Playground.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for a new bin to be purchased. It was also understood that Mrs Holt would arrange for the both bins to be emptied as required.

#### **5b. COMMENTS from County and Borough Members**

Cllr Mrs Stockell gave a brief resume of the current Budgetary problems being faced by the County Council

Cllr Mortimer confirmed the previous comments on the Traffic Calming measures in Coxheath and indicated that he felt sure both he and his other colleagues would be prepared to make a contribution to a new waste bin for the Playground.

There being no further comments the Chairman resumed the Parish Council Meeting

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance Brought Forward		13113.58
18.09.09	Members Grant	750.00
23.10.09	Concurrent Functions	2420.00
26.10.09	" "	25.00
30.10.09	Allotment Rents	261.25
		-----
		16569.83
Payments Made.		
00.09.09	MAIDSTONE CAB (Donation)	30.00
02.10.09	LA landscapes (Playground)	193.78
	Chippings (Strimming)	94.00
	Audit Commission	155.25
	MDS Printing Ink	54.45
	MDS Clerks expenses	159.78
	Clerks Salary	639.80
26.10.09	KPS (Printing)	11.73
	KALC Conference Fee	8.50
	Shaw and Sons (Receipt Book)	21.86
08.ii.09	S.E.Water (Allotments)	115.39
	M.Brooker (Allotment Pipe)	344.00
	" ( " Tap)	34.00
	" (Street Lights )	87.00
	R.Bettle (re Poppy Wreath)	30.00
		-----
Payments Made.		
		1979.54
		-----
Balance Carried Forward		14590.29
		=====

A letter of thanks for the donation from the PC had been received from Maidstone CAB

A request for support had been received from Maidstone Victim Support. It was agreed to make a donation of £30

Joint Parishes Group request for a contribution towards the cost of KIG  
This item was deferred until Item 7e

### Budget Preparation 20010/2011

The Clerk advised the meeting that the MBC would be requiring details of the proposed Parish Precept for 2010/2011 by the end of January. (Details yet to be received from the Borough... expected towards mid December). Councillors were reminded of the arrangements set in place last year to draw up the Budget. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllrs Firmin and Whitmarsh together with the Clerk, should prepare the necessary documents for presentation to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Councillors confirmed that they would not be seeking any allowances but reserved the right to claim travel and subsistence allowances, in accordance with the agreed scale, if on Parish Council business

The Clerk had been assured that the Concurrent Function Funding arrangements would be available during the next financial Year.

## 7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Outstanding Planning Applications

**MA/07/2059**

3.11.09

**The Cottage,  
Toke Place  
Linton Hill, LINTON**

Not yet determined

**MA/09/1375  
1, Davies Farm Cottages,  
Redwall lane,  
LINTON.**

This had now been APPROVED

**MA/09/1166  
The Barn,  
Westerhill Farm,  
Westerhill Road  
Linton**

This application had now been APPROVED

**MA/0/0604  
Land at Loddington Farm.  
Loddington Lane,  
LINTON**

Not yet determined Revised plans had been submitted

**TA/0098/09  
TA/ 103/09  
Tree felling in a Conservation Area  
Toke Place  
Miladys Forge House**

Both Applications have now been APPROVED

**TA/0165/09  
Trees in a Conservation Area.  
Tokes Oast  
Linton Hill,  
Linton**

**Felling of four Leylandi Trees etc**

**MA/0168/09  
Miladys Forge House,  
Linton Hill,  
LINTON**

**Felling of one Norway Spruce etc**

The PC recommends that both the above applications be APPROVED MBC to be advised

**MA/009/1685  
Fairway,  
Church Hill,**

**Retrospective application for change of use of land for the stationing of one mobile home and one touring caravan for residential purposes , stable block and utility building with associated works**

The MBC to be advised that the Linton Parish Council STRONGLY objects to this application being Approved.

**b) Local Development Framework**

Nothing further to report

**c) Kent and Medway Structure Plan**

Nothing further to report

**d) South East Regional Plan**

Nothing to report

**e) KIG.**

The Chairman reminded the PC about the previous discussion on KIG and the decision taken NOT to support the Planning Application. He drew attention to the recently circulated request for funding made by the Joint Parishes Group who were fighting the KIG proposals. Apart from some points of clarification put forward by all concerned little had changed in terms of the Application and there were still areas (eg the volume and frequency of Traffic movements) which were not clear.

The Chairman invited comments and observations from Councillors seeking, in particular, the views of Cllr Bridle and Cllr Firmin both of whom had 'transport interests'. It was also made very clear by others that on environmental grounds alone the whole project should not be allowed.

There was no clear evidence that if the project went ahead what effect it would have to the traffic flows along the B2163 and the A229 although it was accepted there would probably be an increase.

Cllr Mrs Sawyer stated that she had been attending sessions of the Public Enquiry and was impressed by the standard of the case being presented by the representatives of STOPKIG

In summing up the Chairman expressed the view that the position of the PC had not changed and that the Planning Application should be REFUSED, due primarily to the location chosen. The council was not opposed to the concept of moving freight onto rail

Turning to the matter of Funding, and following a further brief discussion, Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Firmin seconded a proposition that Linton Parish Council should NOT make a donation to the Joint Parishes Group. This proposal was carried.

