

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 9th March 2020 at 7:30PM.**

***Councillors present: Patricia Burden
Bernard Cresswell
James Smith
Julie Urquhart
Jerry Whitmarsh***

Also, present: Parish Clerk Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillor Webb, and Members of the Public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Carpenter, and MBC Councillor Parfitt-Reid.

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 Whitmarsh as a true record, subject to an agreed amendment, this were 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.

Trees – Cllr Smith reported that 25 trees had been planted at Loddington, and further trees would follow in the autumn.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that a number of residents had expressed interest in having trees when they were next available.

AGM – The Clerk confirmed that the hall had been booked for the AGM on 27th April 2020.

Gate at the Almshouses – Cllr Smith stated that he would action this.

Highway landscaping – Cllr Cresswell stated that he had followed this matter up with KCC and the work was currently being costed. He stated that he would take this up with DHA Planning.

Playground – Cllr Cresswell stated that Linda Potter was leaving the parish and was no longer able to continue to carry out the inspections for the playground.

He stated that he had thanked her for her assistance with the playground on behalf of the Parish Council.

List of businesses in Linton – The Clerk was asked to contact MBC to follow up the Parish Councils request for a list of businesses in the Parish.

Action: Clerk to action.

Salt Bin in Church Car Park – Cllr Smith stated that he would arrange for this to be removed this week.

Mowing of bank near church – Cllr Smith stated that he had received a quotation from a local company to carry out this work and he would forward this on to the Clerk.

Old Parish Minutes – Cllr Cresswell reported that past Parish Councillor Richard Butters has the old minutes and he had stated that he would return these to the PC.

Portaloos at Church Car Park – The Chairman stated that the portaloos at the car park were nothing to do with MBC, they were there for the building work at Linton Park. Cllr Cresswell stated that he would liaise with Linton Park to establish how long they would be there.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to action.

Crash debris – Cllr Webb stated that the response received from MBC regarding the crash debris left following an accident was that this should be cleared by the recovery vehicles, if not it was classed as fly tipping.

5. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence were noted by members.

6. Highways Matters.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the potholes had been marked at Westerhill Road and half had been filled. He stated that he did not feel that these had been undertaken to a satisfactory standard as some were starting to erode.

Cllr Burden reported that there were multiple potholes along Vanity Lane, Barns Lane, and Wheelers Lane.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

Cllr Urquhart stated that the drainage along Redwall Lane was an issue and this had been reported to KCC.

Cllr Cresswell asked the Clerk to seek an update from MBC regarding the replacement of the damaged litter bin in the lay-by opposite Tote Place.

Action: Clerk to action.

Linton Corner Lay-by – Cllr Cresswell reported that the lorries parking in the lay-by were causing it to subside and he asked members if they felt that it was practical to have the damaged litter bin replaced in this area. It was agreed that the Clerk would take this up with MBC.

7. Public Comments and Observations

No matters were raised.

8. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Cllr Webb gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the progress of the proposed Medical Centre and stated that work would commence soon and last for 18 months.

He reported that the Parish Council elections were due to take place in May 2020, and the notification of the elections would be published on 27th March 2020.

Berry Gardens – Cllr Webb reported that changes were being made to the route into the site to assist the lorries entering the site.

Litter Picks – Cllr Webb stated that he had met with Jennie Shepperd from MBC regarding parish litter picks, and he confirmed that they were supporting parish litter picks by loaning equipment and collection the bags of litter.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Councils insurance covered the volunteers involved with the litter picks.

Cllr Webb reported that there were still some black bags from the last litter pick in Stilebridge Lane. Cllr Urquhart stated that she would report these to MBC.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to action.

Cllr Webb reported that MBC Ward Councillor Grants would continue in the new financial year and the PC would apply for a grant.

9. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to follow up the grant application for the interactive speed sign.

Action: Clerk to action.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Smith/Whitmarsh).

11. Planning Matters.

a. Applications Received.

No applications were considered.

b. Call for Sites.

No matters were raised.

c. Other Planning Matters.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the planning applications for Stilebridge Lane and Polly Tunnels that were recently considered by the MBC Planning Committee. He stated that as members were unable to attend the Planning meeting to speak on these, Cllr Webb had attended the meeting to represent the Parish Council for both applications, however these were then deferred to the following week.

He reported that Cllr Burden had volunteered to attend the deferred meeting, but she was not allowed to speak. Cllr Cresswell stated that he was not happy with the situation and had challenged MBC regarding this.

He raised concerns regarding the MBC Constitution and stated that he had questioned this.

He stated that Councillor Webb had taken this up with MBC Democratic Services Manager and he had confirmed that the rules should be followed with regards to planning meetings and deferred/adjourned meetings.

The Clerk confirmed that she had booked the slot for Cllr Webb to speak at the planning meeting and this slot would be carried over for any deferred meetings, therefore the PC had followed the rules.

The Chairman asked Cllr Webb to seek clarification from MBC regarding the definition of *Concerned Resident* in the MBC Planning Constitution.

Cllr Webb spoke regarding the outcome of the MBC Planning Meeting and reported that the Polly Tunnel application had been approved by MBC.

12. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

A written report from the allotments manager was noted as follows:

The tenant of plots 12a was given 28 days' notice of termination of the tenancy agreement which has been accepted, after one attempt of having it reinstated. However, the shed has still not been removed, neither have the garden tools on loan been returned. They are no longer in the shed. It would be appreciated if the council could determine what their powers are to have the shed dismantled, and who would pay since this does not seem to be covered by the agreement and the situation has not previously arisen.

The plot has been relet for the remainder of the allotment year at a rent of £10. There are now two names on the waiting list.

The path has been reinstated at the north end, and the missing paving slabs replaced where the garden waste bin stands. Turf strips have been laid, though not bordering plots four and seven, improving the appearance. Unfortunately, the works have disrupted the natural dispersal of rainwater and when it rains, it wells up through the manhole cover (not previously there), courses down the steps, flooding the footpath in both directions. Water collects by the steps and can be very hazardous if frozen. None of this happened before the relaying of the path and drainage works and it should be rectified.

The water supply was turned on by the developers and used without permission. The latest water account did not tally with the actual meter reading on site, which is now to be regularly monitored. The Allotment Managers report of the 6th of July 2019 mentioned that an analysis of water consumption was awaited but nothing further was heard.

It was reported by a plot holder this morning, that a drone was circling over the allotments.

Despite the exceptional wet weather, most plot holders have managed to do some planting and seed bed preparation work.

The report was discussed, and Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he felt that the pathway reinstatement had been undertaken to a satisfactory standard.

Water dispersal and manhole cover – Cllr Cresswell reported that the pipe had been laid in a gravel trough and the water was travelling through this and coming out of the manhole cover.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he felt that the water was coming from Vicarage Field, he stated that Firmins had said that they would cut a trough at Vicarage Field to prevent this, he felt that this was a temporary issue and would be rectified when the work was complete.

Cllr Cresswell spoke regarding the water issue and the way it was flowing, he stated that the water was a distinct colour, emanating from the allotments and this was running along Wheelers Lane.

Cllr Whitmarsh suggested that the Parish Council should take this up with KCC. Cllr Cresswell stated that as the easement had not yet been completed, he would ask DHA to take this up with KCC.

Allotment Water Supply – Cllr Cresswell stated that the developer had asked if they could connect to the allotment water supply, however no authority had been given to them to connect to date. The water supply had now been connected without authority.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he had discussed this with the developer and they now had their own water supply. He stated that had used approximately 2 cubic meters of water amounting to £3.00, it was agreed that the PC would cover this small cost.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that the bigger issue was the PC water meter readings as these were inaccurate, resulting in the PC being overcharged for the water use at the allotments.

He stated that the correct reading had now been submitted to Castle Water and the bill would be adjusted, however monthly meter readings were needed to submit to Castle Water. It was agreed that a volunteer was needed to read the meter on a monthly basis.

This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Cresswell would liaise with a resident regarding this matter. Cllr Urquhart would liaise with Fernham Homes regarding the water supply at the allotment.

Allotment rules regarding hoses – Cllr Whitmarsh referred to the allotment rules, he said that these stated that no hoses could be used at the allotments, only watering cans. He raised concerns that some allotment holders were now using irrigation systems as this may be a reason for the increased water cost for the site.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Allotments Manager would be asked to remind all allotment holders of the rules and enforce the no hose rule.

Action: Clerk to liaise was with Allotment Manager.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell reported on the issues raised in the KALC minutes.

c. Playground.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that a a meeting with Fernham Homes in December 2019, they had reiterated a previous agreement with Firmin to arrange for the playground to be refurbished. He said that at the recent site meeting with the developer. It became apparent that they were not aware of this agreement. It was agreed that Cllr Urquhart would raise this matter with the developer.

Action: Cllr Urquhart to action.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh informed the meeting that he was please to report that a volunteer had come forward to manage the Linton Website, and he had agreed to transfer to content over to a Hugo Fox Website.

This was discussed and it was agreed that there was a need to divide the responsibility of the website into the following area:

1. Webmaster
2. Parish Council pages.
3. Other Bodies

It was agreed that this would be actioned by the end of August 2020.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell reported on Speed Watch.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden reported on NHW matters.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported on the progress of the Village Hall.

She stated that there was an issue with the roof leaking and the Village Hall was looking at funding sources to try to assist with this.

h. Litter Pick

Cllr Cresswell reported that the next litter pick would take place on 2nd May 2020.

13. Linton AGM.

Members discussed the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 27th April 2020 and agreed the recipients for the Certificates to be awarded by the Parish Council.

14. Urgent Items.

Cllr Urquhart spoke regarding the issues with flooding in the parish and the need for the PC to consider flood mitigation. She stated that she was due to meet with a Drainage Engineer from KCC to discuss the situation and she would report back to a future meeting.

15. Date of April PC Meeting.

The Clerk inform members that the date of the April PC meeting had been changed to 6th April to avoid Easter Monday.

16. Date of the next Meeting.

6th April 2020.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.55pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Date _____