

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council  
held in Linton Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7:30PM.**

**Councillors present:** *Bernard Cresswell  
Ian Firmin  
Jerry Whitmarsh*

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

**The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.**

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillors Burden, Carpenter, Butters and Smith.

The Chairman informed members that he had received the written resignation of Councillor Richard Butters who had resigned due to work commitments.  
This was noted by members.

**Action: Clerk to inform MBC and advertise the vacancy.**

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

Cllr Firmin - Vicarage Field planning application.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed to 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. Police Report.**

The police were not in attendance at the meeting and no report was submitted to the meeting.

**6. Clerks Report and Correspondence.**

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

The Lord Lieutenant of Kent annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 14th March 2017.  
It was agreed that Cllrs Whitmarsh and Firmin would attend the annual Civic Service.

**Action: Clerk to respond to invitation.**

**7. Conservation Management Plan.**

The Chairman stated that he had not received an update on this matter and he asked Ward Councillor Mortimer if he had an update on the progress of the Conservation Management Plan.

Councillor Mortimer reported that MBC Officer Mike Parkinson had given an undertaking to have the report on the Conservation Management Plan completed by the end of the year.

He stated that Mr Parkinson had not responded to any emails to seek an update on the Plan and that he was due to retire from the Borough Council in the near future.

This matter was discussed by members and Councillor Mortimer stated that he would seek an update on the progress of the Plan from Head of Planning, Rob Jarman and he would report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he would be interested to know who would be replacing Mr Parkinson and stated that he would also write a letter of complaint to Rob Jarman and the Chief Executive regarding this matter.

***Action: Cllr Whitmarsh to write letter to Maidstone Borough Council.***

#### **8. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Firmin reported on the highway matters.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that there was a large pothole on Westerhill and the “Lacys Lane” sign at the junction with Barnes Lane was missing.

Cllr Firmin stated that he would report these to Kent Highways.

Safe Crossing of the A229 – Cllr Whitmarsh reported that feedback had been given by Village Hall Trustees and other interested parties and he now felt that a meeting with Kent Highways would be beneficial.

He stated that DHA Planning were willing to arrange a meeting with KCC and the Parish Council to discuss this matter and this was therefore currently progressing.

Cllr Firmin reported that he had sought a quotation for an additional light at the gate by the Church Car Park for the sum of £540+vat.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh to progress this as this would enhance the light and safety for pedestrians using the car park.

This is seconded by Cllr Firmin and agreed by members.

***Action: Quotation to be accepted.***

#### **9. Public Comments and Observations.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow comments from members of the public.

No public comments were raised.

#### **10. Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Ward Councillor Mortimer gave his report to the meeting. He informed members that he was due to send out a newsletter on behalf of all Ward Councillors in the near future.

He stated that MBC were currently querying the Section 106 allocations for the A229 Linton Crossroads and they had asked KCC for their plans for the crossroads as they were aware that the Section 106 money had to be spent by a certain date.

He raised concerns that KCC appeared not to have any schemes drawn up for the Linton Crossroads and he stated that the Chief Executive had taken this matter up with KCC and he would report back to a future meeting on the situation.

A discussion took place regarding the MBC Local Plan and the interim report that had been issued by the Planning Inspector.

He reported that the planning application for Wares Farm had been submitted to MBC but had not yet been validated.

MBC Ward Councillor Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan and reported that a meeting of MBC Members was due to take place to discuss this.

**11. KCC Councillors Report.**

Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

**12. Financial Matters.**

*a. Financial Statement.*

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

*b. 2017/2018 Budget.*

The Clerk stated that she would circulate the draft budget to all members.

It was proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh to set the 2017/2018 precept at £12271, this was seconded by Cllr Firmin and agreed by all present.

***Action: 2017/2018 Precept agreed at £12271.***

**13. Planning Matters.**

No Planning applications were considered this month.

The Chairman spoke briefly regarding the Vicarage Field and Village Hall car park proposals. Cllr Firmin declared an interest in these matters.

The Chairman reported that the Vicarage Fields and Village Hall Car Park planning applications were still to be determined by Maidstone Borough Council.

He reported that he had been informed the Wares Farm planning application had now been submitted to the Borough Council but has not yet been validated.

Local Plan – Cllr Cresswell reported on the Local Plan Interim report that was issued by the Planning Inspector.

**14. Member Reports.**

*a. Parish Allotments.*

Allotments Manager, Mrs Sawyer submitted the following written report to the meeting.

*Rabbits have been found in two gardens in Wheelers Lane so the allotment holders have been informed and asked to be vigilant, making sure the gate to the Allotments is not left open and reporting any sighting of rabbits on the plots.*

*There is one new person on the waiting list, from Marden. We are trying to arrange for him to view the half plot which would be available if needed but at the moment he has transport problems. Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future.*

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he would attend the next KALC meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

c. Playground.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the responsibility of the playground would have to be reallocated to a Parish Councillor at the next meeting.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the new website is now up and running and was up-to-date.

e. Speed Watch.

Speed Watch representative Mrs Sawyer submitted the following written report on Speed Watch.

*Disappointingly one team has been inactive since before the November PC Meeting; one of their members has decided to resign. This leaves Linton with only the one Speed Watch team which has been out regularly. In November 2016 they recorded seven speeding vehicles, including one reaching 40 mph. In December there were only two offenders, both with speeds of 38 mph. The next session will take place on 23 January, weather permitting.*

*A recruitment drive for more volunteers is urgently needed and any input from the Parish Council would be welcome eg providing flyers for display and delivery (particularly to Linton Hill residents) and publicity via the website and notice boards.*

The Chairman spoke regarding the need to recruit new Speedwatch representatives and stated that he hoped that a Councillor would be willing to take on this role.

Cllr Cresswell stated that he would be willing to take on the role as liaison between Speedwatch and the Parish Council and also to undertake the monthly Speedwatch sessions.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cresswell for volunteering for this role and stated that he would liaise with Mrs Sawyer regarding this matter.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave her apologies to the meeting.

No matters were reported.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave her apologies to the meeting.

It was reported that the refurbishment of the small meeting room had now been completed.

h. Community Liaison.

The Chairman stated that he still felt that more could be done to promote the Parish Council and its meetings.

He stated that there was a need for the parish notice boards to be maintained and updated regularly. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward all notices to Cllrs Smith and Burden for the notice boards.

The Chairman stated that the draft minutes would be placed on the website, clearly labelled as draft.

It was agreed that the Chairman would purchase an A framed notice board to publicise PC meetings and a budget of £60 was allocated for this.

The Chairman stated that the PC newsletter should be reconsidered at some point in the future.

**15. Parish Litter Pick.**

The Clerk circulated insurance guidance on Parish litter picks to all members.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would arrange a litter pick event and Cllrs Whitmarsh and Firmin would arrange this and undertake the Risk Assessment for the areas to be litter picked.

***Action: Cllrs Firmin and Whitmarsh to action.***

**16. Annual Meeting of the Parish.**

The Chairman stated that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Members discussed possible presentations for this meeting and it was suggested that presentations from local businesses may be of interest.

It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next PC meeting.

**17. Urgent Items.**

The Chairman spoke regarding the resignation of Parish Councillor Richard Butters. He asked the Clerk to record the appreciation of the Parish Council for his work whilst a Parish Councillor and also as Parish Chairman during 2015/16

**17. Date of next Meeting.**

6<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.07PM.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_