

**The Minutes of the Statutory Annual Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 8th May 2017 at 7:30PM.**

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

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, and Ward Councillor Emily Fermor.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.

1. To elect a Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Firmin to elect Cllr Whitmarsh as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Burden and agreed by all present. Cllr Whitmarsh accepted this position.

2. Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Whitmarsh signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

3. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillors Carpenter, Potter and Smith, MBC Councillors Webb, and Mortimer.

4. To elect a Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh to elect Cllr Firmin as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed by all present.
Cllr Firmin accepted this position.

5. To appoint committees, representatives to outside bodies and other external appointments.

Members approved the following appointments:

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Responsible Finance Officer – Parish Clerk
Footpaths Officer - Mr McGillivray
Village Hall Representative – Councillor Burden
Tree Warden - Mr McGillivray
Highways – Councillor I Firmin
KALC – Councillor Cresswell & Councillor Carpenter
Webmaster – Councillor Whitmarsh
Maidstone Police – Councillor I Firmin
Allotments Manager Mrs J Sawyer
Playground – Councillor Potter
Community Liaison – Councillor Carpenter
Neighbourhood Watch - Councillor Burden
Speed Watch - Mrs J Sawyer

Planning Committee

All Councillors

Appointment of:-

Internal Auditor – Martin Thomas & Co
Bankers - Lloyds TSB
External Auditors – Little John
Solicitors – Gullands
Planning Advisors - Page and Wells

6. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Firmin – Wares Farm and Vicarage Field planning applications.

7. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Firmin as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Burden and agreed to all present.

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

8. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Honours Board in Village Hall – Cllr Whitmarsh stated that Cllr Smith would arrange to have the Honours Board updated.

Action: Cllr Smith to progress.

9. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk stated that she had now informed MBC of the co-option of Cllr Potter.

10. Police Report.

The Chairman introduced PCSO Jasmine Pay to the meeting.

PCSO Pay gave a crime report to the meeting. She stated that she was due to arrange a crime prevention event with surrounding parishes and would inform members of the date when this had been set.

11. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

Maidstone Council - Parish 'Thin Applications' Consultation

Following the meeting of Strategic Planning Sustainability & Transportation Committee, where the issue of hardcopies of planning applications was discussed, please find a link below to the consultation on providing 'thin applications' to parishes. Namely, copies of planning applications that include plans only (all plans, including A4, A3 and largescale – A0, A1, A2).

The purpose of the consultation is to understand what issues, if any, the introduction of thin applications would cause you and to gather any other comments you may have. The consultation is therefore straightforward, consisting of 2 open questions, and can be completed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParishThinApplications>

Please note: we only require one collective response per Parish.

If you require a paper copy please let us know and we will send these out to you. Any queries about the survey or additional comments should be sent to Consultation@maidstone.gov.uk

The consultation period will run for 6 weeks from the date of this email, in accordance with the parish charter. The survey will close on 5 June 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for completing the consultation.

The Chairman spoke regarding this matter and stated that the PC would still receive plans but would have to view all supporting documentation online.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to receiving thin planning applications.

Action: Clerk to respond to consultation.

Regulation 19 (3) (c) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Further to your representations on the Draft Charging Schedule last year, we are writing to give notice that the Draft Charging Schedule has now been submitted for examination.

Please see the website for further details, including copies of the Draft Charging Schedule and other submission documents, and the places where hard copies of the submission documents can be inspected:

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/planning/local-plan/community-infrastructure-levy>

The time and place of the examination hasn't been finalised yet. Details will be published, and relevant notifications sent, when this is confirmed.

12. Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Chairman informed members that the Conservation Area Management Plan had been approved by MBC and the next stage would be for a consultation to take place with all affected residents when the resources were available in the Autumn.

13. Highways Matters.

The Chairman stated that he had received comments regarding the white lining in the Church Carpark and he asked members if they felt that the PC should ask MBC to reline this and to identify disabled parking spaces. This was discussed and agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman spoke regarding the recent litter pick and stated that there were no litter bins at the bus stops in the parish. He suggested that members look into this and establish where litter bins were needed.

Cllr Firmin stated that he would look into this and request them from MBC.

Action: Cllr Firmin to action.

Safe Crossing of A229

The Chairman reported on the current situation regarding the safe crossing outside of the village hall and the recent idea that had been circulated to members.

He stated that the final set of proposals would be drawn up by DHA Planning and circulated to members before being submitted to KCC.