**8. VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Whitmarsh drew attention to an article in Downs Mail giving details of the excellent OFSTED report received by the 'Cherubs' and suggested that the Parish Council should write and congratulate them on their success. This was agreed.

He drew attention to the refurbishment work that had taken place over the last few months some £5600 being spent to date. The new curtains, Notice Boards(14) re glazed rear window all contributing to the improved acoustics in the Hall

The work was ongoing and next year it was proposed to build the new store on the north side of the building, refurbish the ladies toilets and the kitchen.... a busy year ahead.

The recent "ROCKAHOLICS" evening had been very successful, raising over £400 and more importantly, it had been a very enjoyable community effort. He thanked the organisers for a splendid contribution.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Whitmarsh and his colleagues on what they had achieved and for the improvements that had been made. He fully agreed that the acoustics in the Hall had improved considerably.

## **9. MEMBERS REPORTS**

### **a)ALLOTMENT GARDENS**

The rents of the 22 plots had been paid . Plot 4 had been vacated by the previous tenant by the due date and had now been divided into two and re-let. There are currently 4 potential plot holders on the waiting list, one resident in the Village. Plot 10 is currently vacant and is being used as a base for clearing up The tenants of Plot 6 have offered to grow potatoes on Plot 10 next year to keep it clean and cultivated before re- letting it next autumn as a full plot. It was agreed to enter into an informal arrangement with the Tenants of Plot 6 to allow them to cultivate the Plot as suggested.

The water pipe had been extended and a new standpipe fitted. One of the other taps had been replaced. The water supply had been checked for leaks as the consumption has nearly doubled over the same period last year. A dry period in the summer had not helped!! A letter was going out to ploholders asking them to be careful, checking that taps are not left running and reiterating the non use of hosepipes. The extension to the path was due to be undertaken shortly.

A successful Working Party had been held with 20 helpers taking part including 3 new tenants. The east and north boundaries have been tidied up and hedges lowered, self seeded trees, brambles and some ivy removed and the ditch cleared. A bonfire was lit on Plot 10 to burn the rubbish. There remains a small area of overgrown hawthorn to be lowered which two tenants have volunteered to undertake. The north boundary hedge has some gaps and would benefit by some re-planting. It was agreed that this should be done and it was suggested that the replanting should be based on a mixed species of trees (Hawthorn, Holly etc)

Several ploholders indicated how much they had enjoyed the communal effort and would like to do it again.

The Chairman reported that he had, after further consultation, now responded to the previous Tenants of plot 4 in response to their long letter sent earlier. He had heard nothing further. The Clerk reported that at the request of the Borough Solicitor he had sent a Copy of the Code of Conduct to the same Tenant. All correspondence had been sent by Recorded Delivery.

### **b) KALC**

Cllr Mrs Sawyer reported that she would be attending the AGM of the KALC on 14<sup>th</sup>.November 2009 and asked if any other \councillor would like to join her. There was no response. Parish News No 343 had been circulated

### **c) CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

The Clerk reported that he had made arrangements for the ANNUAL INSPECTION to be undertaken later in the month. The MBC monthly inspection continued to show that some minor works were required. Non were of an urgent nature.

d) TRAMP                      Nothing to report

e) WEB Master

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the Web Site continued to be popular and was considered by many to be a very good example of a Parish Web Site. He continued to put material on it and requested that he should be kept informed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Whitmarsh

f) SOUTH MAIDSTONE PARISHES GROUP

Nothing to report

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that he had received routine Committee Agendas and Minutes from the MBC together with a number of Press Releases copies of which were available on request. Relevant documents and copies of correspondence had been circulated to members as appropriate by e-mail and hard copy. Attention was drawn to the following:

MBC Indoor Sports and Recreational Survey Questionnaire.  
KCC Kent Mobile Library Service letter from Cllr Whitmarsh  
Connect with your past Family History Helper  
Family History Helper  
Kent Police 2010/3013 Survey  
Speedwatch Autumn Update  
Community Payback Scheme  
Kent Fire and Rescue Service Risk management Plan  
Voluntary Action Maidstone Women's services  
Swine Flu Vaccination Clinics  
A letter of thanks from Paul "Shorts" Cooper

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT REQUIRING NOTICE**

Cllr Whitmarsh drew Councillors attention to the ongoing work with Neighbourhood Watch and in particular the 'News Letter' produced by Carl Holt which had been circulated to all households in the Village . He was to be commended on his efforts and it was hoped that the News Letter would become a regular feature.

In agreeing the Neighbourhood Watch should become a regular agenda item the Chairman congratulated Carl Holt of his splendid effort in producing such an informative News Letter.

Cllr Whitmarsh also drew attention to an article in Downs Mail about the potential growth of Polytunnels in the rural areas and the possible need for the Parish Council to have a view/policy on these. He was aware that MBC and Tonbridge and Malling were putting together their own policies on this matter and wondered if copies could be obtained before the matter was to be discussed. It was agreed that the issue should be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Parish Council in January.

Cllr Mrs Sawyer advised the PC that her attention had been drawn by a local resident to the number of vehicles stored at 'Three Chimneys', Wheelers Lane which made it look like a Transport Depot rather than a private house. These concerns were noted and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

## **12. TIME and DATE of NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Linton Parish Council will be held in the Linton Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup>..January 2010 commencing at 7.30pm. Details of any additional meeting would be circulated as soon as they became available.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance, wished everybody a Very Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.