

Linton Parish Council
The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held by Zoom on 8th February 2021 at 7:30PM.

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Patrick Gerrish
Peter Lewis
Julie Urquhart***

Also, present: Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington and MBC Cllr Webb.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Smith and Carpenter due to work commitments.

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 Burden as a true record, this were seconded by Cllr Cresswell 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.

Cllr Cresswell reported that Councillor Parfitt-Read had now given an update regarding the sites for Linton in the Local Plan. He reported that this no longer includes any sites for Linton.

Ward Councillor Webb spoke regarding this, and stated that there were still five sites in the Coxheath area which would be using the Heath Road.

Cllr Cresswell reported that there was still a question mark regarding the shortfall in funding for the proposed work at Linton Crossroads.

He reported that the litter bin in the lay-by opposite Toke Place had still not been replaced.

Action: Clerk to follow up with MBC.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

6. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

7. MBC and KCC Councillors Reports.

MBC Cllr Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Maidstone Borough Council Policy for speaking at adjourned Planning Committee Meetings. He stated that the wording of the current Constitution stated that the original speaker would roll over to the next meeting, should this be adjourned. He stated that he was due to take a proposal to the next Democratic Services Meeting to try to have this clarified and the Constitution changed.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Webb for pursuing this on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

9. Highways and Flooding.

Cllr Urquhart reported that there was still an issue with HGVs using Redwall Lane, and travelling towards Hunton, along the lane where it was unsuitable for HGVs.

She stated that this was happening with HGVs exiting that Wares Farm and Berry Gardens sites, as a result the verges along the Lane had been damaged. She stated that she felt additional signage was necessary to advise drivers of the correct route to take.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Firmins to request additional signage at the exit of the sites, and report this to KCC to request additional signage when leaving the sites.

Action: Clerk to progress.

10. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

21/500335/FULL Land at Rankins Redwall Lane Linton Kent ME17 4AU
Section 73 - Application for removal of part (b) of condition 2 (period of time the polytunnels can be covered) pursuant to 18/506176/FULL for - 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.

21/500517/FULL Land at Rankins Redwall Lane Linton Kent ME17 4AU
Section 73 - Application for Removal of condition 2 (time limiting the polythene coverage of the tunnels) pursuant to application 19/505352/FULL for - Erection of polytunnels with associated soft landscaping and drainage works, including the provision of swales and principle of reservoir.

Members discussed the planning applications for Rankins Farm Polytunnels.

Cllr Gerrish stated that he felt that it was acceptable for the polytunnels to remain all year as the applicant did has a drainage reservoir to assist with the flooding, therefore he had no objections to this planning application.

Cllr Urquhart stated that she felt objections should be raised on the grounds of visual amenity. She stated that the application had attached pictures from other sites and not the visual impact from Linton and there was a glare from the polytunnels, and this time of year they would be more visible. She referred to the original application and stated that the condition had been placed on this for a reason and therefore she felt that this should remain in place.

She stated that the planning applications included additional screening to the site, however this would not be effective during the winter months when the trees lost their leaves, and therefore this would have no impact on the visual screening of the site.

Cllr Lewis agreed that the Parish Council should object to this planning application on grounds of visual amenity.

Cllr Burden agreed with the view to object on the grounds of visual amenity.

Cllr Urquhart suggested that the Parish Council should take its own photographs to back up the objection regarding the visual impact that the polytunnels would have on Linton. This was agreed.

The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council should object to this application on the grounds of visual impact, and support this with photographs of the views from Linton Village.

Action: Clerk to draft letter of objection as agreed.

21/500416/FULL Apple Tree Cottage Heath Road Linton Maidstone Kent
Erection of a detached dwelling house with attached garage. Erection of a two-storey rear extension and enlargement of existing first floor including raised roof to existing dwelling house.

MBC Applications Decisions

20/505476/LAWPRO

Laurel Tree Cottage 22 Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4AS

Lawful Development Certificate (proposed) for the erection of a single storey oak framed garden store in rear garden.

Application Permitted

b. Berry Gardens.

The Chairman reported that a meeting with Berry Gardens had been arranged for Friday 12th February 2021.

He stated that he was following up the draft letter by KALC regarding light pollution.

c. Other Planning Matters.

The Chairman reported that the additional access to Toke Place had been approved under Appeal.

11. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Cllr Urquhart gave a report on the allotments.

She reported that there was an issue with the run-off of water from the allotments, and she felt that this was due to the run-off from the development site. She suggested that the situation should be monitored and addressed when the inclement weather had passed.

This was agreed.

Cllr Urquhart reported that she and Cllr Gerrish had met regarding the rabbit fencing and there were some areas that needed to be replaced. She stated that this was a big job, and was likely to be quite expensive, at present she was unaware of a rabbit issue within the allotments, and therefore proposed monitoring the situation, and patch repair the existing fencing if necessary. This was agreed.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported on the recent KALC minutes that had been circulated to all members.

He stated that the KALC were currently offering training to members and he asked if anyone wish to attend.

Cllr Lewis stated he would like to attend the planning training.

Action: Clerk to book place for Cllr Lewis.

c. Playground.

No matters were raised.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Lewis reported on the website.

e. Speed Watch.

No matters were raised.

f. Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW, she stated that she had received a request from a resident to be a coordinator.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported that the Village Hall.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Urquhart reported that she was considering setting up a litter pick WhatsApp group to encourage residents to clear the litter outside of their own properties.

Cllr Gerrish raised a query regarding the collection of black sacks and stated that Maidstone Borough Council were not collecting these when litter picks had been undertaken.

Cllr Urquhart stated that she was not aware of this issue, however Maidstone Borough Council would only collect the green litter pick sacks as far as she was aware.

Councillor Webb stated he would look into this.

It was reported that there was a lorry tyre on the bank near to the church.

Cllr Urquhart stated that she would arrange to have this cleared.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to action.

12. Date of the next Meeting.

8th March 2021.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the Zoom meeting.

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

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____