

Linton Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council

held in Linton Village Hall on 13th September 2021 at 7:30PM.

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Election of Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Burden to elect Cllr Cresswell and Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Lewis and agreed by all present.

2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

3. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Urquhart.

4. Election of Vice Chairman.

It was proposed to elect Cllr Urquhart as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Burden and agreed by all present.

5. Appointment of Committee, Representatives and Outside Bodies.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

Cllr Cresswell stated that following the recent elections there were currently three parish councillor vacancies on the Parish Council.

He stated that two applications had been received and asked members to consider these.

The applicants were considered by members, and it was proposed by Cllr Burden to co-opt residents Patrick Gerrish and Caroline Richer onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Lewis and agreed by all present.

The Chairman welcomed the two new members onto the Parish Council.

They signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their places around the table.

7. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

8. 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 Lewis and agreed to by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes.

PC Facebook Page

The Chairman confirmed that the village Facebook page was a community page and therefore nothing to do with the Parish Council.

Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Chairman reported that the Annual Reports from the Parish Council were now on the Parish Councils Website.

CCTV

Cllr Cresswell informed members that the fault on the CCTV had been investigated and the unit replaced. He reported that this work had been authorised under delegated authority.

Signage Vanity Lane/Barnes Lane

The Clerk confirmed that the missing signage had been reported to MBC.

10. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

Parish Defibrillator – It was agreed that the Parish Council would enter into an annual maintenance contract to cover the defibrillator.

This was proposed by Cllr Burden, seconded by Cllr Lewis, and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to appoint contractor as agreed.

11. Public Participation.

A resident attended the meeting and spoke regarding the deep potholes along Wheelers and Barnes Lane.

He spoke regarding the allotment and the sink hole that was outside of the allotment gate that had been filled by KCC.

He raised concerns regarding the water running through the allotments, that in his view was due to insufficient drainage at the Fernham Homes site.

Cllr Cresswell confirmed that the Parish Council had arranged a meeting with Fernham Homes to discuss the ongoing issues.

12. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

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

- Local Plan Review.
- The development of Hill Farm.

- A boundary review was also being undertaken by the Boundary Commission to look at Wards within MBC.
- Issues with Arriva buses.

13. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

b. 2020/2021 Accounts and Annual Return

Members ratified the decision taken under delegated authority, to approve the 2020/2021 Accounts and Annual Return. This was circulated to all members, along with the Variances Report, following the cancellation of the May 2021 PC meeting, due to the change in legislation preventing virtual meetings during the covid lockdown.

- i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2021. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.*

It was proposed by Cllr Cresswell to accept and approve the annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, this was seconded by Cllr Lewis and agreed by all present.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2020/21, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2021 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2021, if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2019/20) to this year (2020/21), the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2, and the Exemption Certificate to be submitted to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.*

It was proposed by Cllr Lewis to approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2020/21, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2021 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2021 and the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2019/20) to this year (2020/21) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2. This was seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed by all present.

14. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cresswell asked members to ratify the decision taken under delegated authority regarding the safety features along the A229 through Linton.

He gave a brief history on the safety measures and confirmed that these had been funded by Firmins via KCC. He confirmed that the rumble strips were excluded from the works due to a policy issue.

He spoke regarding an article that had been published in the local press regarding the safety improvements. He stated that he had received negative correspondence regarding the article and confirmed that he had sought the approval of PC members prior to the article being published.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the overgrown vegetation on the verges in the parish. He asked the Clerk to establish the schedule of works for Commercial Services, the contractor appointed by the PC to undertake maintenance in the parish.

He stated that the grass cutting at the play area was not being undertaken to a satisfactory standard as there was overgrown vegetation around the perimeter of the play area.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Commercial Services.

He reported that the footpath from Cornwallis leading to the play area was overgrown.

Action: Clerk to report to MBC.

Cllr Cresswell reported that there was no update regarding the Linton Crossroads works.

A general discussion took place regarding the traffic and the additional traffic as a result of development.

15. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

21/504236/FULL Burford Farm Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17

Demolition of the grain store and erection of 3no. "dwellings. Conversion and rebuild of implement store and "granary store, into 2no. dwellings including external "alterations and insertion of rooflights. Conversion of "Threshing barn into 1no. dwelling, including associated "parking and landscaping within development.

MBC Applications Decisions

21/504134/TCA

Linton Park Loddington Lane Linton Kent ME17 4AG

Conservation Area notification: Populus Nigra - These trees have overgrown their strength a couple have already fallen. It is intended to remove two leaning, one hollow and six saplings to provide better spacing. Pollard remaining 13 x mature trees to 6.8m below broken crowns, branches, etc. to improve tree stability and avoid more branch drop/fallen trees.

No Objections

21/503526/SUB

Land At Vicarage Fields Linton Hill Linton Kent

Submission of Details to Discharge Condition 16 - Travel Plan- (a) Targets for sustainable travel arrangements, (b) Effective measures for the on-going monitoring of the plan, (c) Commitment to delivering the plan and (d) Effective mechanisms to achieve the objectives subject to 16/505401/FULL.

Application Permitted

21/503281/SUB

Land South of Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4NU

Submission of details pursuant to Condition 27 (boundary treatment) of application 18/500618/FULL (Part Revision of 19/505875/SUB to amend fence adjacent Forge House to Weldmesh)

Application Permitted

b. Berry Gardens.

The Chairman reported that Berry Gardens was still engaging to reduce the light pollution from the site. He stated that regular meetings would take place with the Parish Council.

He stated that the PC had received confirmation that Firmins would install additional signage to advise HGV drivers of the correct routes to take when leaving the site.

c. Other Planning Matters.

Reed Court Application

The Chairman reported that the PC was awaiting confirmation regarding the date that the Chicken Farm planning application would be heard by the MBC Planning Committee.

16. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Cllr Cresswell reported that the allotments were being well maintained and there were no issues with the plots.

There was an issue with flooding at the site and the PC had taken this up with Fernham Homes.

b. KALC.

No matters were raised.

c. Playground.

Cllr Cresswell reported that the play area was due to be refurbished and this would be undertaken and funded by DHA on behalf of Firmins.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Lewis gave a report on the website. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lewis for maintaining the website for the Parish Council.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported that Speed Watch was now on hold until a speed survey had been undertaken by KCC along the A229.

f. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW.

Cllr Gerrish stated that the Welcome Pack was out of date. Cllr Burden confirmed that she now had the information needed to update this and this was in hand.

g. Linton Village Hall.

The Chairman of the Hall Committee reported that the hall roof was in need of full replacement. He stated that this would cost approximately £120,000 to replace.

He had sought a quotation for a repair, and this was £4250, he handed the quotation to the PC for information.

He asked the Parish Council for advice regarding possible funding sources.

The Clerk advised him to approach ACRK as they supported village halls and gave funding advice and support.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Cresswell reported that a litter pick would be arranged in the near future.

17. Boundary Marker Posts.

The Chairman informed members that a boundary marker post had n]been located in a resident's garden.

He stated that the Boundary Marker Post Project was going to be restarted and he stated that he would like the Parish Council to support the resurrection of the project.

This was agreed.

18. Urgent Matters.

Cllr Lewis informed members that he was moving from the village and therefore tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

The Chairman thanked him for his work for the Parish Council and wished him luck with his move.

Action: Clerk to action vacancy.

19. Date of the next Meeting.

11th October 2021.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the meeting.

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

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____