

Linton Parish Council
The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council held in Linton Village Hall
on Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell (Chairman)
Tony DiMarco
Caroline Richer
Patrick Gerrish
Peter Paterson

Also present: Mrs Sherrie Babington (Parish Clerk) MBC Cllrs Wales and Clarke

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell

1. Apologies

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received and accepted from KCC representatives.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

No declarations of interest were made.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

No dispensations were considered.

3. Parish Councillor Vacancy

No applications had been received for the councillor vacancy.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2025 were circulated and approved as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr Gerrish, seconded by Cllr DiMarco.

Signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

BT Box – Clerk reported that MBC Planning Enforcement had undertaken a site visit and would report back in due course.

6. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

7. Parish Council Policy Review

The Clerk confirmed the Policies and Risk Register had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The policies were adopted. Proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr DiMarco, agreed by all present.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The Clerk's Report was noted.

9. Devolution / Community Governance Review

The Parish Council discussed potential changes in local government structure and the implications of a move to unitary authorities.

It was reported that KCC had written to central government requesting a delay to this and that Maidstone Borough Council would proceed with its Community Governance Review.

10. KCC & MBC Councillor Reports

MBC Cllrs Clarke and Wales gave the following updates:

- Loose Road resurfacing had been poorly completed in places; this would be raised at the next JTB meeting.
- Rural England Prosperity Fund has £161,890 available with up to 80% grant funding. Cllr Clarke to circulate information for local interest.
- CIL Bidding Window opens 1st September–30th November. Suggestions for rural infrastructure projects welcomed.
- Concerns were raised about the infrastructure impact of Greensand Place and Beacon Park.

11. Financial Matters

a. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Cresswell, seconded by Cllr Richer and agreed by all present.

The following additional payments approved:

- AGM Refreshments: £37.55
- Litter Pick: £30.55

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the Village Hall hire and reported no invoice received for the past year.

Action: Cllr Burden to follow up with Hall Committee.

b. 2024/25 Accounts and AGAR:

- Internal Audit Report noted.
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 reviewed and approved.
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 reviewed and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Cresswell, seconded by Cllr Gerrish and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to submit to External Auditor by 30 June.

12. Highways Matters and PROW

It was reported that the Church car park sign damaged beyond repair.

Action: Clerk to report to MBC.

Changes to the CCTV maintenance contract for the church car park CCTV were approved.

Action: Clerk to progress.

It was reported that the Bus stop sign opposite the church has disappeared and was in need of replacement.

Action: Clerk to report to MBC.

The Clerk was asked to contact Golding Homes regarding overgrown vegetation at playground access path at Cornwallis Ave and former garage area.

Action: Clerk to report to Golding Homes.

13. Planning Matters

a. Planning Applications:

25/501872/FULL - 4 White House Farm Gardens, Linton, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 4BA

Erection of a single storey rear extension with internal alterations.

Parish Council Comment: No objection.

25/501988/AGRIC - Burford Farm, Redwall Lane, Linton, Kent

Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building for hay and machinery storage. For its prior approval to: - Siting, design and external appearance.

Parish Council Comment: No objection.

b. MBC Planning Decisions:

25/501132/FULL - Cold Stores, Wares Farm, Redwall Lane, Linton, Maidstone, ME17 4BB

Erection of building to provide additional processing facilities including office and staff welfare facilities.

Application Permitted.

25/501045/FULL - Cuckoo Field House, Linton Park, Linton, Maidstone, ME17 4BA

Demolition of existing shed and erection of a replacement oak framed three-bay garage with storage above. Application Permitted.

c. Other Planning Matters:

Beacon Park Application – The Chairman questioned how can Beacon Park be considered by the planning department when Greensand Place had just been approved? This could result in both developments come under construction at the same time and occupied which would be hugely dangerous and detrimental to the area's infrastructure.

It was noted that approval has now been given to this application and therefore there was little that the PC could do.

14. Other Reports

a. Allotments:

Cllr Gerrish reported that a site inspection had been completed, and the site was generally in good condition, some rubbish and shed size issues were noted.

A further tidy-up had been arranged.

Noticeboard review deferred until the next meeting.

b. KALC:

No updates were received.

c. Playground:

It was reported that the area was clean and in good condition, however the play area seem to be underused.

d. Website:

Cllr DiMarco stated that he was reviewing the website content.

The Clerk clarified that only news items generate email notifications and therefore key items would be posted under news in future.

e. Speed Watch:

Cllr Gerrish reported that a Speed Watch session would be planned.

Clerk to write to Chief Constable requesting speed checks in Linton as they were last in the area in 2017.

Action: Clerk to progress.

f. Neighbourhood Watch:

No matters were reported.

g. Linton Village Hall:

Cllr Burden reported on the Village Hall and the completion of the gardens and play area.

h. Parish Newsletter:

Cllr Gerrish reported that the summer edition was being prepared.

Councillors were asked to provide content and events.

i. Parish Litter Pick:

Cllr Richer reported that the June litter pick was successful.

15. Other Matters

- Annual Parish Meeting: The Parish Council agreed not to hold one in 2026 due to poor attendance. Cllr Cresswell to write an article for the summer newsletter to gauge public opinion regarding this.
- Greenshead Way: Cllr Paterson reported that the PROW collapse had been reported. The Landowner had been informed and had agreed to carry out works.
- Linton Park PROW: This matter was still ongoing.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the public at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____
(Chairman)

Date: _____