

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 13th November 2017 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: *Pat Burden*
Darren Carpenter
Bernard Cresswell
Linda Potter
Jerry Whitmarsh

Also, present: *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillors Mortimer, and Webb.*

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillors Smith and Firmin, MBC Councillor Fermor, and KCC Councillor Stockell.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Linton resident and past Parish Councillor Mary Price had died. He stated that she had served on the Parish Council for over 20 years, some of them as Vice Chairman.

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 Carpenter as a true record, 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.

Honours Board in Village Hall – Cllr Carpenter stated that he would progress this.

Action: Cllr Carpenter to progress.

5. Police Report.

The Chairman stated that the police were no longer able to attend PC meetings and therefore he asked the Clerk to remove this item from future agendas. Instead the NHW report (item 16f) would include a list of crimes reported in Linton since the last meeting. **Action: Cllr Burden to progress**

6. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

7. Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Chairman reported that MBC had now appointed a new Conservation Officer and he hoped that the Linton Conservation Management Plan would now be progressed.

Action: Clerk to contact MBC for an update before each meeting

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cresswell reported that the interactive speed sign on the A229 had been damaged in an accident.

The Clerk was asked to report this to Kent Highways.

Action: Clerk to Action.

The Chairman stated that the stated that the car park sign and the 30mph sign opposite the entrance to the car park was obscured by vegetation.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.

The Chairman reported that the footway lighting to the Church car park had been vandalised and Cllr Firmin had arranged for this to be repaired. Expenditure up to £500 was authorised

A discussion took place regarding the CCTV cameras in the Church car park. It was agreed that Cllr Carpenter would liaise with a local contractor to seek an estimate to have the cameras upgraded.

Action: Cllr Carpenter to action.

9. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

10. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Ward Councillors Webb and Mortimer gave their reports to the meeting.

Councillor Webb reported that he had attended a meeting at MBC to discuss the future of the Parish Services Scheme. He stated that MBC had proposed to continue with the scheme with some minor cuts, he stated that the funding levels were due to be discussed at an MBC meeting on 14th November and he would report back to the next PC meeting.

Councillor Mortimer stated that the Local Plan had been adopted at the MBC Council Meeting on 25th October.

He reported on a Section 106 Agreement Meeting to discuss the Wares Farm application and this had been attended by Ward Councillors and Representatives from Linton Parish Council. A further meeting would be held in the New Year.

Councillor Mortimer reported on a consultation event for a new Medical Centre taking place in Coxheath Village Hall on 24th November from 5pm to 7pm. He stated that leaflets were being distributed to publicise this event.

11. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

Bank Balances

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account	£25953.05
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£2109.61
	£641.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£23202.44

It was agreed that the Bank signatories should be updated to include Councillors Cresswell and Carpenter.

b. 2018/2019 Budget.

The Clerk circulated the 2018/2019 draft budget to all members.

The Chairman suggested that this was considered by members and all comments to be emailed to him, there will be the option of holding a separate meeting to discuss this if need be, or to discuss and approve it at the January 2018 Parish Council Meeting.

13. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

17/504331/FULL Loddington Farm, Loddington Lane, Linton.
Minor Gen. Ind Storage/Warehousing. – Linton PC has no objections

17/505044/full Greenfield's, Stilebridge Lane, Linton.
Change of use from agricultural land to use as a residential caravan site for one gypsy family (to replace temporary permission ref MA/12/1179 granted on 29/8/13).

17/505197/FULL Linton Park School Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent
Removal of condition 9 of MA/10/0853 (Part single storey part two storey extension to existing school building for additional teaching areas and 'creative studies area' with parking and associated works as shown on existing layout plans and drawing nos. 1.01, 2.01/I and 2.02/F received on 17/5/10.)

17/504643/FULL 1 Redwall Bungalow Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent
Erection of single storey rear extension and installation of external spiral staircase to create roof terrace area. – Linton PC has no objections

MBC Planning Decisions.

17/502304/FULL
Greenfields Stilebridge Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4DE
New mobile unit with associated amenity block/dayroom to existing traveller site.
Application Permitted

17/504315/SUB
The Potting Sheds Linton Park Linton ME17 4AN
Submission of details pursuant to Conditions 6: Landscaping scheme, & 9: Details of Boundary Treatments (original application ref: 16/504312/FULL).
Application Permitted

16/508659/FULL
Land South of Redwall Lane Linton Kent
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of B8 warehouse building with ancillary offices, dock levellers, access, parking, and landscaping including the creation of new woodland and attenuation pond.
Application Permitted.

16/506241/FULL
Romany Stables Stilebridge Lane Linton Kent ME17 4DE
Retrospective - 1 no. timber framed amenity block, 2 no. mobile homes, 2 no. touring caravans with associated parking and 2 no. timber stables. Application Permitted

Councillor Whitmarsh spoke regarding the proposal for a new Medical Centre in Coxheath and stated that this would no doubt benefit the residents of Linton, though there was concern about the development being sited on Hill Farm land. An exhibition was to be held in Coxheath Village Hall, Stockett Lane on November 24th 2017.

Councillor Mortimer confirmed that if land could not be found within the current Village Envelope for the medical centre, then planning laws allowed for such development to take place outside of the designated Village Envelope. He confirmed that the adoption of the Local Plan by MBC would give an element of protection until 2021.

Cllr Whitmarsh updated the meeting regarding the MBC Planning Committee approval of the Wares Farm development even though this was contrary to several Local Plan Policies and saved strategies A further discussion took place regarding the monitoring committee meeting for Wares Farm.

