

Polytunnels

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council 18 May 2009 (page 4):

Attention was drawn to the recent correspondence on Polytunnels which had been circulated and which outlined the concerns being expressed about the number that were appearing, seemingly without any control. A Public meeting had been called to discuss the issue. After a brief informative discussion it was agreed that Linton Parish Council should take no action however, if individual Councillors wished to attend the meeting or comment in a private capacity they were at liberty to do so.

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council 9 November 2009 (page 7):

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.

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council 11 January 2010 (page 5):

f) Polytunnels

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting he had written to MBC and after a delay a reply had been received indicating that the consultations were ongoing and no decision had been reached. The actual policy is an LDF issue and will have to be addressed

The Chairman, Cllr Baxter, together with Cllrs Firmin and Smith declared an interest.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that there was a need for a general discussion on the matter rather than looking at a specific issue/application and drew attention to a letter from a local resident which had been circulated. The question remained however, in the light of any general guidance, should Linton Parish Council have a policy on Polytunnels? This was not resolved

It was agreed to return to this issue on a future occasion.

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of Linton Parish Council 19 April 2010 (page 2-3):

7a COMMENTS by the PUBLIC

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

The Clerk drew attention to the correspondence, 'laid on the table' from Mr G Mitchell of Vanity Lane on polytunnels and reminded the Parish Council of the previous discussions on this matter. The Chairman indicated that he had found satellite images on the internet that showed the distribution of polytunnels in the area. The correspondence had not been received in time for the subject to be discussed fully at the current meeting. There were no outstanding planning applications for the erection of polytunnels in Linton. There then followed a short discussion on the matter.

The Clerk was asked to place polytunnels on the Agenda for the next meeting under the Planning Item and to see if any policy directions were available. Cllr Wilson agreed to speak to MBC and agreed that the matter would have to be dealt with under the LDF.