

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 11th February 2019 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: *Bernard Cresswell*
Patricia Burden
Daren Carrpenter
Ian Firmin
James Smith
Julie Urquhart
Jerry Whitmarsh

Also present: *Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Cllr Webb and members of the public.*

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from MBC Councillor Parfitt-Reid.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in planning matters regarding Vicarage Field and Wares Farm.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Clerk informed members that she had amended the draft minutes to confirm that Cllr Smith was due to liaise with the Allotments Manager with regards to the weed suppressant.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Smith as a true record, seconded by Cllr Carrpenter 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.

There were no matters arising.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

Civic Service – Cllr Firmin confirmed that he would attend this and represent the Parish Council.

6. Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Clerk reported that she had circulated an update on the Conservation Area Management Plan by email, informing members that MBC were in the process of appointing a new Conservation Officer who would take this matter forward.

Action: Clerk to action.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding a property within the parish that appeared to be in a state of disrepair. He said he thought that it was the role of the Conservation Officer to ensure that such buildings were kept in good repair.

A general discussion took place regarding this property and Cllr Firmin stated that he was aware that the property was currently up for let.

7. Highways Matters.

The Chairman stated that a meeting was being arranged with Kent Highways Officer Jennie Watson to discuss the outstanding highway issues in the parish.

The Clerk confirmed that Jennie Watson had asked if the meeting could be postponed until mid March due to her work commitments.

This was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Jennie Watson to confirm a new date for the meeting.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Chairman stated that he had been in contact with KCC Councillor Stockell and Ward Councillors Lottie Parfitt-Reid and Richard Webb to see whether they were able to attend meeting. He stated that he had not received a response from Councillor Stockell asked to Councillor Webb if he would take this matter forward. This is agreed.

It was reported that potholes had been repaired along Westerhill and Redwall Lane.

Cllr Urquhart reported on accident in Redwall Lane which caused the road to be closed for a period of time. Members discussed accidents and the amount of car debris left in the road and hedges.

Cllr Webb stated that he would enquire as to who was responsible for clearing the debris following an accident.

8. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

9. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Cllr Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the recent Cox Heath Parish Council meeting he had attended and stated that they were seeking an update on the new Medical Centre. He confirmed that he had emailed DHA Planning and was awaiting a response on the timings for the development.

He updated members on the health of the past in MBC Ward Councillor Brian Mortimer.

10. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Smith/burden).

Bank Balances

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account £24843.41

Less/Add Account transfers/deposits £0.00

Less Accounts for payment £1276.17

Closing Balance on Current Account

£0.00
£23567.24

12. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

19/500200/FULL Little Paddocks Stilebridge Lane Linton Kent ME17 4DE

Retrospective application for a change of use of land to be used as a gypsy/traveller caravan site consisting of one pitch.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that this was a retrospective planning application that had been submitted as a result of enforcement action being taken by Maidstone Borough Council. He stated that there was no history on the MBC Planning Portal, but he felt the Parish Council should object to this.

Cllr Smith stated that the Stilebridge Lane area was a complete mess and he felt the action should be taken to address situation.

Cllr Whitmarsh suggesting that an aerial picture of the area would be beneficial to the Parish Council when looking at such planning applications.

Cllr Firmin stated that he would look into having this undertaken and would liaise with the local resident.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain further information regarding the history of the site from the Planning Officer to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision on this application.

Action: Clerk to progress.

MBC Applications Decisions

18/506176/FULL

Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU

Minor Material Amendment to condition 9 appended to planning permission ref: 18/500214 (erection of polytunnels with associated landscaping) to enable construction of drainage basins and swales.

Application Permitted

18/505764/SUB

Land at Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Kent ME17 4AU

Submission of details pursuant to condition 5 (details of (a) the size and siting of the proposed swales (including and long and cross sections) and (b) their long-term maintenance) for planning permission

18/500214/FULL

Application Withdrawn

Other Planning Matters.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding correspondence from Maidstone Borough Council regarding receiving thinner planning applications and he asked members for their views.