14. Future Parish Council Meeting Dates.

The Chairman proposed that in future, all PC Meetings would be held on the second Monday of each month with the exception of August and December, ie 10 meetings per year. This was seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed by all present.

The meeting dates were then circulated to all members for information.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Annual Meeting of the Parish, now set for Tuesday 17 April 2018 and asked members to consider the theme for the APM for agreement at the January PC meeting.

15. Parish Litter Pick.

The Chairman suggested that a Parish Litter Pick was arranged for 27th January 2018. This was agreed by members.

Action: Cllrs Whitmarsh and Firmin to arrange.

16. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

The following report was received from Allotments Manager Jane Sawyer.

The remaining vacant plot has now been let. Because it was originally part of a larger plot, there was only one compost bin which is still used by the adjacent plot holders. Therefore, we need to supply the new tenant with a 330-litre bin. The cost would be £19.98 delivered. Permission from the Parish Council to order this would be appreciated.

All the tenancies have been renewed. There is one outstanding rent to be paid.

Four times this year MBC have failed to empty the Allotments garden refuse bin. A new internal system has now been set up to enable them to check with Biffa, the contractors, whether they have emptied it which hopefully will eliminate the time-consuming chasing up and reporting missed collections by email and telephone made by the Allotments Manager.

The Autumn Tidy-Up on 4 November was attended by over a dozen plot holders. Despite the anticipated wet weather, we escaped the rain and the bonfire burned up all the brambles, ivy and overgrown hedging cleared from the boundaries. Hot soup and snacks sustained the volunteers.

The new area for the bonfire is very uneven and needs to be levelled to make it less hazardous to walk on. We have an offer of help from a plot holder but there may be a small cost involved in hiring a cultivator and any petrol used. Permission for this expenditure would be appreciated.

Jane Sawyer- Allotments Manager

The Chairman asked members to approve the purchase of a compost bin for the allotments at a cost of £19.98. This was approved by all present.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Allotments Manager re approval.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported that he would attend the KALC AGM Meeting on the 18th November.

c. Playground.

Cllr Potter circulated a report regarding the playground to all members. This gave an update on the progress of the playground.

She reported that a quotation for £405 had been received for the repairs to the table, gate, and benches at the Playing field. This was approved by members.

Action: Cllr Potter to liaise with Mr Brooker to arrange for the work to be carried out

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the deterioration of the slide and it was agreed that he would inspect the fixings. **Action: Chairman to inspect and report to next PC meeting**

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported on the progress of the Linton Website.

He stated that it had been brought to his attention that the PC contact details on the MBC Website were out of date and needed to be updated.

Action: Clerk to progress.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported that leaflets had been printed for distribution to households along Linton Hill to try to seek more volunteers to work with Speedwatch. It was agreed that Cllr Whitmarsh would write and print a letter for distribution to residents on Linton Hill together with copies of the leaflet

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave the following Neighbourhood Watch report.

For several weeks now there have been no reports from NHW because they have been updating the computer system.

However, this week, the police liaison office has sent a couple of reports out asking for assistance on a variety of crimes that have been committed in the Maidstone area, among them, some arson attacks on cars around the Tovil area. They have CCT imaging which has been shared. This email I have forwarded on to the Linton NHW members asking if they know anything to contact the local police urgently.

In the coming months in the absence of our local police officer attending the PC meetings, I will be compiling a report of crimes committed in the Linton area and reporting on these at the meeting. We understand that very soon, the NHW reporting will return to as it was previously.

She stated that she would be attending the NHW AGM on 29th November 2017.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave the following Village Hall report to the meeting.

Village Hall the Front Forecourt – Will the Parish Council pay for the planning permission that is required to completely re-do the forecourt with a permanent ramp. Planning permission is necessary if a permanent ramp is to be provided. The cost of this will be £340 for the plans.

Defibrillator

We understand that the defibrillator should have been delivered by now? (nb: see item 16(i) below)
The Village Hall Committee are going to pay for the electricity needed to run the machine and the PC will pay for the wiring etc to install. It will be sited on the wall to the left-hand side of the door, next to the notice board.

Main Hall Décor

As it is now several years since the hall was fully decorated, it has been decided to programme this to be done during next year's summer holidays 2018.

Committee Room

The finishing touches are now being made to the committee room. David has been given a picture of Lord Cornwallis with his hunting dogs which it has been decided to hang in the room. In view of this, it was decided to call the room from now on, The Cornwallis Room and a door plaque is to be made to display the name. A wall clock has been purchased with a donation made by one of the committee members. There are now 8 wooden chairs that are to be kept and used for the room. We are still looking at the possibility of purchasing an oak table to be kept in there permanently.

h. Community Liaison.

The Chairman informed members that the Parish Magazine would be produced for a one-off issue. He stated that he felt that having a separate magazine was unlikely and the Parish Council should instead embrace the modern era and develop a policy to encourage residents to use the PC Website, Facebook page and similar online resources, for information.

i. Parish Defibrillator.

The Chairman informed members that the Defibrillator Casing had now been installed at a cost of £280 and was ready for the defibrillator itself to be assembled and fitted. He reported that a commissioning and training event would take place in the Village Hall on 27th November at 7.30pm.

17. Urgent Items.

Cllr Potter reported that the grant application submitted for the play equipment had not been successful.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the Yuletiders event would take place on 5th December 2017.

He reported that the Crossing Exhibition had taken place prior to the PC meeting and had been attended by a few people. He suggested that this could be taken to mean there were no strong objections to the proposals.

18. Date of next Meeting.

8th January 2018.

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

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____