

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 9th April 2018 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: *Pat Burden*
Darren Carpenter
Bernard Cresswell
Ian Firmin
James Smith
Jerry Whitmarsh

Also present: *Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillors Mortimer and Webb, Representatives from DHA Planning, and approximately 30 members of the public*

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Linda Potter, MBC Councillors Webb and Fermor, and KCC Councillor Stockell.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in planning matters concerning Wares Farm, Hill Farm and Vicarage Field.

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.

There were no matters arising.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

6. Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Chairman reported that little progress had been made by MBC regarding the Conservation Management Plan. He stated that the new Conservation Officer had agreed to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish to speak on this matter.

7. Highways Matters.

Cllr Firmin stated that the interactive sign had been reported to KCC, he said that he would follow this up to seek timescales for repair.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that a piece of the glass in the BT Telephone Box had been smashed and he asked the Clerk to report this to British Telecom.

Action: Clerk to action.

It was reported that there were deep pot holes along Westerhill and these had been reported to KCC.

The Chairman urged residents to report any potholes they saw to KCC Highways via the KCC website, to make them aware of the location as they were promising a blitz on road repairs to begin in April

A229 Crossing – The Chairman stated that there was no further update regarding the progress of the crossing. He stated that the design had been finalised and agreed, and the the project is now progressing to the next stage; however, final implementation may need to await the Planning application for Vicarage Field as this should be part of the Section 106 Agreement.

The Chairman adjourned the PC meeting at 7.42pm for Public Comments.

8. Public Comments and Observations.

The Chairman invited representatives from DHA Planning to address the meeting regarding the Hill Farm and Wares Farm Industrial Developments.

He stated that an application had been submitted to MBC to vary some of the planning approval conditions for the Wares Farm Industrial Development and he asked DHA to comment.

DHA Planning stated that the Planning application was seeking a change to three conditions, two relating to noise and one relating to HGV movements at night.

The current condition stated that there should be no more than 8 HGV movements between 11pm and 7am and they were seeking to change this to 16 to and from the site, ie up to 32 movements in all. The DHA Representative confirmed that the current site had unrestricted lorry movements at night.

Concerns were raised by a number of members of the public that the proposed changes would mean that there would be a lorry movement every 15 minutes throughout the night.

A member of the public sought clarification regarding the wording of the current planning approval and the changes to the conditions in the new application.

He stated that the new application sought approval to change from 8 lorry movement to 16 movement to and from the site, making this 32 lorry movements at any time during the night.

Questions were raised as to how this would be monitored. Cllr Whitmarsh stated that MBC had set up a Monitoring Committee to oversee the development planning details, but so far it had met only once and MBC Planning department had sought to limit its remit.

Residents raised the issue of noise and vibration caused by the HGVs on Linton Hill and elsewhere, and asked if noise assessments had been undertaken. DHA Planning confirmed that no noise assessments had been carried out and they would be happy to take this matter away for consideration.

Ward Councillor Mortimer spoke regarding the applications and stated that he was not able to give his views on the application as he was a substitute Member for the MBC Planning Committee.

He stated that the highway movements were subject to KCC approval, and MBC had no control over the number of HGV's travelling long the A229, it could only control the vehicle movements directly accessing Berry Gardens/Wares Farm.

Concerns were raised by residents regarding the damage to the verges by HGV's and the parking and rubbish left along the lanes and in laybys.

Cllr Whitmarsh asked about the request to vary the conditions regarding the noise levels at the site.

DHA Planning stated that the application was to increase the permissible noise levels inside the building by 10 decibels as the original planning application approval had in their opinion stated incorrect noise levels. A general discussion took place regarding the noise levels.

The Chairman pointed out that Linton Parish Council had objected to the original planning application for the Industrial Site and it would consider its response to the new application to change the condition under agenda item 12, below.

He stated that he had been informed that the deadline for comments to MBC had been extended until May 11 2018.

A resident asked if Berry Gardens could publish a contact number for residents to enable problems to be addressed. This was agreed by representatives from Berry Gardens.

The Chairman thanked DHA Planning and residents for attending.

He reconvened the PC meeting at 8.30pm.

9. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Ward Councillor Mortimer reported that he, the Chairman and Councillor Webb had attended a meeting with Kent Highways regarding the A229 and it had been agreed that they would upgrade signage and clear overgrown vegetation along the route.

He confirmed that he had chased this up with KCC and he had been informed that they were now filming the road from the Linton Crossroads to Marden for consultation.