14. Linton Crossroads.

The Chairman stated that he had nothing to report and this item could now be removed from the agenda.

15. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

16. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Ward Councillor Emily Fermer gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the Wares Farm planning application and asked what the PC would wish to see the S106 money allocated to.

Clr Whitmarsh spoke regarding the Linton Crossroads and the need to have a roundabout there.

She spoke regarding the SE Rail consultation and time table changes and encouraged all residents to respond to the consultation.

17. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

18. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account	£20,207.57
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Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
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Less Accounts for payment	£1378.10
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Closing Balance on Current Account	£18,829.47
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b. 2016/2017 Accounts and Annual Return.

The 2016/2017 Annual Accounts and Return was circulated to all Members for consideration.

These were proposed by Clr Whitmarsh, seconded by Clr Cresswell, and agreed by all present.

The Chairman signed off the Parish Council Accounts and Return.

19. Planning Matters.

17/501897/FULL Rankins Farm Linton Hill Linton Maidstone Kent

Change of use of agricultural land to a glamping site with the installation of pathways, car parking and picnic/play area

18/05/2017

17/502304/FULL Greenfield's, Stilebridge Lane, Linton.

New mobile unit with associated amenity block/day room to existing traveller site.

26/05/2017

The Chairman stated that members would consider the planning application and he would then forward the PC views to the Clerk to submit to MBC.

20. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

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

Two plots have become vacant, one through the plot holder moving out of the area, the second has not been cultivated in accordance with the tenancy agreement and no response received from the plot holder after two warning letters. Therefore 28 days' notice of termination has been issued.

The vacancies have been advertised in Marden and Staplehurst and the piece has been sent about them to be included in the June edition of the Parish News.

The annual seed and plants swap will take place on Saturday afternoon of 13 May.

b. KALC.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the President of the KALC had attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish and given a presentation on the KALC and Defibrillators.

c. Playground.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he and Cllr Potter were due to meet to inspect and discuss the playground.

He stated that he felt that there was some work to be undertaken at the site.

This was discussed and Cllr Whitmarsh suggested that a Work Day was arranged to carry out the maintenance at the Playground.

It was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the website was progressing well and was up-to-date.

He reported that the Domain Name was due to expire and authority was given to him to renew this.

Action: Chairman to action.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell gave his report to the meeting, he stated that he was due to undertake a review on the status of the existing members training and would report back to the June meeting.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to action.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave her Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave her Village Hall report to the meeting.

She reported that the refurbishment of the small meeting room had now been completed and it was now available to hire.

Cllr Firmin asked what progress had been made regarding the Village Hall Garden.

Cllr Burden stated that the land was due to be levelled and this was being progressed.

Parish Defibrillator – The Chairman stated that a defibrillator was available through KALC at a cost of approximately £1300, and this would then need to be installed by a qualified electrician. This was discussed and it was agreed that a £1500 budget would be allocated for this.

He stated that a grant of £400 had been given by KCC Councillor Stockell, a donation of £200 had been agreed on behalf of the Masons and the Linton Walkers had agreed to make a donation of £300 towards the project.

It was agreed that the Clerk to ascertain whether further funding was available from KCC and any shortfall would be funded by the Parish Council.

In the meantime, it was agreed that an order would be placed with KCC for a defibrillator.

Action: Clerk to action.

h. Community Liaison.

The Chairman reported that the next edition of the Parish News would be the last as a new Editor could not be found.

He expressed his disappointment at this as the Parish News was the only publication that was circulated to the residents of Linton and therefore it would be a loss to the village.

He suggested that there may be an opportunity for the parish to have the newsletter incorporated in the Hunton Herald publication.

This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Whitmarsh would set up a meeting to try to facilitate this.

Action: Chairman to action.

21. Parish Litter Pick.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the parish litter pick had taken place at the end of April and had been a success. He stated that 17 volunteers had attended the event.

This was discussed and it was agreed that another litter pick would be arranged for Saturday 2nd September 2017 from 10am to 12pm.

Action: Cllrs Firmin and Whitmarsh to action.

22. Urgent Items.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that Mrs Sawyer had recently given out three Welcome Packs to new residents and these had been well received, he asked for members to let her know of any new residents.

The Chairman informed members that the NALC Good Councillors Guide had been circulated to all members by email and he urged Councillors to read this.

23. Date of next Meeting.

12th June 2017.

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

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____