This was discussed and Members agreed to receive thinner applications from MBC. The Clerk was asked to respond to Maidstone Borough Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

He spoke regarding the way the Parish Council responded to planning applications and stated that the Clerk would now submit representations to Maidstone Borough Council on behalf of the parish.

13. Parish Litter Bins.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Maidstone Borough Council Officer John Edwards to discuss the new litter bins for the parish.

He reported that it had been agreed that seven new bins would be considered. Five of which would be sponsored and the remaining two purchased by the Parish Council.

He circulated a quotation for the purchase and installation of the bins and confirmed that the purchase of the bins and installation would be undertaken by the Borough Council.

The two new additional bins would be installed at the Play Area, and he asked members if they would agree to finance these.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the companies sponsoring the five bins were willing to pay £400 for each bin as this included the installation.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he had been in contact with the sponsors to keep them up-to-date on the situation and he would liaise with them to confirm that they were still willing to pay £400 for each bin. He confirmed that the Borough Council would empty the bins and they would also empty the bins located in the play area.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would finance the balance for the additional two bins in the parish.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to liaise with the sponsors regarding this matter.

Cllr Burden spoke regarding an offer from a resident to finance bins on Linton Hill towards the pub as he was concerned about the rubbish and on this route.

Members stated that the rubbish was from moving vehicles and not pedestrians and it was unlikely that the Borough Council would allow a bin in this area as it would encroach on the footpath.

14. South and South East in Bloom.

Cllr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the Parishes in Bloom Scheme and he suggested that the Parish Council liaise with local businesses to ask if they wish to take this forward, and he suggested that Blooming Green business may be interested.

Cllr Smith stated that he would liaise with Blooming Green to see if they were going to take this forward and report back to the future Parish Council meeting.

Action: Cllr Smith to progress.

15. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

The Chairman stated that there was not a report from the Allotments Manager this month. He reported on an email that she had sent to the Parish Clerk and the response that had been sent on behalf of the PC.

He spoke regarding the Easement at the allotments and stated that this was still in the hands of the solicitors.

Members discussed this matter and their preference to have the work undertaken prior to the growing season. Cllr Cresswell stated that he will seek an update for members.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to progress.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported that a meeting had taken place and the minutes had been circulated.

c. Playground.

The playground report from Linda Potter was noted by members.

Cllr Cresswell stated that MBC Officer John Edwards had stated that he would arrange for the pathway between the play area and Cornwallis Avenue to be sprayed to remove the moss.

He reported that the sign between the play area and the alleyway needed to be replaced and he would inspect this and report back to members.

Cllr Smith stated that he was awaiting a quotation for the repair of the slide.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh updated members on the website.

He stated that he had now put links to local parish councils on the website.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden stated that there were no matters to report regarding NHW.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the police to seek an update on the current situation regarding the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator at Kent Police

Action: Clerk to action.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported that the Hall Committee had been successful in obtaining a grant from KCC Councillor Paulina Stockell to finance the new meter installation.

She reported that the Committee had appointed a new auditor following the retirement of resident David Sawyer who had audited the Village Hall accounts for many years.

She spoke regarding the progress of the Hall.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Urquhart reported that the Litter Pick on 2nd February 2019 had been postponed due to bad weather. She confirmed that this had now been rearranged for 2nd March 2019.

She confirmed that a notice would be placed in the local press and Facebook.

Cllr Smith stated that he would arrange the transport and refreshments would be supplied by the Musket Brewery.

16. Annual meeting of the Parish.

Cllr Smith confirmed that the Musket Brewery and Blooming Green had both been approached to give a presentation at the forthcoming Annual meeting of the Parish. He stated that he would confirm in the next few weeks.

Members discussed the Annual Meeting and agreed on other presentations to be given by the PC. The Clerk was asked to place this as an item on the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to progress.

17. Urgent Items.

Diary Dates:

Village Hall AGM - 18th March 2019.

Friends of Linton AGM – 27th March 2019.

18. Date of next Meeting.

11th March 2019.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____