He spoke regarding a motion that was being put to the MBC Full Council regarding Highways matters.

Councillor Webb gave his report to the meeting.

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 (Whitmarsh/Firmin).

Bank Balances

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account	£20260.35
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00

Less Accounts for payment	£756.35
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£0.00

Closing Balance on Current Account	£19503.92
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The Chairman stated that the CCTV System had now been installed at the Church Car Park and this was being financed by Firmins. The Parish Council expressed its gratitude to Messrs Alan Firmin Ltd for funding this and the work undertaken on the A229 Crossing, and for its undertaking to carry out improvements to the Cornwallis Playground as part of the Vicarage field development.

12. Planning Matters.

Applications received

18/501065/FULL 27 Cornwallis Avenue Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BW

Erection of a single storey rear extension and a two-storey side extension with a new dropped kerb driveway and three on site car parking bays.

No Objections.

18/501117/FULL Toke Place Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent

New vehicular access, driveway, and car parking spaces

No Objections.

18/501181/FULL Land South of Redwall Lane Linton Kent

Erection of B8 warehouse building with ancillary offices dock levellers access parking and landscaping including the creation of new woodland and attenuation pond.) to amend condition 10 to read 'no more than 32 HGVs shall enter or leave the site during the hours of 2300hrs and 700hrs' condition 16 to read 'The plan shall ensure that the noise generated internally in any noise sensitive property shall not exceed Noise Rating Curve NR30 as defined by BS8233: 2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings and the Chartered Institute of Building Engineers (CIBSE) Environmental design Guide 2006.' and condition 17 to read 'The rating level of noise emitted shall be no more than 5dB above the existing measured ambient noise level LA90T during the day time and night time periods. The plan should set out any mitigation measures that are required.

A discussion took place. The Chairman summarised that the Parish Council having considered this planning application, it was agreed that it would raise objection to it on the following grounds:

1. Material change of an important condition specifically applied to protect local amenity.
2. Noise – general objection to increased noise pollution.
3. Noise throughout Linton would be more evident from an increase in HGV movements.

It was agreed by all present that Cllr Whitmarsh would draft and circulate a letter of objection to submit to MBC.

Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to action.

13. CCTV System.

The Chairman confirmed that the new CCTV System had been installed in the Church Car Park and was operational. He stated that the final adjustments would take place on Friday and there would be the opportunity for councillors to be trained in using the system.

Cllr Carpenter spoke regarding the recycling clothes bin in the car park and the problem associated with this not being emptied on a regular basis, and an altercation he had had with the contractor. It was agreed by all that the skip was not worth maintaining and accordingly, the Clerk should liaise with MBC regarding having it removed from the car park.

Action: Clerk to action.

14. Policy Review and Data Protection Regulations.

The Clerk circulated the PC Policies and Data Protection Policies and forms and asked that they be reviewed at the next meeting. It was agreed that this item would remain on the agenda.

15. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

The following report was received from Allotments Manager Jane Sawyer.

The tenancy of the small plot (no 12) by the new bonfire site was not renewed last year. However, it is now re-let to a couple who have recently moved into Cornwallis Avenue, Linton. They hope eventually to take on a larger plot in October, being keen gardeners, but at the moment there are no vacancies. It is good to have plot holders who live in the village. They will need a compost bin so, with the Parish Council's permission, I would like to order one. The last one ordered in November 2017 for plot 11a cost £25.97. Permission would be much appreciated.

Purchase of the new compost bin was agreed.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell stated that the next KALC meeting was due to take place on 16th April 2018 and he would attend this.

c. Playground.

Cllr Potter circulated a report regarding the playground to all members in her absence. This gave an update on the progress of the playground. Cllr Carpenter stated that he would undertake the needed maintenance to the corroded slide support bolts.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported on the progress of the Linton Website. He stated that he was receiving positive feedback on the website and viewing figures were increasing.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell updated members on the progress of the Speed Watch. He stated that volunteers were still needed, and he would put a request out at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Parish.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave a Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave a report on the Village Hall to members.

h. Community Liaison.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that an edition of the PC Magazine was sent out at Easter.

16. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on 24th April 2018, he stated that Parish Archivist, David Sendles would give a presentation and the new Conservation Officer for MBC would talk on the Conservation Management Plan.

17. Urgent Items.

Cllr Whitmarsh informed members that he would not be standing for re-election as Chairman in May 2018.

18. Date of next Meeting.

14th May 2018.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.18pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____